But most important will be the impact of 370 students living in the neighborhood, animating the streets in new ways day and night, spurring further development in the area. And the decision for Chancellor Cantor to reside in the building powerfully reinforces all of these messages, signaling the University’s commitment to help the downtown thrive.

The 326-foot-tall building will add a total of 211,000 square feet of student housing space in one- to four-bedroom units, with common space for students and academic use. The remaining 52,000 square feet will be used for residence life staff, the chancellor’s living quarters and other campus purposes.

The 15 Washington Street building was built in 1930 as the headquarters of the American Insurance Company. It was designed in neo-classical style by the firm of John H. & Wilson C. Ely, which also designed the Newark City Hall and the National Newark Building (744 Broad Street).

The former home of the Rutgers School of Law-Newark at 15 Washington Street will be converted to a combination of undergraduate and graduate housing, as well as academic, student, and residence hall administrative space. What’s more, Chancellor Nancy Cantor will become the first R U-N leader to reside in the 17-story building.

The building’s “great hall” on the first floor will be used as an academic space where Rutgers University – Newark faculty and students catalyze engagement with community organizations and the public around the arts.

Rutgers officials plan to open the building in July 2015, following the Rutgers Board of Governors’ approval of the $85 million project at their December 2013 meeting.

“The project will reactivate one of the icons of the Newark skyline and build on the momentum of rejuvenation we are seeing in so much of the city.”

Senior Vice Chancellor Peter Englot.

The project will reactivate one of the icons of the Newark skyline and build on the momentum of rejuvenation we are seeing in so much of the city. Since we plan to work with community partners to bring the public into signature academic spaces on the first floor, it also will help build new reciprocal relationships with the community,” says Senior Vice Chancellor Peter Englot.

A building that holds a prominent place in the histories of both Rutgers University–Newark and the city itself will soon undergo a metamorphosis.

New Life for a Classic Part of Rutgers and Newark History by Carla Capizzi

Continued on page 3

Rutgers University-Newark 249 University Avenue Newark, NJ 07102
Rutgers Biologists Identify A Species of Cockroach Never Before Seen in the U.S.

by Robert Forman and Carla Capizzi

Here’s some bad news for New Yorkers: Rutgers University-Newark researchers have confirmed that the city is now home to an Asian species of cockroach that can survive in cold and snow. Until now, this species had never been found in the United States.

Rutgers insect biologists Dr. Jessica Ware and graduate student Dominic Evangelista documented the presence of Periplaneta japonica in a study published in December 2013 by the Journal of Economic Entomology (Vol. 106, No. 6).

This variety can survive not just indoors where it’s warm, but also outdoors in freezing temperatures. The species is well documented in Asia but had never been confirmed in the United States until 2012, when an exterminator working on the High Line, an elevated walkway and park on Manhattan’s West Side, spotted dead cockroaches that looked different than what he usually saw. The carcasses eventually were sent to Ware, an assistant professor of biological sciences, because of her past research. Evangelista, who is working toward a doctorate in Ware’s lab, performed barcoding, an analysis of the species’ genetic characteristics. That and other scientific methods Evangelista used confirmed what he and Ware suspected – the roach traps on the High Line had captured Periplaneta japonica.

How it arrived is not certain, but Ware and Evangelista suspect that the pest arrived in the soil of one or more of the ornamental plants that adorn the High Line. “Many nurseries in the United States have some native plants and some imported plants,” Ware says, “so it’s not a far stretch to picture that that is the source.”

Although it’s too soon to predict the implications of this discovery, the Rutgers researchers say there probably is no reason for alarm. The new species will have to compete with existing urban species for space and for food, and as they do, says Ware, “their combined numbers inside buildings could actually fall because more time and energy spent competing means less time and energy to devote to reproduction.”

So far, Ware says, there have been no documented New Jersey sightings, but “the insects do very well as hitchhikers.”

Risk Terrain Modeling: There’s an App for That

by Edward F. Tate III and Ferlanda Fox Nixon

We all know that some places are safer than others. We instinctively know to avoid dark alleys, vacant buildings, and other hotspots for crime. Wouldn’t it be nice if we didn’t have to rely on our instincts and intuition, which sometimes fail us, to safely traverse one community to another? How reassuring it would be to know that police departments were prudently deploying their law enforcement officers and other assets and resources to neighborhoods in greatest need of surveillance and protection.

