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RUTGERS  
NEWARK

p. 4



Senators Warren and Menendez at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

## Rutgers Lawyers Make Their Mark In The U.S. Senate

by Helen S. Paxton

**"It's pretty amazing," Elizabeth Warren said, as she traversed the floor of the U.S. Senate a few weeks ago to take her seat as the new senator from Massachusetts. Warren, a 1976 alumna of Rutgers School of Law-Newark, is the first woman senator from Massachusetts, and follows in the footsteps of legendary Massachusetts senators Ted Kennedy, Daniel Webster and John Quincy Adams. With her election, and the re-election of U.S. Senator Bob Menendez, New Jersey, a 1979 Newark law alumnus, graduates of Rutgers now make up one-fiftieth of this august body.**

It's not just exceptional that Rutgers has made its mark in one of the world's most powerful halls of government, but that the stories of these two U.S. senators are so representative of the Rutgers-Newark law experience.

Since its founding in 1908, Rutgers law school has been celebrated as a place where students, men and women, from working class, immigrant and minority backgrounds, have been able to access a fine legal education and an entryway into

successful careers in private practice, business and public service.

Women were admitted to Rutgers law school from the beginning (contrasting with Yale which first admitted women in 1919 and Columbia in 1926) and the school has pioneered legal education for underrepresented minorities for decades.

When Warren entered law school in 1973 women were beginning a rapid advance in the study of law. In her three years at Rutgers, the percentage of women students increased from 16% to 20% nationally. And following graduation, Warren was offered an opportunity to teach at the school, which still had only a handful of women professors, although paths for women teaching law had been paved at Rutgers by such notables as Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Annamay Sheppard. Warren's teaching position early in her career was one of the first of the "thousand doors" she praises Rutgers for helping "a poor kid from Oklahoma kick open."

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Photo: Shelby Kurnetz  
Prof. Jordan (center) with current and former students and a gift he received from them.

## A Decades-Long Journey Uncovering Nature's Mechanisms: Frank Jordan, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research

by Kathleen Brunet Eagan

**Enzymes are important in everyone's life as the engines that turn food into energy and run other metabolic processes. In the life of Dr. Frank Jordan, Board of Governors Professor of Chemistry at Rutgers-Newark, they have been an especially significant catalyst, generating a body of knowledge that has led to three patents, 227 publications and 58 Ph.D. graduates who are now producing new insights around the globe. His work in the field of biochemistry over the last four decades earned him the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research in the fall of 2012.**

Born in Hungary, Jordan earned his B.S. from Drexel University and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Following post-doctoral work at the University of Paris, the Sorbonne and then Harvard, he joined Rutgers-Newark in 1970 because he liked the idea of being close to New York. Joining the campus when it was still relatively young, his lab was housed in a campus building that had an earlier life as a brewery. He began with less than \$4,000 in research funding and at a time when one of his key tools was a slide rule, something few students recognize now.

Today, his lab boasts the most up-to-date equipment, as a result of his success in obtaining grants through the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. Given his lab's research, crossing the boundaries of computational chemistry, molecular biology and organic chemistry, graduates leave his lab prepared for a wide range of research opportunities, knowing how to conduct nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, mass spectrometry and stopped-flow kinetic studies.

For Jordan, the work has been a

journey of discovery and evolution.

"I love the challenge of finding out how nature works at the atomic level. Nature has had billions of years to evolve, and I have been able to devote my life to uncovering what clever mechanisms nature has designed for us."

Initially, his research focused on computational chemistry, which uses computer programs to determine the properties of molecules. He abandoned that work, however, in the 1980s because, as he says, "If you cannot get it funded or recruit students to work on it, give it up."

It was on his arrival at Rutgers that he turned to enzymes, which are the biological catalysts that speed up chemical reactions, and coenzymes, which aid the function of enzymes. Left in a bowl on a kitchen counter, sugar remains unchanged for years. For chemical reactions to take place, high temperatures, acids, bases or solvents are needed. What does that work in cells are enzymes, which speed up reactions.

"All chemical reactions in our body are catalyzed by enzymes. Without them, our bodies would die," explains Jordan.

Included among the major findings of Jordan and his collaborators is that thiamin is a bifunctional coenzyme with two catalytic roles. They also developed a folding mechanism for a group of enzymes, important for digestion and blood clotting, called serine proteases. In addition, they uncovered the 3D structure of some enzymes and with this structural information have opened the way for future drug design. Their discovery regarding thiamin showed that, along with stabilizing negatively charged chain reactions, which had been widely known since the 1950s, thiamin is also an intramolecular acid-base catalyst, which is crucial in initiating all thiamin-dependent enzymatic reactions. So far, thiamin is the only coenzyme that has been found to have that kind of dual catalytic function.

