

Rutgers newark connections

FALL 2002

A newsletter for the Rutgers-Newark community and neighbors



All photos except Lashley
by Shelly Kusnetz



New Campus Leadership

By Irene O'Brien

The past year brought much change to Rutgers-

Newark, most notably, the retirement of Provost Norman Samuels. Steven J. Diner, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences-Newark (FAS-N), has since been named acting provost, and several other key appointments were made as well.

"The outlook for the campus and city is tremendously encouraging," Diner said. "Newark's renaissance continues—and our campus, along with our CHEN partners, will remain an active partner in that renaissance. In addition, a surge in undergraduate enrollment and a growing demand for on-campus housing are strong indications that Rutgers-Newark will be a vibrant, 24/7 campus within a few years."

Above, left to right: Acting Provost Steven J. Diner, Nursing Dean Felissa R. Lashley, Acting Dean of FAS-N Edward G. Kirby, and Associate Provosts Marcia Wilson Brown and Gary Roth.



At the start of the fall semester, Diner announced that Felissa R. Lashley, dean and professor at Southern Illinois University's School of Nursing, and clinical professor of pediatrics at

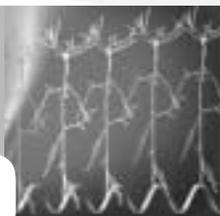
Southern Illinois University's School of Medicine, will become dean of the College of Nursing, effective Nov. 17, 2002.

Lashley will assume leadership at a notable point in the College of Nursing's development. Over the last decade the college has made great

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Deciphering the Code of Brain Cells

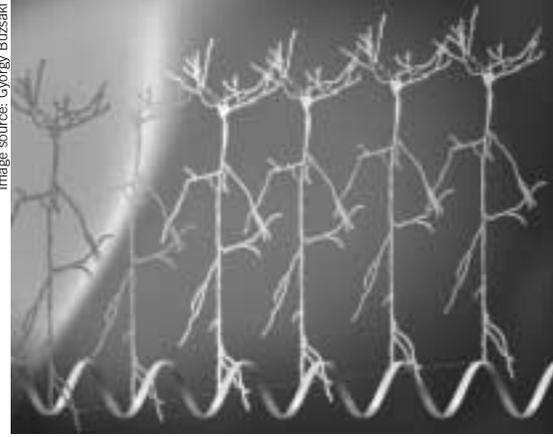
By Michael Olohan

With the occurrence of such brain disorders as Alzheimer’s disease and temporal lobe epilepsy on the rise, researchers around the world are looking for answers. Rutgers-Newark is home to several of these top scientists, including Professor György Buzsaki, of the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience. His work is leading to a clearer understanding of how brain cells communicate in the hippocampus to help

form memories—and ultimately provide insight into some of these devastating brain disorders.

Buzsaki’s research was recently featured in the journals *Nature* and *Science*, and he received a five-year \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant is enabling Buzsaki and Rutgers-Newark research associates Joseph Csicsvari, Hajime Hirase and Kenneth Harris, to take close-up pictures and recordings of brain cells talking to each other and forming memories. With the NIH grant, Buzsaki will also employ

Image source: György Buzsaki



the latest advances in silicon technology and laser-scanning microscopy to directly study subcellular elements that play a critical role in changing connectivity among neurons, part of the overall process leading to memory formation.

Welcoming Aljira to the Neighborhood

By Irene O'Brien

This fall, Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, will become a very visible member of Newark's downtown arts district. Aljira will move to its first street level gallery and offices at 591 Broad Street, directly across the street from the YMCA, and close to NJPAC and the Newark Museum. The occasion marks a significant period of growth for Aljira.

Founded in 1983 by Victor L. Davson, Aljira started as a grass roots organization created to promote emerging artists. Since then, Aljira has helped to develop the careers of nationally

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recognized artists, training them to manage and promote their work, as well as originate high profile exhibits. Aljira Design, a full-service graphic design studio, serves private and nonprofit clients at competitive rates, and supports the work of the organization.

“Our new street level presence will allow us to enter a new phase in the life of our organization, giving us the ability to become a more active member of our community while also giving much more visibility to the work we exhibit,” said Shana O’Hara, associate director of programs and operations. Aljira’s opening events are tentatively scheduled for January. For more information about Aljira, call 973/643-6877

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strides in expanding and strengthening its faculty and its undergraduate and graduate programs. In addition, the college has experienced a substantial increase in external research funding, and has conducted a successful capital campaign to support expansion of its facilities.