Research and development by Dr. Leslie Kennedy and Dr. Joel Caplan of the Rutgers Center on Public Security (RCPS) at the Rutgers School of Criminal Justice (SCJ), has resulted in commercial technology that public safety practitioners and researchers worldwide are using to predict and fight crime.

A theoretically grounded and empirically based approach called “risk terrain modeling” (RTM) uses technology to predict where crime will likely happen. RTM marries historical information about crime hotspots with a variety of factors endemic to threatening areas (e.g., building vacancies, population density, area illumination, proximity to ex-offenders’ residences) to create a map that highlights locations at greatest risk for crime. Armed with a reliable picture of regions that are prone to attract criminals, public safety professionals can use RTM to make informed decisions on how best to deploy resources to help quell disturbances and offenses before they actually occur.

To make RTM more accessible to public safety professionals, RCPS has developed the Risk Terrain Modeling Diagnostics (RTMDx™) Utility, a software application that automates the steps of RTM. The product is bundled with affordable training or provided at no cost to practitioners who use it to diagnose spatial crime vulnerabilities and predict new crime locations. The RTMDx™ Utility broadens the reach of RTM by bringing expert knowledge and advanced technology to thousands more public safety professionals without requiring a major investment in time or money.

“The RTMDx™ Utility is an intelligent and cost-effective way to address public safety concerns,” comments Kennedy, University Professor of Criminal Justice at SCJ and director of RCPS. “It allows police to prioritize risky venues before crimes emerge and thoughtfully and efficiently implement risk-mitigation options.”

“The RTMDx™ Utility standardizes the process of RTM and makes it more accessible to public safety professionals in both large and small departments,” notes Caplan, assistant professor at Rutgers SCJ and associate director of RCPS.

The National Institute of Justice recently awarded two grants totaling nearly $1 million to conduct RTM research in Newark, New Jersey; New York, New York; Chicago, Illinois; Arlington, Texas; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Glendale, Arizona; and Kansas City, Missouri. Researchers from SCJ and John Jay College of Criminal Justice are conducting the studies using the RTMDx™ Utility. The RTMDx™ Utility also is being adopted globally by professionals and agencies in countries such as Australia and Canada and cities like Paris and Milan.

Kennedy and Caplan won an award from the International Association of Crime Analysts for the RTMDx™ Utility. They also had the honor of presenting the RTMDx™ Utility at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy “Safety Datapalooza” in January 2014.

Dr. Jessica Ware and Dominic Evangelista with specimens of Periplaneta japonica.
Jeannie Wang: A Career Devoted to International Education
by Ferlanda Fox Nixon

“My avocation and occupation are one and the same,” comments Jeannie Wang when asked about her hobbies and interests. “Commitment to the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (OISSS) at Rutgers University in Newark,” she jokes.

“My job is all-consuming,” notes Wang, assistant dean and director of OISSS, “and I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Wang joined R U-N in September 2008 as an OISSS advisor and soon thereafter was appointed director. Her greatest pleasure is to provide the much needed services to the international students and scholars who make R U-N their chosen institution of higher education.

During her time at OISSS, the office’s constituency has grown. From 300 in 2008, OISSS now assists more than 1,000 international students, scholars and their dependents by providing them a wide range of programs and services. Whether it’s transportation from the airport upon their initial arrival to Newark, orientation to International Education

A graduate of Amherst College and Yale Law School, he has worked in, and for, Newark for four decades, and his new memoir, Unfinished Agenda, Urban Politics in the Era of Black Power (North Atlantic Books, 2014), has been described as a “road map for addressing poverty, failing schools and crime.”

But today, Williams’ chief cause is improving K-12 education for Newark students, and that is his role as founder and director of Rutgers’ Abbott Leadership Institute (ALI). Its goal: to teach parents and community members how to make public schools better by taking an active role in their schools and their children’s education.