Today, his lab's research is focused on the human pyruvate dehydrogenase complex, which is involved in glucose breakdown. Specifically, his lab is studying the interaction between two components of the complex and how this interaction could be inhibited by

a small molecule to increase glucose metabolism. Such an inhibitory molecule could provide a novel treatment of Type 2 Diabetes.

Among the things Jordan counts as his greatest successes are the scientists from around the world he has helped to develop, and the discoveries they have made. His students have come from nearly 20 countries, including Argentina, China, Korea, India, Israel, Jamaica, Nigeria, Russia and Turkey.

"What I am most proud of are the students whom I have trained and the recognition we have gained by the published works we have produced," says Jordan. "You really don't know when you generate a body of knowledge whether it is of interest unless other researchers cite it in their work. Much of our published work has been widely cited."

In recent decades, few of his Ph.D. students have been from the U.S. Jordan suspects reduced federal support of the sciences and the fact that students can enter business faster than they can become Ph.D. graduates have led to the decline.

He is hopeful, however, that the U.S. will retain its position as an innovator and that more students will be drawn to the sciences. To work as a researcher, he says, is an unparalleled opportunity, which he considers a privilege. "It's a life where you work on your own ideas."

## FACES OF RUTGERS-NEWARK



Captain Hahn with security officer Jessenia Naranjo

### Captain Robert Hahn

by Ferlanda Fox Nixon

**It's a rare person who finds his or her ideal job immediately upon graduating from college. Captain Robert J. Hahn can claim that unique experience. He began his law enforcement career 27 years ago with the Rutgers-Newark Department of Public Safety after graduating magna cum laude from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and has known no other employer since. Not only is Hahn the longest serving law enforcement officer in the Department of Public Safety, he's also the only supervising officer who has ever worked under every chief of police assigned to the Newark division.**

Much can happen to a person who spends nearly three decades working at the same place, particularly at an institution of higher education. The fortunate ones like Hahn will meet their future spouses, receive graduate degrees, and watch their children earn bachelors' degrees. Hahn and his wife of 26 years met during his first year on the force when she was a Rutgers-Newark graduate student. Hahn earned his master of public administration degree in 1994 from what is now the School of Public Affairs and Administration, and his son will receive his bachelor's degree from the College of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-Newark in May 2013.

One can witness a lot in nearly 30 years. "I've seen the campus expand in terms of facilities, enrollment, curricula, and diversity," remarks Hahn. "It has been a pleasure to watch the university grounds blossom from mostly concrete walkways and surfaces to aesthetically pleasing open spaces with trees, flowers and other plantings."

A graduate of the Essex County Police Academy and the West Point Police Command and Leadership Program, Hahn has massive experience in every realm of law enforcement. He is always on call and

continually endeavors to make Rutgers-Newark a safe environment for everyone. When he's not working, Hahn enjoys spending time with his family. In fact, his job leaves little room for anything else.

Recognizing that the Rutgers-Newark campus is best patrolled on foot or bicycle, Hahn helped to implement R-N's bicycle patrol. Over the past 20 years, the fleet has grown from two bicycles to about eight and now includes two Segways (*i.e.*, personal transporters).

Hahn also found the need to offer internship opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students who desire to launch a career in law enforcement. The program is approximately 20 years old and has provided experiential learning to 30 or more students over the years.

With the prospect of retirement looming, is there a professional life after Rutgers-Newark for Hahn? Perhaps. Bitten by the teaching bug from his guest lecturer stints at Rutgers-Newark and various high schools as well as serving as an instructor at the Union County Police Academy, "Teaching at a college or university is a possibility," Hahn suggests.

### Evelyn Ambrose, Nurse Practitioner

by Ferlanda Fox Nixon

**"Our focus is to educate students and help them through the various phases of the maturation process. In a nutshell – we help empower students." Sounds like insightful words one would likely hear from an experienced life coach, right? Not in this case. These words are attributed to Evelyn Ambrose as she reflects on the goals of Rutgers University Health Services in Newark. "We take a holistic approach to health care as we help guide students to make appropriate decisions regarding their overall well-being and to negotiate through the complex medical system," she further comments.**

Ambrose is an advanced practice nurse who received her master of science in nursing from Seton Hall University, her bachelor's degree from Columbia University, and associate's degree from Centenary College for Women. She has been a nurse practitioner at Rutgers-Newark since 1987.