Other recent appointments include Gary Roth, who is the newly appointed associate provost for graduate studies and enrollment management. Roth, former associate dean of the Graduate School-Newark, is leading further expansion of enrollments and coordinating undergraduate and graduate student academic and support services.

Marcia Wilson Brown has been appointed associate provost for student affairs and community outreach. Brown will oversee all aspects of student affairs, and she will be engaged in increasing the university’s involvement in the community. Brown has been serving as associate dean of FAS-N and director of the Academic Foundations Center.

Edward G. Kirby, professor of biology, was appointed acting dean of FAS-N. Kirby joined the campus more than 20 years ago, and became associate dean of the faculty in 1998.

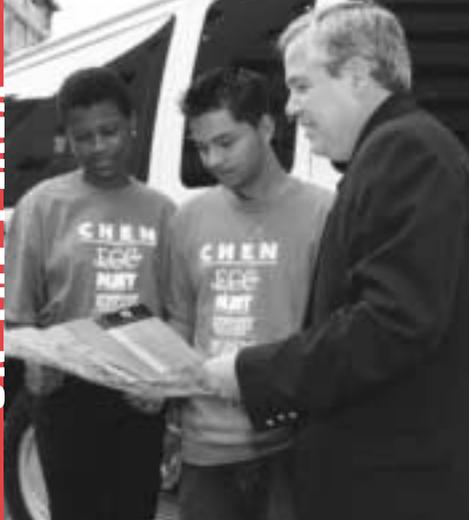


Photo: Mark Cap

CHEN Sponsors Free Shuttle Service

The Council for Higher Education in Newark (CHEN) has launched a free shuttle service in Newark's University Heights neighborhood. Two 15-passenger white vans are transporting students and staff from Rutgers-Newark, Essex County College, NJIT, and UMDNJ to several stops in University Heights and to New Jersey Transit's Broad Street train station. The shuttles, operated by Rutgers-Newark, run Mondays through Fridays, on two routes, beginning at 8 a.m. For a schedule and more information on shuttle stops, visit <http://nwkpolicerutgers.edu/chen.html>.

Left: Gene Vincenti (r), associate provost at Rutgers-Newark, introduces the CHEN shuttle to two students.

A Tribute to Norman Samuels

A tribute dinner was held this past June in honor of Norman Samuels who served as provost of Rutgers-Newark for 20 years. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, and leaders from the university and community attended the ceremony. Among the dignitaries who spoke were Vivian E. Sanks King, Esq., vice president and general counsel, UMDNJ, NCAS '70; Al Koepp, president and COO, PSE&G, NCAS '69; Rutgers University President Francis L. Lawrence; Howard Lucas, former business administrator, City of Newark; Gabriella Morris, Esq., president, The Prudential Foundation; Eugene O'Hara, chair, Rutgers Board of Governors, and CFO, Prudential Financial (ret.), UC-N '62; Rutgers-Newark Professor Clement A. Price; NJ Secretary of Commerce William Watley; and Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, president, Essex County College.

Right: At the tribute dinner for Norman Samuels were (l-r): NJ Secretary of Commerce William D. Watley; Acting Provost Steven J. Diner; Al Koepp, president and COO, PSE&G; and Norman Samuels with his son Samuels.

Increased Demand for On-Campus Housing

Since the first residence hall at Rutgers-Newark opened just over 10 years ago, demand for on-campus housing has been steadily increasing. This year, requests have reached an all-time high, confirmed Tim Johnson, director of housing and residence life at Rutgers-Newark. In fact, on-campus housing has surpassed its capacity, with an occupancy rate of 114%.

"We've negotiated a plan with NJIT that allows us to place students in their residence halls, so this allows us to provide housing for more than what our on-campus facilities can provide," he explained. "While this is a great sign—for the campus and the city—there is clearly a growing need for additional undergraduate and graduate housing on our campus."

Photo: Shelly Kusnez



IN REMEMBRANCE

Rutgers-Newark students, faculty and staff honored the memory of 37 alumni who died in the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. The names of Newark alumni lost were read by Acting Provost Steven J. Diner, and Rachel Hadas, professor of English, gave reading of a stirring poem she wrote for the occasion.