To understand this cause, start with Williams’ parents, who were both educators with a fierce passion for learning. Both promoted the power of knowledge as a way to change lives and believed in taking a hands-on approach to their son’s education. Junius Williams is very much his parents’ son. He founded ALI 11 years ago to provide Newark parents, students, educators and community with the skills and tools to improve the Newark public school system. “I wanted to create a university for parents, to empower them to use information and analysis to become active stakeholders in their schools,” he explains. “What sets highly successful schools apart from the non-successful is the strength and quality of parental engagement.”

But parents need to understand what questions to ask, and what issues are important – such as testing, class size, how funds are being spent, and the role of pre-school, says Williams. This is where ALI comes in, offering workshops, seminars, and field trips to study high-performing schools, and to explain these issues, as well as the end impact of the state’s role in Newark, where schools are under state control. Workshop topics include analyzing school rankings, navigating the school system, understanding the court rulings and laws that impact public education, and more.

Some ALI programs target Newark teachers, helping them develop their classroom skills and to learn to work effectively with parents.

ALI also develops students through the Youth Media Symposium, helping them become effective advocates by teaching them public speaking, video production, leadership and writing skills. “Students used to be told to be quiet and just take tests. We are producing students who are smart and not so quiet,” notes Williams. ALI programs have helped more than 2,700 persons become enlightened advocates for their children. Williams notes, “These people get respect because they’re informed, not just emotional.”

Learn more about ALI at http://www.abbottleadership.org/
A New Era Under New Leadership Gets Underway

Rutgers University–Newark has embarked on a new era under new leadership, launched by Chancellor Nancy Cantor’s announcement of major initiatives designed to fully articulate the university’s distinctive strengths and vision. The initiatives include a listening tour, strategic planning process, and introduction of a new naming convention and logo for the university that reflect changes taking place across Rutgers University, as well as the naming of a leadership team in the chancellor’s office.

Engaging faculty, staff, and students across the university, as well as external constituencies across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, the listening tour and strategic planning process are pivotal opportunities to share thoughts about and aspirations for R-U-N, inform Chancellor Cantor’s understanding of the institution, and help establish an agenda for realizing the university’s potential.

“We are at a historical moment when our city, our state, our nation, and our world desperately need higher education to fulfill its promise as an engine of discovery, innovation, and social mobility,” says Cantor. “Rutgers University–Newark is exceptionally well positioned to demonstrate how universities can fulfill that promise.”

Cantor’s “listening tour” this spring semester involves discussions with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community stakeholders. Intertwined with the listening tour, R-U-N is conducting a strategic planning process that will feed into the strategic plan for all of Rutgers. A Strategic Planning Oversight Committee, co-chaired by Provost Todd Clear and Political Science Professor Jyl Josephson, who represents the Newark Faculty Council, has been convened. More information is detailed at www.newark.rutgers.edu/strategic-planning.

A new naming convention and logo consonant with changes occurring across Rutgers was introduced in January. The official name of the institution is now Rutgers University-Newark, reinforcing the reality that Newark, along with New Brunswick and Camden, is more than a campus of a larger university, but a university in its own right.

Chancellor Cantor’s newly named leadership team includes experienced academics and professionals who are helping to shape and support all of the aforementioned initiatives and serve as her day-to-day advisory group. They are:

• Todd Clear, professor and former dean of criminal justice, whom Cantor has named provost;

• Peter Englot, senior vice chancellor for public affairs and chief of staff, who comes to Rutgers after 25 years in public affairs, communications, and academic administration at Syracuse University;

• Marcia W. Brown, associate dean and affiliated faculty, School of Public Affairs and Administration, whom Cantor has named special assistant;

• Roland Anglin, director of the Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, whom Cantor has named special assistant;

• Diane Hill, assistant chancellor for university-community partnerships;

• Irene O’Brien, vice chancellor for development; and

• Clement A. Price, Rutgers Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor, whom Cantor has named senior advisor.

Chancellor Cantor has also recently named Dr. Jan Ellen Lewis as dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences. Lewis had been serving as the acting dean of FAS-N since 2011. A distinguished scholar of American history, Lewis has taught at Rutgers and served in various academic leadership roles since 1977. She is an internationally recognized scholar of American colonial history.

