

# CONNECTIONS

A newsletter for the Rutgers-Newark community and neighbors



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## Norman Samuels To Retire as Provost of Rutgers-Newark

Photo: Tim Farrell/The Star-Ledger

*This past February, Norman Samuels announced that in June he would end his 20 year tenure as provost of the Rutgers-Newark campus, and return to teaching this fall. Samuels is universally admired for his dedication to Rutgers-Newark and for his outstanding work in building the campus into a major national research university.*

*So it is not surprising that the news of his retirement has been met with sadness, and caused many to reflect on one man's impact on the community that is Rutgers-Newark.*

*To give our readers a sense of Samuels' achievements we are reprinting a story that appeared in a recent issue of The Star-Ledger, and including comments written by many of Samuels' colleagues. --Editor*

### Rutgers Leader Passes the Torch

*By Ivelisse Dejesus  
(reprinted from The Star-Ledger)*

**The Star-Ledger**

**When Norman Samuels** stepped off the train in 1967, Newark was erupting in race riots. The National Guard lined the streets, and a few blocks away, the Rutgers campus was just as explosive. Of the 2,000



Provost Samuels on the New Street Plaza early this spring.

students enrolled in the university, only a handful were black. Amid mounting demands and grievances, the campus was a tinderbox. Samuels, who had accepted a political science teaching post, had no idea what he had walked into. "I came out of a hole in the ground and I could hear my mother saying, 'You damned fool. Get right back in there,'" Samuels recalled.

He didn't, and in no time the mild-mannered native of Montreal, Quebec, became a catalyst for change at Rutgers-Newark and in the city. In his first 15 years, Samuels rose from assistant professor to provost—transforming the campus along the way.

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## Rutgers Leader... from pg. 1

"I remember when I came here, black and white students would sit at opposite sides of the classroom," Rutgers history professor Clement Price said. "Someone of lesser quality as dean and provost might not have been able to create a climate that enabled the campus to come together."

Under Samuels' leadership, the 10,000-student campus has become the country's most racially and ethnically diverse national university.

Price also credits Samuels' formidable administrative and personal skills with change and progress at Rutgers. Samuels strengthened the academic culture in all disciplines and single-handedly built a new generation of faculty that was in step with the post-1960s society, Price said.

Now, after 20 years as provost, Samuels, 64, is beginning a new chapter of his life. Last month, he announced he will resign at the end of the semester and return to the classroom.

Throughout his tenure, Samuels has followed one guiding principle: Provide the advantages of a high-quality education to disadvantaged students, students of color and of foreign nationalities. It was a goal close to his heart.

A child of uneducated Russian Jewish immigrants, Samuels was the first of his

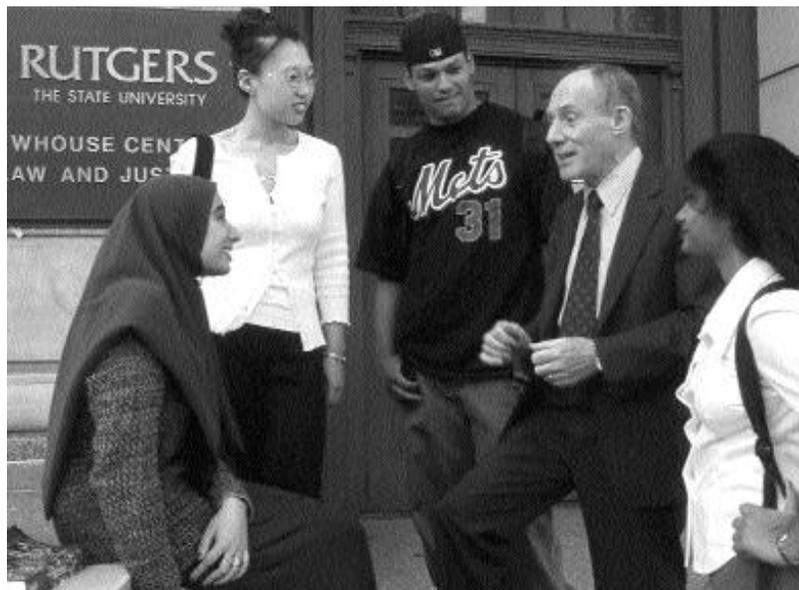
family to earn a college degree, graduating from McGill University in Montreal in 1958. Two years later, he emigrated to the United States and headed for Duke University in North Carolina for his doctorate.