At Rutgers University Health Services in Newark, one size definitely does not fit all. In the 25 years she's been with Rutgers, Ambrose's responsibilities, among a very long list of others, have included administering immunizations, operating flu clinics, performing physical

examinations, providing nutrition, mental health and general health counseling, and writing prescriptions. With most of her patients being young adults (typically 18-25 years old) who are navigating their health issues independently for the first time, Ambrose finds that oftentimes lending an ear or providing a shoulder to cry on is all a student needs to better cope with the challenges and stresses college life offers.

Like most nurses, Ambrose enjoys the direct contact she has with her patients. Whether she's interacting with students at the Health Services offices in



Evelyn Ambrose at Rutgers-Newark Health Services.

Blumenthal Hall or facilitating health fairs, orientations, or educational workshops at other venues on campus, the experience is always rewarding because she cares immensely about the students.

Ambrose is equally fond of her co-workers. "We're like family," she remarks with a smile. "Our efforts are always collaborative. Everyone is accessible and ready and willing to assist whenever needed."

The mother of three grown sons and three grown stepsons, Ambrose is not quite sure what she and her husband will do when she retires. She's inclined

to relax for a while and perhaps do some traveling. Since she hasn't quite figured out that phase of her life just yet, Ambrose will continue to provide a broad array of health care services to Rutgers-Newark students. But she won't be doing so on Fridays, her day off. With a part-time work schedule that allows a three-day weekend every week, it's easy to see why Ambrose is in no hurry to hang up her stethoscope and white lab coat.

## Francione Named Board of Governors Professor



Gary Francione

Since introducing the subject of animal rights into the law school classroom more than 25 years ago, Professor **Gary L. Francione** has gained an international reputation for his pathbreaking contributions to legal scholarship, particularly his work on the moral and legal status of animals. Rutgers recently recognized Francione's preeminence in the field of animal rights law and animal ethics by naming him a Board of Governors Professor.

"Gary Francione has been a pioneer in his advocacy of a critical reconsideration of the status of animals in our civilization and his passionate condemnation of violence in all of its forms," Dean John Farmer Jr. commented. "His work is a vital reminder that the way we treat the most vulnerable is a measure of the quality of our civilization."

The resolution naming Francione Board of Governors Professor of Law cites, in addition to groundbreaking legal scholarship, his numerous publications, including five highly-regarded books, several of which are considered foundational texts in the field, and his many editorials and media appearances that demonstrate dedication to his role as public intellectual.

Professor Francione received a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Rochester and an M.A. in philosophy and J.D. from the University of Virginia. He practiced law in New York City before joining the faculty at

the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1984, where he was tenured in 1987. He joined the Rutgers faculty in 1989. He and his colleague Adjunct Professor Anna Charlton started and operated the Rutgers Animal Rights Law Clinic from 1990-2000, making Rutgers the first university in the U.S. to have animal rights law as part of the regular academic curriculum.

## Upward Bound Prepares Students for College

The federal government's Upward Bound program is coming to campus, funded by a five-year, \$1.5 million U.S. Department of Education grant to the Rutgers Academic Foundations Center.

Upward Bound's aim is to "motivate and prepare underserved, potential first-generation college-bound students to complete high school and enroll in postsecondary school," according to Yanett Salazar Bagce, Rutgers-Newark's program director. The intensive college preparatory program will serve 9th-, 10th- and 11th-graders from three East Orange schools. Upward Bound is free to participants.

Courses will focus on a core curriculum of mathematics, laboratory sciences, composition, literature, and foreign languages, according to Bagce. SAT preparation is an important part of the program, as are the "foundations for academic success," including critical thinking and writing, study skills, test preparation, and time management.

Students also will benefit from field trips to museums, tours of college campuses and community events, as well as supplemental academic services such as tutoring, counseling and mentoring.

In January, Upward Bound students began taking rigorous Saturday courses on campus, and during summer months they will participate in a daily academic program.

Come fall, they will begin attending Saturday classes for the full academic year, then resume their daily summer courses program in June. When the current 11th-graders graduate next year they will be replaced by 12, 9th-graders, ensuring there are always 60 participating students.

