... I really want to build upon the strong, reciprocal relationships that so many from campus already have forged with public, private, and nonprofit sector partners.

Getting to Know Her:
An Interview With Incoming Chancellor Nancy Cantor

Syracuse University Chancellor Nancy Cantor’s appointment as the next Rutgers-Newark chancellor (beginning Jan. 2014) was announced this past summer. Connect editor Helen Paxton sat down with her recently to learn more about her ideas and plans for R-N.

Q: What are your priorities for your first 12 months at Rutgers?

A: My highest priority right now is to listen to and learn from the outstanding faculty and staff of the university, as well as our current and potential partners in Newark and beyond. This is a time that I think calls for a 21st century version of a community “barn-raising”—bringing the campus community and the people of our city and region together to roll up our sleeves and work on our shared goals—expanding access to higher education, increasing economic opportunity—especially by tapping talent where it remains untapped—and making the most of our collective intellectual and human capital.

Outside of the daily priority of working together to make this the...
Honors for “One of the Most Important Thinkers in Criminology”

by Carla Capizzi

Dr. Ronald Clarke will be honored Nov. 14 with the Chancellor’s Excellence Award for exceptional contributions to research. As part of his recognition, Clarke will give a public talk explaining his research on wildlife crime — the poaching of endangered species and illegal killing of wildlife.

Dr. Ronald Clarke

The annual Chancellor’s Excellence Awards celebrate the accomplishments of faculty, staff, and students on a campus recognized for the quality of its teaching, research and service. Honorees in each of the three categories receive a grant supporting their work on campus, and the research honoree—in this case, Clarke—gets a chance to explain his or her work.

Clarke’s research focuses on environmental criminology and situational crime prevention, in relation to the problem of poaching of endangered species, by examining poaching markets and the likely intervention points to disrupt them. He explains, “At first sight, criminology and conservation might seem to have little in common; conservation is concerned with protecting endangered habitats, while criminology seeks to explain what motivates people to commit crime.” He notes, however, that “academic criminology is defined as ‘the study of crime and society’s response to crime,’ and endangered species are threatened not just by habitat loss but also by the crime of poaching.”

Clarke is considered “one of the 50 most important thinkers in criminology since the beginnings of the field almost two centuries ago,” according to Interim Chancellor Todd Clear, who also is dean of the School of Criminal Justice, where Clarke holds the distinction of university professor.

Clarke will receive his award from Clear during the presentation and reception on Nov. 14. His talk will discuss the objectives of his research, and his completed studies on illegal fishing and the poaching of Indian tigers, African elephants and South American parrots. Clarke holds the BA in psychology and philosophy from the University of Bristol, England, and the MA in clinical psychology and the PhD in psychology, both from the University of London.

“Criminology and the Conservation of Endangered Species” will begin at 4 p.m., in the Paul Robeson Campus Center Multipurpose Room. The talk and reception are free and open to the public.

Grants received through the Rutgers-Newark Research Office totaled $33,112,210 in external funding for research, education, outreach and training, an increase of $6 million, or 22 percent, from the previous year, reports Alexander Gates, vice chancellor for research for Rutgers in Newark.

Those impressive statistics translate into funding for research, scholarships, and academics, as well as programs that benefit the state’s communities and businesses.

“This external funding reflects our campus’s success in finding partners who will help us address today’s most pressing challenges,” observes Interim Chancellor Todd Clear. “It gives us the foundation that enables us to provide a first-rate education to an exceptionally diverse community of undergraduate and graduate students. What’s more, the increased external funding directs our attention to some of the exciting initiatives on campus.”

Several academic units continued their success in winning grants, such as the Rutgers Business School’s New Jersey Small Business Development Center ($4.5 million), the Faculty of Arts and Sciences’ (FAS-N) Academic Foundations Center ($1.52 million), the FAS-N Rutgers Minority Biomedical Research Support Program ($1.2 million), and the School of Criminal Justice ($5,995,505).