She has chaired the New Jersey Historical Commission and the American Historical Association’s Committee on Women Historians and served on numerous boards, including the Advisory Board of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello and the editorial board of The American Historical Review. She is an elected member of the American Antiquarian Society and a Fellow of the Society of American Historians.

In Memoriam

Dr. Leo Troy, who retired in 2010 after a 52-year career at R-U-N, passed away Nov. 2 at age 89. An internationally known economist and expert on labor unions, Troy was frequently quoted by financial reporters and was the author of many books and scholarly articles. Troy was a distinguished professor of economics, longtime chair of the department and mentor to many students and young faculty members.

He received numerous awards for his scholarship, including two Fulbright Visiting Professorships in England and two awards from the National Science Foundation. But his most prized honor was being named “teacher of the year” by the Rutgers University-Newark Economics Society in 1992–1993, recalls Dr. Peter Loeb.

Mark Pych, 22, was scheduled to graduate from the Rutgers Business School (RBS) in January, but was killed on New Year’s Day in a car crash. He had studied finance and supply chain management at RBS, and was actively involved on campus, in and out of the classroom. He served the university for three years as residence assistant in the Office of Residence Life.

Kwasi Mendoza, director of the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Writing Program (MFA), was named among the “10 Notable Books of 2013” by Poets.org, the site of the Academy of American Poets. Earlier last year he was awarded the 2013 “Walter for Writers” award by Poets & Writers, Inc.

Another MFA professor, Brenda Shaughnessy, saw her book Our Andromeda (Copper Canyon Press, 2012) named the best book of poetry by Cosmopolitan Magazine, among “the 22 best books for women, by women.”

In that same Cosmopolitan listing, MFA alumna (2011) Christa Parravani’s memoir Her (Henry Holt and Co., 2013) was named as one of the five best non-fiction books.

History Professor James Goodman’s book, But Where Is The Lamb? Imagining The Story of Abraham and Isaac (Slate Magazine, 2013), tops Maclean’s magazine’s list of the 20 best books of the year. It also has been recognized by the Jewish Voice as one of 2013’s 10 best Jewish books.

Alumnus Alfred Koeppe Receives Steven J. Diner Ethical Leadership Award

From left: Former Chancellor Steven Diner; Sharon Taylor, senior vice president at Prudential Financial and chair of the Prudential Foundation; Robert Marino, chairman and CEO of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ; Honoree Alfred Koeppe; Rex. Edwin Leahy, headmaster of St. Benedict’s Prep; Alex Pines, co-director of the Institute for Ethical Leadership.

The Rutgers Institute for Ethical Leadership named Rutgers University-Newark alumnus Alfred C. Koeppe as the third recipient of the Steven J. Diner Ethical Leadership Award, in recognition of his long-term commitment to strengthening civil society through ethical leadership.

Koeppe, Class of 1969, Newark College of Arts and Sciences, is the chief executive officer of the Newark Alliance. He has the distinction of having served as the leader of New Jersey’s two largest utilities: president and chief operating officer of Public Service Electric & Gas Company, and president and chief executive officer of Bell Atlantic-New Jersey.

After receiving his B.A. in English and history from the Newark College of Arts & Sciences, Koeppe began his career with New Jersey Bell in 1969. He enrolled in Seton Hall University Law School in 1972, earning his J.D. while working full-time. He was a trial attorney for the New Jersey Department of the Public Defender and for AT&T before returning to New Jersey Bell as a general attorney in 1983. Koeppe was elected president and CEO of Bell Atlantic-New Jersey in 1993. He joined PSEG and its predecessor in 1998 as chief and chief operating officer in March 2000.

The Steven J. Diner Ethical Leadership Award is given annually to an individual who demonstrates a long-term commitment to strengthening civil society through ethical leadership. The award is in memory of Steven J. Diner, former Rutgers University-Newark chancellor.
New Life for a Classic Part of Rutgers…

from cover page

many insurance company facilities of the period, the building, especially its great hall, was designed to impress visitors and employees alike as a symbol of financial security and stability. The marble-lined great hall, also called the counting room—where customers used to pay their premiums—features 20-foot ceilings and 15-foot-tall windows.