## New Appointments

**Marcia W. Brown** has moved from the chancellor's office to the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) where she now serves as associate dean of program development. Her responsibilities include developing student recruiting strategies, implementing pilot programs with national and international reach, leading SPAA's career planning and placement programs, and teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Brown, an alumna of the School of Law-Newark, has served Rutgers since 1997, but for a two-year absence when she led the Lucent Foundation's Newark philanthropic initiative. Prior to her current position with SPAA, she was vice chancellor for student and community affairs, assistant dean at the law school, and associate dean of academic affairs with the Academic Foundations Center and director of the EOF/FASN Program.

**Steven Goldstein**, the founder and CEO of Garden State Equality, assumed the new role of associate chancellor for external relations in January. Goldstein has held senior positions in government, the media and civil rights. At Rutgers-Newark, his portfolio includes government relations, building strong relations with the communities of Rutgers-Newark, and communications.

At Garden State Equality Goldstein built one of the country's best-known statewide civil rights organizations. During his term, New Jersey enacted some of the state's most path-breaking civil rights laws to advance

equality both for the LGBT community and for others facing discrimination, including all students vulnerable to bullying in schools. Goldstein holds degrees from Brandeis University, Columbia University schools of law and journalism, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

On Nov. 1, **Stacia Zelick** came to Rutgers-Newark as director of Newark Computing Services. Zelick brings more than 12 years of management and information technology experience, most recently at Kent State University, where she was executive director of service management and disaster recovery, infrastructure and security. Previously she was director of technical services at Montclair State University. In both positions Zelick was instrumental in proposing, planning and implementing new computing initiatives and services. Zelick holds a Ph.D. from Capella University, an M.B.A. from Montclair State University and a B. A. from R-N

## Mining NJ Data

With an overall goal of promoting evidence-based policy and decision-making, the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) has launched the NJ DataBank. NJ DataBank is a free website that provides information from a wide array of sources and is presented in a user-friendly format. The site highlights 20 policy areas: business, civic engagement, culture, diversity, economic conditions, education, elections, environment and energy, food and agriculture, global connections, government, health, housing, justice, labor, population, public safety, technology, transportation, and urban issues.

SPAA's full-time faculty members, as well as centers and institutes throughout Rutgers University, make available the latest data sources and research that support the 20 policy areas.

The site features include municipal profiles, county comparisons, rankings of how New Jersey compares nationally, links to key data sources and relevant databases, New Jersey reports and analysis, and contact information of Rutgers policy area experts. There also is a special link for matters related to Hurricane Sandy.

NJ DataBank's information is designed to be particularly useful to community advocates, nonprofit organizations, urban and suburban planners, elected and appointed public officials, and the media. The site's attractive graphs and maps bring data to life, enabling citizens to see comparisons quickly and easily. Visit the NJ DataBank at <http://njdatabank.newark.rutgers.edu>.



## Towards a More Colorful Newark

The newest and brightest addition to the downtown Newark neighborhood is this two-story, 85 x 40-foot mural on the Academy Street Firehouse, visible from Rutgers' Blumenthal Hall and the Golden Dome. A former R-N student, Ibrahim Ahmed III, teamed up with artist Steve Green to create the boldly vibrant "It's just a little rain... [Mural #4]," which covers an entire wall at 77 Academy St.

Fittingly, Ahmed selected colors that "symbolize the diversity of Newark," shapes that "pay homage to Newark's ties to African heritage and culture," and hands that "symbolize the need for togetherness to succeed and progress."

# What's Going On?

Rutgers University in Newark is a multi-faceted place, reflected year after year by the many and varied events presented and offered to the university community and the general public. Here are but a few highlights for the coming months. For more events and detailed information visit [www.newark.rutgers.edu/events](http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/events).

**March 1, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
Paul Robeson Campus Center  
**COMMITTEE TO ADVANCE OUR COMMON PURPOSES CONFERENCE**  
The CACP 2013 bi-annual conference takes place at Rutgers-Newark this year, with the theme "CultureClash: Culturally Competent Engagement in a Hegemonic World," an exploration of "cultural competency" as an increasingly valuable tool for encouraging communities that thrive on their diverse rather than their shared perspectives, practices and values.

**March 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Paul Robeson Campus Center  
**SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN AND SCIENCE**  
The Women's and Gender Studies program offers a spring symposium with two areas of emphasis: issues of hiring and promotion issues for women faculty in the sciences and intersections of gender, sexuality and race in scientific research.

**March 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
Paul Robeson Campus Center  
**CHANCELLOR'S RESEARCH DAY**  
Once a year a group of Rutgers-Newark faculty researchers from a broad range of disciplines come together with a challenge -- summarize their work in five-minute presentations. A fascinating glimpse into the research of some of Rutgers-Newark's most distinguished scholars.