But individuals and programs also received funding for newly launched projects that will extend the campus’s outreach and research contributions. Here are a few.

Dr. Roland Anglin, director, the Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, received a $233,334 grant from the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety to provide evaluation and technical assistance services to the NJ Youth Build Innovation and Renovation Initiative. YouthBuild is an effective gang and crime prevention program that uses a comprehensive approach to address crime, gang membership, and recidivism.

Dr. Diane Hill, Office of University Community Partnerships, is principal investigator for a $498,772 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the Newark Fairmount Promise Neighborhood project. This is part of a nationwide initiative to help children grow and succeed through coordinated health, educational, social and community support. This collaboration with the Urban League and the United Way works closely with the Newark Public Schools. The project also taps the expertise of faculty from the Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration.

Jennifer Rosen Valverde, School of Law-Newark, was awarded $124,440 from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey for the HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy & Law) Collaborative, a medical-legal partnership of the Clinical Program at the law school and the Outpatient Department of Pediatrics at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (formerly the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.) The clinic aims to improve health outcomes for children with disabilities by addressing the non-medical causes of poor health that typically result from poverty.

Dr. Paul Boxer, FAS-N, psychology, received $372,570 from the National Institute of Justice to support his research, which seeks insights into the effective management of gang-involved youth who are already in the juvenile justice system. Boxer and his team will analyze treatment services provided to a test group of high-risk, antisocial youths, both gang members and non-gang members, to determine “what works” in preventing gang membership.

In fiscal year 2012-2013, Rutgers University, Newark, set new records for external funding through government, corporate and foundation-funded grants.
Angelita Bonilla
associate dean and director of the Office of Housing and Residence Life

To help her grandfather better understand her occupation, Angelita (Angie) Bonilla, associate dean and director of the Office of Housing and Residence Life at Rutgers-Newark, told him her role was similar to that of a building superintendent. It was an “aha” moment for Mr. Rivera, as he had been a super of two buildings in the Bronx for more than 20 years.

"Housing seemed like a natural for me," remarks Bonilla. "From an early age I would tag along with my grandfather as he made his rounds collecting rent and making repairs."

At age six, Bonilla also often shadowed her aunt, who was a resident advisor at a local college. The early indoctrination paid off in many intangible ways. "I love what I do because I'm never bored. One day I'm a counselor, detective, and judge. The next day I'm a business manager, supervisor, and parent. I can't think of any other profession that offers such variety." Bonilla, who joined the Office of Housing and Residence Life at Rutgers-Newark in 1998, began her career in housing as a mail clerk at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst during her freshman year. Since then, she has never veered from that path and has hands-on experience in all aspects of residence housing. Her job titles have included mail clerk, resident advisor, assistant hall director, area director, assistant director, associate director, and currently associate dean and director.

With a staff size exceeding 80, Bonilla attributes her success in housing to her ability to empathize with all of her employees. "I've literally done all of their jobs," she jokes. As associate dean and director, Bonilla's primary responsibility is to ensure the students reside in a safe, secure and clean environment that is conducive to studying and meeting new friends. She oversees six properties: Talbott Apartments, Woodward Hall, University Square, 29 James Street, 77 Bleecker Street, and 180 West Market Street (housing for the newly added Rutgers Health Sciences Campus at Newark). And in 2015, 15 Washington Street will come under her purview. "Over the past 15 years, I have seen the perception of R-N on-campus housing change for the better, with demand growing considerably."

In 1998, the campus had capacity for approximately 690 occupants. Presently, the number is about 1,745, which includes individuals who are enrolled at the Rutgers Health Sciences Campus at Newark. The new residence at 15 Washington Street will accommodate roughly 350 residents. When she's not inspecting the grounds, motivating her employees, or sharing smiles with residents, Bonilla enjoys traveling, socializing with family and friends, and photographing people. "I guess I'm in housing because I'm a 'people person' at heart."