The sounds of music by a solo trombonist were also heard as a memorial plaque was unveiled and a memorial tree was planted.

Rutgers-Newark alumni lost were: Evan Jay Baron, NCAS '84; David O.

Campbell, GSM '74; Brian T. Cummins, GS-N '91; Gavin Cushny, UC-N '85; Michael A. Diaz-Piedra III, NCAS '74; Barry H. Glick, NCAS '67; Brian E. Martineau, NCAS '88; Donald A. Peterson, GSM '67; Tom Reinig, GSM '78; Richard D. Rosenthal, GSM '75; Maria Theresa Santillan, NCAS '96; and Michael C. Sorresse, NCAS '89. Ceremonies were also held simultaneously on the New Brunswick and Camden campuses.

Later that day, a unified campus gathering was held outside the Robeson Campus Center. The ceremony, led by student leaders, included poetry and songs, and a symbolic release of 12 doves in honor of the lost Rutgers-Newark alumni.

Rachel Hadas, Rutgers Board of Governors professor of English, read her new poem entitled "9/11/02" at the September 11 memorial.



Photo: Mark Cap

Are you on Board with R-N Online?



This past summer saw the debut of the new and improved web site for the campus—Rutgers Newark online. New design and new features are making life for everyone at R-N easier and definitely more interesting.

Log on to www.newark.rutgers.edu and check it out. Under homepages, click faculty, staff, student etc., and then make that your homepage. You'll find by opening up to that every day you'll get customized information and links, campus news and events.

The newly designed website for Rutgers-Newark is at www.newark.rutgers.edu

One of the great new tools on the site is R-N shortcut—which works something like AOL keyword. For instance, you type “English” in the shortcut box, and you are immediately routed to the R-N English Department site. To learn more about the new features at R-N online, visit www.newark.rutgers.edu/welcome.

“The more feedback we get about R-N online, the better it gets for everyone,” says Aaron Ellis, web communications coordinator in the Office of Campus Communications. So give it a try, and let us know what you think (www.newark.rutgers.edu/feedback).

Rutgers-Newark Globetrotters

Many of Rutgers-Newark's faculty members spent their spring and summer months working in some unusual places. Following are some snapshots from recent travels.



Law Professor Howard Latin founded a non-profit group that runs safaris to raise funds for African wildlife conservation (see www.ecovitality.org). The photo shows him (2nd from right) in Namibia this past summer with two EcoVitality guides and two clients. One guide is holding up a plate-sized mushroom that is cultivated by termites in huge termite mounds. Delicious! But not mandatory on the tours.



Denyse Thomasos, associate professor, visual and performing arts, had a one wall painting installation at the Christine König Gallery in Vienna, Austria. This was an exhibition of three African American abstract painters curated by the international conceptual African American artist David Hammons. The show was well received, and the catalog has been distributed internationally, including at this year's Documenta.



Robert Stieglitz (right, with hat), associate professor of history, directed archaeological excavations at Tel Tannim, Israel, during the summer.



Professor Gerhard Mueller, School of Criminal Justice, accompanied the students in his seminar, Maritime Crime and its Prevention, in an exercise with the U.S. Coast Guard. The exercise allowed students to experience a real-life scenario when the U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement team boarded their vessel for drug interdiction and terrorism prevention.

CALENDAR

Many exciting Rutgers-Newark events are planned for the fall semester. For a detailed listing, go to www.newark.rutgers.edu/events or use the RN shortcut (): Events. Here's a sampling of what you'll find.

Oct. 19, 1 p.m.
Rutgers-Newark Raiders Men's Soccer team vs. Richard Stockton State College, Alumni Field, University Ave.

Oct. 24–Nov. 7
“**Little Shop of Horrors**” Rutgers-Newark/NJIT Theater Arts Program, Kupfrian Hall Theater, NJIT campus, admission: \$5–\$7. For show time and other info: 973/596-3457 or www.njit.edu/CSLA/theatre/events.

Through Oct. 25
Hsu Dan: Chinese Painting, Dana Gallery, John Cotton Dana Library, 4th Floor, 185 University Ave.