**April 13, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
**SPRING OPEN HOUSE**  
The annual Open House is a chance for prospective students, friends and families to learn about the many programs available at Rutgers-Newark. Faculty, staff, and current students will be on hand with demonstrations, workshops and tours.

**April 17–21**  
Bradley Hall Theatre  
**MOLIÈRE'S TARTUFFE**



Molière's classic comedy *Tartuffe* (The Imposter) has been delighting theater-goers for no less than five centuries. Rutgers and NJIT students will make it their own for the Rutgers-NJIT Theatre Program's final production of the academic year.

**May 4, 6–10 p.m.**  
Heldrich Hotel, New Brunswick  
**RUTGERS HALL OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI GALA**



Two Rutgers-Newark alumni will be formally inducted into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni — Attorney and CEO of NewPage Corporation Mark Angelson, School of Law-Newark, 1975; and author Judith Viorst, Newark College of Arts and Sciences, 1956.

**May 6, 11:30 a.m.**  
Paul Robeson Gallery  
**SPRING CHORAL CONCERT**  
Professor John Floreen conducts the Rutgers University Chorus in works by Fauré, Britten, Telemann, and Williamson, along with special arrangements of folksongs and African-American spirituals.



**May 20, 22, 23, 24**  
New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Golden Dome Athletic Center  
**COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES FOR THE CLASS OF 2013**  
Seven convocation ceremonies will celebrate approximately 2200 graduates of Rutgers-Newark in the arts and sciences, nursing, criminal justice, public affairs and administration, law and business.

## Rutgers Lawyers ... from cover page

Menendez's story is equally representative of doors opening for students from modest backgrounds. By the late 1970s, Rutgers law school was already widely admired as a pioneer and national leader in educating minority students for the legal profession.

Menendez was born in New York to Cuban immigrant parents, his father a carpenter and his mother a seamstress. As a 1979 Rutgers law graduate he had already made his mark as a hard-fighting member of the Union City Board of



Senators Warren and Menendez

Education. He advanced his public service career in 1986 winning election as mayor of Union City, New Jersey, followed by service in the N.J. Assembly and Senate.

Menendez went on to make history in 1992 as New Jersey's first Hispanic

congressman. After serving seven congressional terms, he was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 2006, and has won two Senate elections since then.

Both of these graduates are stellar examples of the Rutgers law school tradition of training, as well as inspiring, lawyers for public interest practice. Dean John Farmer Jr. has referred to them as "two passionate advocates for social justice who have used their law degrees to make a real difference in the lives of the less privileged. We are especially proud to call them exemplars of the Rutgers Law commitment to excellence, impact and opportunity."

## A Rousing Beginning to 2013:

### \$4 Million In Gifts by Carla Capizzi

**Two generous gifts are getting 2013 off to a great start at Rutgers-Newark.**

Thanks to a generous gift in memory of Arthur B. Newman (NCAS'65), a Rutgers-Newark education is within reach for the "best and brightest students" from Newark's and other urban public high schools in New Jersey.

The Arthur and Eileen Newman Family Foundation has established the Arthur B. Newman Honors College Scholars Endowment with a gift of \$1 million--one of the largest private gifts in Newark College of Arts and Sciences (NCAS) history. The award will provide financial assistance for students in the Honors College.

"It has been such a privilege to work with the Newman Family to honor the life of Arthur B. Newman--husband, father, grandfather, son of Newark, and businessman--through their commitment to endow scholarships for the 'best and brightest students' from New Jersey's urban public high schools," said Brian D. Agnew, assistant dean, advancement and external relations.

The first cohort of Newman Scholars will be awarded in Fall 2013.

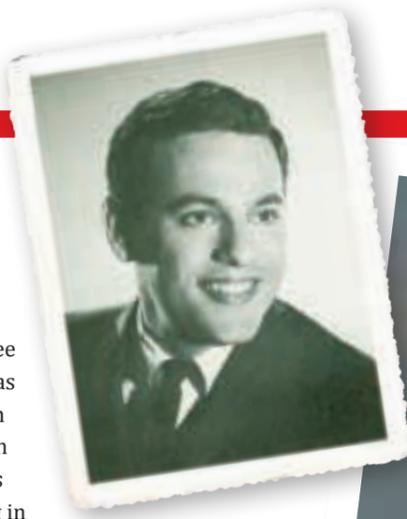
Newman grew up in Newark and graduated from Weequahic High School, the same high school that author Phillip Roth attended. He earned his

undergraduate degree from NCAS in 1965, as did his widow, Eileen D. Newman. Newman received his master's degree in accounting in 1966 from the Rutgers Business School. He died in 2010.