Rutgers University in Newark: Ready for Its Close-up

by Carla Capizzi

Pop artist Andy Warhol once promised that everyone would have 15 minutes of fame. Rutgers University-Newark has had a lot more than that, directly as well as indirectly, on both the big and small screens, thanks to its alumni, faculty and staff.

On the big screen, our campus became “City Law School” in Matt Damon’s Rounders, a 1998 film about gambling and law school students. Rounders was filmed in the building at 15 Washington Street while it was still the Rutgers School of Law, utilizing the most court room, lunchroom and library, as well as the front exterior of the building. The film’s impressive cast included, in addition to Damon, Ed Norton, John Malkovich, Martin Landau, and Gretchen Mol.

Turn on the DVD version of Peter Jackson’s 2005 film King Kong and watch the behind-the-scenes features. You’ll see the familiar face of Dr. Robert W. Snyder, director of the Graduate Program in American Studies, talking about Depression-era New York City.


The hero of the film Goodbye Columbus, based on the National Book Award winning novel set in and around the City of Newark, is a fictional Rutgers University-Newark graduate. The novel was written by Philip Roth, who located many of his novels in and around Newark.

Zack Braff is the multi-talented Jersey boy who directed the 2004 film Garden State. On the TV comedy Scrubs, Braff played a hapless medical intern trying to juggle medicine and his love life. But to Rutgers School of Law-Newark Adjunct Professor Harold Braff, Zack is just “my son.”

When Emeritus English Professor George Davis wrote Coming Home in 1972, it was hailed as the first major novel about the Vietnam War. His anti-war novel was made into an Oscar-winning film starring Jane Fonda, Jon Voight and Bruce Dern.

A film based on Professor Tayari Jones’ book Leaving Atlanta has been optioned. Jones, who teaches in the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program, lived in Atlanta during the horrendous series of child murders committed in 1979-1981, the subject of her book.

Judith Viorst, Newark College of Arts and Sciences, 1952, used her son as the model for a new classic tale of a little boy having the mother of all bad days. Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day has since been made into a play and a TV special, and now is slated to be a Walt Disney Pictures movie.

And let’s not forget “indie” films! The Red Corvette (2011) was written, directed and produced by physical plant employee Frank List, who also played a role in it (but didn’t get to drive the red Corvette).

Finally, a Rutgers School of Law-Newark alumnus made it big, not in the courtroom but on the dance floor and later on the TV screen. Ozzie Nelson, 1930, was a bandleader and entertainer before becoming the co-star and producer of TV’s The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet show, in the 1950s through the 1960s. His son, Ricky Nelson won fame as a hugely popular singer and guitarist, and Ozzie Nelson’s twin grandsons became the pop music stars “The Nelsons.”

After American Insurance was acquired by the Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company in 1963, the building became known as the Fireman’s Fund Building. Then, in 1977, the Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company relocated its corporate headquarters. This led to the building’s second life: the insurer donated it to Rutgers University and it became the home of the Rutgers School of Law-Newark, along with the School of Criminal Justice and the Office of the Provost (now called the Office of the Chancellor). The building retained that role until 1999, when the new Rutgers Center for Law and Justice was opened at 123 Washington Street, and the two schools and administrative offices relocated there.

The project is being developed through a public-private partnership between Rutgers and the New Brunswick Development Corporation (DEVCO), Newman Architects, New Haven, Connecticut, is designing the renovations. The contractor is AID Construction. The $85 million cost is being financed through $10.75 million in funds from the New Jersey Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund, $13 million in tax credits through the New Jersey Economic Development Authority’s Economic Redevelopment and Growth Program, $11 million in bonds issued specifically for the project, and a $50.25 million mortgage secured by DEVCO.
It’s Academic: Rutgers, County College of Morris Will Offer Rutgers Baccalaureates at CCM’s Campuses

by Carla Capizzi

The County College of Morris (CCM) and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, will partner to allow CCM graduates, and others who hold associate degrees, to earn Rutgers baccalaureate degrees at CCM’s Randolph and Morris town locations, beginning in Fall 2014. The collaboration will improve access to Rutgers’ programs and resources to citizens of Morris County and the Northern New Jersey region. Program participants also can take courses at other Rutgers University locations, including summer and winter courses. On-site academic advising at CCM will be offered by Rutgers staff.