This may explain why dinner on freshmen move-in day is a favorite of Bonilla. "The diversity, excitement and camaraderie in the dining hall are indescribable. It's quite impressive."

Alex J. Plinio (NCAS '60)
co-founder of Institute for Ethical Leadership

Success seems to follow Alex J. Plinio wherever he goes. Whether as an executive of a multibillion-dollar financial institution and its progeny startups, president of a multimillion-dollar corporate foundation, or co-founder of an institute at a major national research university, Plinio manages to achieve positive results.

Growing up in the Ironbound and South Ward sections of Newark, Plinio demonstrated a strong work ethic early in life. The son of modest, blue-collar workers, he began earning an income at age 10 as a paperboy and, more than 60 years later, is not quite ready to make the final toss of his professional career. "I was a precocious boy," Plinio acknowledges, who graduated from South Side High School, now known as Malcolm X Shabazz High School, at age 16 and Newark College of Arts and Sciences (NCAS) at 20. He married Rose Marie, his wife of more than 50 years, when he was 21, and welcomed his first child at 23. "We now have two children who are attorneys, two wonderful daughters-in-law, and three beautiful grandchildren," Plinio proudly states.

Armed with a bachelor's degree in economics and history, Plinio accepted employment in the property and casualty division of Allstate Insurance Company. The broad training and exposure he received in human resources, operations, and public affairs enabled him to make a successful leap to Prudential Financial. At Prudential Financial, Plinio garnered attention and quickly advanced up the corporate ladder. He was recruited to help grow several startup ventures and spearhead Prudential Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Prudential Financial, and ultimately became president of the foundation. After 28 years of service to Prudential and its various affiliates, Plinio turned his sights to AFS-USA, the largest nonprofit international and intercultural student exchange program in the United States. As president, he helped to make AFS-USA a viable concern, and during his 10 years at the helm, the organization annually sent 1,600 students abroad and hosted 4,300 students in the United States. Plinio's stint at AFS-USA proved to be a nice segue to academia. He left AFS-USA to co-found the Institute for Ethical Leadership (IEL) at Rutgers Business School, which helps students and leaders of business and government entities and nonprofit and philanthropic organizations "make ethical decisions for real-world challenges." Through peer-to-peer consulting, one-on-one coaching, emotional intelligence assessments, conferences, and classroom instruction, IEL provides current and future leaders with the training and critical-thinking tools needed to create ethical cultures.

While he finds it rewarding to help shape today and tomorrow's leaders, Plinio finds time to have fun. Since he enjoys the outdoors and walking, golf allows him to indulge in both. "Rose Marie and I share an interest in golf and are members of a couples league," notes Plinio. They also love to travel with their family and are very active in various other social endeavors.

Not surprisingly, Plinio manages to strike a successful balance between his personal and professional lives.
A New MA and BA/MA Program Offers a Path to Peace

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences-Newark (FAS-N) added a new multidisciplinary program in Peace and Conflict Studies this fall, offered through its Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The program draws on faculty from throughout the university, including the Newark campus. The program also offers students a wide array of electives.

In addition, students will get hands-on research and practical experience through internships with two FAS-N institutes, the Center for the Study of Conocidé, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights, and the International Institute for Peace, along with outside organizations. The program is also affiliated with two other important entities: the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers in Newark, and the Center for Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at the Bloustein School in New Brunswick.

“Peace and Conflict Studies is about finding nondestructive, nonviolent ways to handle conflict. But to do this, we need to understand why conflicts and their various outcomes happen. That is, to shape conflicts to go in nonviolent ways, we have to understand them in the first place,” explains Anthropology Professor Brian Ferguson, program director.

Graduates can finish in as few as three semesters, then enter a Ph.D. program or go onto the job market. Students who complete the program will have skills to analyze and affect conflict situations, skills useful for employment in government, international institutions, non-governmental organizations, and business, according to Ferguson.