Mr. Newman's career spanned more than 40 years in accounting and finance. He worked at S.D. Leidesdorf & Co., Ernst & Young, and Chemical Bank before joining the Blackstone Group, L.P., in 1991 where he served as Blackstone's senior managing director.

The Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick (RBS) has begun a search to fill the newly established \$3 million Paul V. Profeta Chair in Real Estate. The new faculty position will enable RBS to recruit an academic leader to build an MBA concentration in real estate, develop a research center and provide educational and career opportunities for students.

The faculty chair in real estate was made possible by two generous gifts. Paul V. Profeta, president and owner of Paul V. Profeta and Associates, Inc., which is involved in real estate investment, management and leasing throughout the country, made a \$1.5 million commitment. A matching \$1.5 million



Arthur B. Newman in 1965 "Encore" Rutgers yearbook.



Paul V. Profeta

gift comes from an anonymous donor who pledged \$27 million towards an "Endowed Chair Challenge" to bring 18 world-class faculty to Rutgers as part of the "Our Rutgers, Our Future" campaign.

"Real estate investment is a major factor in the development of the global economy," notes RBS Dean Glenn R. Shafer. What's more, he explains there is an "unmet demand in New Jersey for personnel trained in finance, accounting, and supply-chain management in the field of real estate."

Shafer said RBS will leverage its international presence and strategic

location to become "a global thought leader in this under-served yet critical field."

Funding a faculty chair in real estate was vital according to Profeta, who is a member of Rutgers Business School's Board of Advisers. "Real estate is such an integral part of the economy, yet there is a huge need for well-trained professionals," he said. "Having Rutgers Business School focus on real estate will be hugely beneficial for companies involved in this complex sector."



Photo: Nick Rommenko

## Making A Difference While Making Her Mark by Carla Capizzi

**Rutgers alumna Amanda Ebokosia, Newark College of Arts & Sciences, 2008, has made national news by being named one of *Forbes* magazine's "30 under 30" in the field of education.**

While still a student at Rutgers Ebokosia established the non-profit Gem Project. That accomplishment -- and indirectly, The Gem Project itself -- is being recognized by *Forbes* magazine, which has named her to its list of "30 under 30." *Forbes* writes, "This Nigerian-American founded the non-profit Gem

Project while still a sophomore at Rutgers University. Six years later, she's helped over 1,200 young people ages 4 to 24 give back to their communities through service-based enrichment programs, such as entrepreneurial contests and filming educational public service announcements."

Now 26, Ebokosia is Gem's fulltime CEO, a life choice very different from her plans when she majored in biology at Rutgers-Newark. "I planned to be a neuroscientist," she recalls. During her sophomore year, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. With her family in Missouri, Ebokosia felt helpless and frightened; she initially launched the Gem Project to promote breast cancer awareness, so she "could do something." Looking back now, she realizes, "This is what I was meant to do, even though I

resisted it at first."

The Gem Project has grown and expanded since 2006 as Ebokosia realized its capacity to transform lives, and help train others to do the same. Partnering with other community organizations, the Gem Project (<http://thegemproject.org>) offers programs throughout the state to enlighten young people and adults about issues such as bullying and body image, as well as to train young people to conduct such programs themselves. The Gem Project targets both males and females aged 4-24, with the ultimate goal of "training future leaders," says Ebokosia.

The North Jersey resident knows something about transformative organizations and transformations. She cites Rutgers-Newark as the most transformative institution in her life to date. She describes herself as focused and self-disciplined, but almost painfully shy, during her high school years. But, Ebokosia says, she found herself during college.

"Rutgers-Newark changed me and made me the person I am," she declares. She credits the many people who helped and supported her, ranging from fellow students to faculty and staff who were willing to give their advice and time. "People at Rutgers-Newark aren't just educators," she explains. "They give you life lessons; you just have to listen."

To read *Forbes'* story on Amanda Ebokosia: [www.forbes.com/pictures/lml45mkil/amanda-a-ekobosia-26-founder-and-ceo-the-gem-project/](http://www.forbes.com/pictures/lml45mkil/amanda-a-ekobosia-26-founder-and-ceo-the-gem-project/)

### KEEP CONNECTED

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