The new Rutgers Higher Education Center at CCM fits perfectly with Rutgers’ mission, and with the mission of the Newark campus in particular, of providing access to a four-year degree to students throughout the state of New Jersey,” notes Gretch en Van de Walle, associate dean for undergraduate education, Newark College of Arts and Sciences. “County College of Morris, with its excellent students, academic programs and faculty, as well as its location in the heart of Northern New Jersey, is the ideal partner for this initiative.”

The program will launch with Rutgers University-Newark majors planned in psychology, journalism, criminal justice, graphic design and public and non-profit administration. Additional majors will be added in the future.

The January trip was the latest in recent years the communities served by CCM have experienced both population and workforce growth, creating new educational demands and needs. To respond to these changing needs, CCM wanted to offer increased academic opportunities through its learning resources and facilities. The partnership between CCM and Rutgers will expand opportunities for Northern New Jersey residents to complete a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science degree through Rutgers, while making CCM a more comprehensive destination for lifelong learning and professional development. Rutgers already has successful degree-completion partnerships with Atlantic Cape Community College, serving the state’s Southern shore region; Brookdale Community College, serving the Northern shore region; and Mercer Community College and Raritan Valley Community College, serving Central New Jersey.

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As the New Year unfolded, five highly motivated Rutgers University-Newark undergraduate students trekked to Nicaragua during winter break to learn about the country’s history, experience its culture, and observe its delivery of public health services to its residents, specifically pregnant women. Under the leadership of Clayton Walton, associate dean of Student Life and director of the Paul Robeson Campus Center, and supervision of Nikita Pandit, assistant director for Service Learning and Student Development, and Farzana Katiddeen, graduate coordinator for Service Learning and Student Development, the students also installed a much-needed maternity “WE CARE Solar Suitcase” in a municipal hospital and donated school supplies to elementary school students.

The January trip was the latest installment of the International Service Learning and Leadership Exchange (ISLLE). Since 2011, ISLLE has been conducting weeklong service learning projects with R.U.N students in the United Republic of Tanzania. In late May and early June of each year, six to 10 undergraduate students travel to East Africa to lend a helping hand and explore educational opportunities beyond the bricks and mortar of campus. This year, ISLLE extended its reach to Central America.

While all aspects of the Nicaragua journey were memorable, installation of the solar suitcase arguably was the most impactful. To address electricity shortages and lighting inadequacies, the maternity solar suitcase is a user-friendly portable power unit that provides lighting and power for mobile communication, laptop computers and small medical devices. The case typically includes high-efficiency LED medical task lighting, a cell phone charger, a battery charger, outlets for 12 volt, direct current devices, 40 or 80 watts of solar panels, and a 14-ampere-hour, sealed, lead-acid battery. The maternity kit also comes with a fetal Doppler. Each suitcase costs $1,500, and the students were charged with raising sufficient funds to purchase one. Their collective fundraising efforts yielded $1,100.

“When we finally switched on the lights of the solar panels we installed in the maternity clinic, the pure joy of the community surrounding us brought tears to my eyes,” student Nika Stetsenko shared. “I couldn’t believe just how much our contribution of light was going to change the lives of so many families in Rio Blanco. No more candlelight deliveries for you!”

With aspirations of careers as health care professionals, the experience left an indelible impression on Pia Kolon (resident of Union, New Jersey, majoring in psychology), Aditi Jain (resident of Westfield, New Jersey, majoring in biology), Robertson (resident of Bloomfield, New Jersey, majoring in nursing), Rosanna Sanchez (resident of Clifton, New Jersey, majoring in biology and psychology), and Mehtani Jiwani (resident of Jersey City, New Jersey, majoring in applied math). “Learning cannot be done in the classroom only; true experience is out there in the world and it is imperative that every student ventures out to find it,” encouraged Jain. “Nicaragua was the trip of my life, and I will cherish my memories [there] forever. Can I go again?”

To learn more about offerings of ISLLE, contact Pandit at nikita.pandit@rutgers.edu.