Recent Appointments

Kyle Farmbry, who has been serving as associate dean of the Graduate School-N, Newark since July 2012, has been appointed acting dean. He is leading the school while Dean Maggie Shiffrar is on leave for the academic year. As the associate dean, Farmbry was involved in reshaping professional development opportunities for graduate students and redesigning a number of support systems for both faculty and students.

Rutgers alumnus Anice Thomas was recently appointed director of the campus Counseling Center, which provides a variety of services to students, including alcohol and drug assistance, individual counseling, psychiatric services, support groups, workshops, consultation and assessment, and crisis intervention. Thomas joined the center as a staff psychologist in February 2012.

A Landmark of Jazz Is Also a Literary Landmark

On Oct. 23, 2013, the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS) became the fifth New Jersey library to be designated a “Literary Landmark,” joining the Newark Public Library, the Paterson Public Library, the Walt Whitman Center and the Joyce Kilmer Tree site.

The award from the New Jersey Center for the Book was made by Renee Swift, the Center for the Book’s chair and director. The designation seeks to “celebrate books, libraries and the diverse literary heritage of New Jersey” and is affiliated with the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress.

The program at John Cotton Dana Library included a concert by jazz musician Daryl Sherman, a pianist and vocalist who has performed for NPR, toured the United Kingdom and made 14 jazz recordings.

US, the world’s largest jazz archives, is home to collections of personal papers, oral histories, and records of recording companies and jazz-related organizations, as well as traditional library materials such as books, periodicals, scores, and sound recordings. The institute was founded in 1952 by Marshall Snart, an early jazz scholar; his collections were donated to Rutgers and moved to the Newark campus in 1966. Dana Library became the permanent location of US in 1994, hosting the US’s monthly Jazz Roundtable discussions and concerts. The US also produces a weekly WBGO radio program, “Jazz from the Archives.”

Journalism Program Gets A Boost With Modernized Newsroom-Classroom

A generous alumnus is again helping the campus journalism program stay on top of a rapidly shifting industry and keep up with rising enrollment and new course offerings.

A similar donation from Sloan and Disney created the digital journalism lab that opened in fall 2012, enabling students needing multimedia skills to stay competitive in the job market.

President Barack Obama has reappointed Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of History Clement A. Price to another term as vice chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of the nation’s diverse historic resources. During his four years as vice-chair, Price will co-lead the ACHP Executive Committee, which governs agency operations such as management, budget, and legislative policy.

Price and Associate Dean of Program Development Marcia W. Brown, the school of Public Affairs and Administration, have been appointed to the New Jersey State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.
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.

Getting to Know Her: … from cover page

best place it can be for our students and our faculty. I really want to build upon the strong, reciprocal relationships that so many from campus already have forged with public, private, and nonprofit sector partners. This is a university and a city that really get the idea that expertise in taking on today’s complex challenges simply must come from every direction, from what I like to think of as “communities of experts.” This is something we worked on very hard at Syracuse, and I think we and our partners built a robust infrastructure that leverages the particular strengths of the university and the community. I’m really eager to get to know Rutgers-Newark and the city and region better and figuring out together how best to leverage the strengths of this community, especially the diversity that may be our greatest asset.

Q: How do you see the next stage of redevelopment in the city of Newark?

A: I think Newark is one of the most exciting cities in the country. It has always been a major center for business and culture, even during some of the most challenging economic times of the 20th and 21st centuries. I’m aware that there is a huge current round of investments in developing cultural institutions, in building new business, in real estate development, in improving urban infrastructure, expanding the educational opportunities both K-12 and beyond, and energizing the remarkable talents of residents in neighborhoods plagued by high poverty but full of hope and potential. I believe that Newark in the next 10 years increasingly is going to be seen nationally and internationally as a place to watch.

Q: Are the differences between private and public universities less substantial now than they were in the past?