Hsu Dan, *Summer Palace, 1991*. Water color on paper

Blackboard and Smart Classrooms Enhance Teaching and Learning

By Irene O'Brien

New technology at Rutgers-Newark continues to benefit teaching and learning. With support from the university, the Equipment Leasing Fund, and New Jersey's Higher Educational Capital Improvement Program, more "Smart Classrooms" were added on campus during the past year. Currently, 37 of these classrooms exist, and 18 more will be completed by the end of next year; eventually, all classrooms at R-N will be "smart" and equipped with desktop computers, VCRs, DVDs, writing visualizers, and Internet access, all located in a podium or adjacent media room.

The web-based course management software, Blackboard™, is being widely implemented at Rutgers-Newark. Blackboard facilitates online interaction between faculty and students, including course management tools to provide students with

syllabi and assignments. Other capabilities include real-time course announcements, personalized course calendars, asynchronous discussion boards, virtual chat with whiteboard, course-related external links, digital drop box, online assessments, email capability, and group project areas. Rutgers-Newark's Teaching Excellence Center provides Blackboard training to faculty members and academic departments. For information, call 973/353-1534.

The campus' 37 smart classrooms are equipped with the latest technology for teaching and learning.



STAFF FEATURE

A Man of Many Hats—And Hairdos

By Carla Capizzi

A suddenly pink-haired Bil Leipold showed up in the personnel office in spring 2002. The previous spring, the blonde Leipold had become the bald Leipold. But his co-workers knew the pink locks and baldness were for a good cause—the glory of R-N tennis.

In his "day job," Leipold coordinates staff development and training for fellow

employees, but to R-N tennis players, he's "coach." Leipold coached the women's team in fall 2000, and the men's team in spring 2001 and 2002. To rally the men's teams that first season, he pledged to shave his head if the team had a winning season.

The following year Leipold upped the ante—a winning season plus wins in the Metro Collegiate Tennis Championship. He hasn't decided yet on his 2003 incentive.

Leipold says coaching fills a void created when he transferred from residence life as assistant director to his new job two years ago. "I missed regular contact with students. Through the team, I stay close to students and student life," he said.



Bil Leipold (l, standing) coaches the R-N men's team.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Summer Brings Unique Opportunities for Two Rutgers-Newark Students

Researching Genomic Technologies

A R-N graduate student in biological sciences was selected to take part in a highly selective advanced research workshop in Crete, Greece, last month. Rami El-Khatib also was awarded a full scholarship for the international workshop, "Genomic Approaches to Forest Tree Stress Tolerance." El-Khatib, who works with Dr. Ned Kirby, acting dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, researches stress tolerance in genetically modified forest trees, and was one of only 30 participants at the program held in the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania.

During the two-week program, El-Khatib participated in lecture and laboratory sessions conducted by leading scientists that were designed to provide hands-on training in cutting-edge genomic

technologies. El-Khatib expects this blend of new theoretical knowledge and exposure to the latest technologies to be a boon to his research. The program also fostered collaboration among American and European researchers, with El-Khatib and the other participants making presentations on their research.

Exploring a Career in Public Service

Political science major Taquan Williams spent the summer as a Congressional Black Caucus Summer Intern in the Washington, D.C. office of the Honorable Donald Payne. The internship is a highly competitive program that allows participants to experience Congress' legislative and administrative processes. Selection is based on scholastic achievement, demonstrated leadership, and interest in public service.

Williams sat in on Congressional briefings and hearings, and was invited to a Senate hearing by Edward Kennedy.



Taquan Williams (r), political science major, spent the summer interning in the Washington, D.C., office of the Honorable Donald Payne (l).

He also attended a White House briefing, and collaborated with other interns on a group policy paper on election reform. He also wrote an issue brief on a resolution to the crisis in the Middle East.

A Newark resident, Williams is entering his sophomore year. He plans to apply what he learned in Washington to his work as a senator in the Rutgers-Newark Student Governing Association. He's already looking forward to a career in public service, with his eyes on a seat on the Newark City Council in 2010.



Photo: Carla Capizzi

FACULTY FEATURE

Kurt Schock, associate professor of sociology, will have a book published in 2003 by the University of Minnesota Press. *The Politics of People Power* is a comparative-historical analysis that explores the role of nonviolent action in challenges to authoritarian regimes in third-world countries in

the 1980s and 1990s. Schock spent the spring semester in Brazil, where he began studying the Movimento Sem Terra (Landless Rural Workers Movement). His next book will examine land reform movements in the third world.

KEEP CONNECTED

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