A: Public universities, especially land grant universities like Rutgers, have always had strong connections to their communities, more so than most private universities. Yet as our economy changes, private universities are becoming more like publics, and vice versa. Rutgers and other publics have had to adjust to public funding that has not kept pace with the rapidly increasing demands placed on our universities. Publics need to get better at diversifying partnerships with alumni, foundations and corporations. So the two are much more similar now than they were in the past. The key for publics today is to find ways to be as flexible, nimble, and agile as privates can be, while remaining very responsive to the public we serve.

Q: What is most enticing to you as you think about how you will spend your “leisure time” once you are a resident of Newark?

A: I was born and raised in the New York area, and it’s exciting to be back! I’ve already developed a deep appreciation for Newark’s history, the vitality of its people and neighborhoods, and incredibly vibrant cultural life. As I’ll be living with my husband, Steve (Brechin) downtown, close to campus, I plan to be a frequent visitor to NJPAC, The Newark Museum, and other cultural venues in R-N’s neighborhood. And as you can probably guess we’ll also be taking advantage of Newark’s proximity to that other city across the Hudson River!

Q: Regional Business Partnership, and Dr. Clement Price.

Dr. Cantor with Chip Hallock, president, Newark Regional Business Partnership, and Dr. Clement Price.

Dr. Cantor with Chip Hallock, president, Newark Regional Business Partnership, and Dr. Clement Price.

Nov. 6, 5 – 8 p.m.
Paul Robeson Campus Center
MFA in Creative Writing alumnus Christa Parravani will be featured in the "Writers at Newark" series. She will read from her acclaimed memoir "Her.”

Nov. 12, 6 p.m.
Paul Robeson Campus Center
MFA in Creative Writing alumni Christa Parravani will be featured in the "Writers at Newark" series. She will read from her acclaimed memoir "Her.”

Nov. 14, 4:30 p.m.
Paul Robeson Campus Center
Dr. Ronald Clarke, recipient of the 2013 Chancellor’s Research Award, gives a talk on “Criminology and the Conservation of Endangered Species”

Dec. 4 – 8
Bradley Hall Theatre
“Mystic in Motion” directed by Noor Theatre Company; is presented by the Rutgers-NJIT Theatre Program

Dec. 9, 11.30 a.m.
Paul Robeson Campus Center
The Rutgers University Chorus, directed by Professor John Floreen, presents its annual Holiday Concert in the Paul Robeson Gallery.

Jan. 30, 5 p.m.
Paul Robeson Campus Center, Paul Robeson Gallery
Opening night for the spring 2014 group show, featuring contemporary artists on the topic of “Datacapes: Maps, Charts & Diagrams”

Feb. 15, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Paul Robeson Campus Center
Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series, Tending the Light: Community Organizing and the Modern Civil Rights Movement, featuring speaker Bob Moses, civil rights movement veteran and president-founder of The Algebra Project

April 12
Rutgers-Newark Open House and Rutgers Alumni Association’s All Class Reunion

May 19, 21, 22, 23
Commencement Ceremonies on campus and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Interim Chancellor
Todd Clear

Todd Clear’s evolving roles at Rutgers-Newark now include leading the campus as interim chancellor.

This new role commenced this past July 1 and continues through Dec. 31, while he also continues his leadership of the School of Criminal Justice as dean.

Clear began his Rutgers career as a criminal justice faculty member in 1978. In 1996 he was appointed associate dean of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at The Florida State University, and in 1999 returned to the metropolitan area to become a distinguished professor at John Jay College. He was appointed dean of the Rutgers School of Criminal Justice in January 2010.

One of the most frequently cited scholars in his field, Clear is the author of many books, and has served as president of the American Society of Criminology, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice. In 2011 he was named a fellow of the American Society of Criminology.
A Great Year for Gifts Pushes R-N Ahead of its Capital Campaign Target
by Carla Capizzi

Rutgers University in Newark has already surpassed its capital campaign goal for privately funded gifts and grants by nearly $5 million, for a total of nearly $99 million.

In fiscal year 2012-2013, privately funded gifts and grants from individuals, corporations and foundations towards the "Our Rutgers, Our Future" capital campaign allowed the campus to surpass its overall campaign goal, according to Irene O’Brien, vice chancellor for development for the campus. The $19.05 million in gifts this past fiscal year brought the campaign total for the Newark campus to $99.4 million, exceeding the goal by almost $5 million.

O’Brien describes R-N deans, directors and faculty as “the key to success” in the funding increases. "The development office simply tells the story of what our deans and faculty are doing, what the campus is accomplishing. Donors support us because they believe in what we do here." She also credited members of the campus community for more proactively seeking grants from government, corporate and foundation sources.

The gifts range from funds to help the best and brightest to attend Rutgers, to academic support from faculty. For example, the Arthur and Eileen Newman Foundation established the 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, which honors Arthur H. Newman (NCAS’65, and Rutgers Business School-Graduate, ’66), will provide financial assistance for students in the Rutgers-Newark Honors College, focusing on graduates from Newark’s and other urban public high schools in New Jersey.

At the Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick, the Paul V. Profeta Chair in Real Estate was established thanks to a $1.5 million commitment by Profeta, president and owner of Paul V. Profeta and Associates, Inc, which is involved in real estate investment, management and leasing throughout the country, along with a matching $1.5 million from an anonymous donor. The new faculty position will enable Rutgers Business School to bring in an academic leader to build an MBA concentration in real estate, conduct international research and provide educational and career opportunities for students in the industry.

Several more examples are found at the Rutgers School of Law-Newark (NLAW), where faculty and alumni demonstrated their commitment with generous support. Dean John J. Farmer Jr. made a $250,000 pledge, designated for the school’s most pressing priorities each fiscal year, while Saul Mendlovitz, the Dag Hammarskjöld Professor of Peace and World Order Studies, emeritus, established the Mendlovitz Family Fund, a $100,000 endowed fund, through a bequest gift. Former Law Dean Peter Simmons created the Ruth and Peter Simmons Law Reform Endowment, a $100,000 trust that will be funded by annual donations and bequests. Professor and alumnus Frank Askin (NLAW’56) and his wife, Marilyn Askin (NLAW’70), an adjunct professor, made a challenge gift of $50,000 to benefit the Frank and Marilyn Askin Fund for Clinical Legal Education, and it was matched in full by alumni Neil Mullin (NLAW’79) and Nancy Erika Smith (NLAW’03).

First Class of Rutgers Future Scholars Becomes Rutgers Freshmen
by Ferlanda Fox Nixon

This fall Rutgers-Newark welcomed its first class of Rutgers Future Scholars alumni. Rutgers Future Scholars is a university-wide initiative that was launched in 2008. Its mission is to create a pipeline of academically ambitious eighth through 12th grade students from low-income households who aspire to be among the first in their families to earn a college degree. A Rutgers Future Scholar who gets admitted to and chooses to attend Rutgers University receives full tuition funding.

Students selected to become scholars participate in the program’s summer institute, a rigorous program that offers interactive workshops and learning activities, field trips, and mentoring and tutoring support from Rutgers students, faculty and staff. Rutgers Future Scholars continue to receive academic enrichment services throughout the school year to further ensure their long-term success.

"The first class of Rutgers Future Scholars Class of 2013 or ‘Cohort 1,’ consisted of 46 students of which 43 are currently attending two or four year colleges/universities," notes Dr. Traymanesha Moore, program coordinator since 2009 of the Rutgers Future Scholars program in Newark. Moore attributes the program’s success to supportive leadership and the diligence of the scholars, commitment of her staff, and generosity of private donors and sponsors like the Victoria Foundation, Wells Fargo, the Merck Foundation, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Of Cohort 1’s 46 alumni, 36 applied to a Rutgers University school or college, 28 were admitted, and 25 enrolled for the fall 2013 semester. Rutgers-Newark welcomed 29 Rutgers Future Scholars; two from Camden, nine from New Brunswick/Piscataway, and 18 from Newark’s Cohort 1.