Samuels' experience as a Canadian in the American South molded his political and social conscience. "I had no idea what a segregated society was," he said. "It was culture shock. It made a deep impression on me."

Samuels took part in one of the earliest sit-ins in Durham, N.C. Later, at Rutgers, he became one of the few white faculty members to lend support to the school's black students. "He was like an adviser to us, meeting with us, talking to us and strategizing," remembered George Hampton, vice president of urban and community development for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. "There were few white people during that period who understood and were supportive of what we were trying to do."

Provost Samuels with some of the Rutgers-Newark students who were named Provost Scholars in 1998.

Photo: Roy Groething



In 1969, Hampton was among the small group of black students who took over Conklin Hall to protest low minority enrollment. Samuels lent support and helped ensure a steady supply of food and water for the protesters during the three-day event. "It was faculty like Samuels... who helped us to think how to go about our case and gave us suggestions on how to deal with our demands," recalled Richard Roper, a former student and now president of the Roper Group, a public policy consulting firm in Newark.

Under Samuels' leadership, minority enrollment at Rutgers-Newark flourished. For the last five years, Rutgers-Newark has been named the country's most diverse university campus by U.S. News & World Report.

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## What's Happening ON AND AROUND CAMPUS

All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted. Dates, times and programs subject to change.

### EXHIBITS

**April 2–26**, "Senior Graphic Arts Exhibition," Robeson Gallery, Robeson Campus Center, 350 Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd.

**May 2–20**, "Senior Fine Arts Exhibition," Robeson Gallery, Robeson Campus Center, 350 Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd. Opening reception: May 7, 5–7 pm.

**April 12–July 2**, "Suellen Glashauser, A Memorial Exhibition," 4th floor gallery, Dana Library, 185 University Ave.

**April 22**, 5 pm, "Culture, Religion, and Globalization in the Fringes of the Former Soviet Union." Speaker: Professor Rajan Menon, International Relations, Lehigh University. Sponsored by the Center for Global Change and Governance. Center for Law and Justice, Suite 510, 123 Washington St., Info: 973/353-5586.

**May 6**, 9–11:30 am, Norman Samuels Annual Research Day, Multipurpose Room, Robeson Campus Center, 350 MLK Jr. Blvd.

**June 22**, 8:30 am–4 pm, "Conference on Prisoners and Their Families." Sponsored by the Dept. of Social Work. Robeson Campus Center, Rooms 255–257, 350

Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd. Info: 973/353-5174.

### PERFORMING ARTS

**April 18–20, 25–27**, 7 pm, and April 21 and April 28, 2:30 pm. "Hedda Gabler." Performed by the Rutgers-NJIT Theater Arts Program. Bradley Hall Theater, 110 Warren St. Tickets: \$5 and \$7. Info: 973/353-5119, ext. 17.

**April 22**, noon, Performance in Honor of Norman Samuels by the Rutgers-Newark Chorus. Center for Law and Justice, 123 Washington St.

**April 28**, 3 pm, St. Mary's Church, Newark, spring concert by the Rutgers-Newark Chorus. Tickets: general admission, \$10; preferred seating, \$25;

*continued on pg. 3*

# Norman Samuels: Two Decades of Leadership

We asked faculty and staff to comment on Provost Samuels' two decades of leadership at Rutgers-Newark. Here are a few excerpts from their comments.

*"For 20 years, Norman Samuels has fostered cutting-edge research and teaching of the highest order on the Newark campus, championed the revitalization of Newark and its integral connection to the campus, and insisted that Rutgers-Newark represent fully the racial and ethnic diversity of Newark and New Jersey. His visionary leadership will be sorely missed."*  
Steven Diner, dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences-Newark

*"I recall with fond affection his strong leadership and advocacy of the needs and interests of the students who attended the university in Newark. Faculty don't always appreciate how critical that advocacy was for the Newark campus. Norman Samuels also helped persuade me to give highest priority to access through the opportunity fund programs, student aid and the establishment of academic scholarships for our students,"*  
Ted Hollander, professor, Rutgers Business School; former New Jersey Chancellor of Higher Education

*"The campus that I have called home for 24 years now is, in remarkable measure, the creation of one man, Norman Samuels. Rarely does one person get to leave so great a mark on a school, a neighborhood, a city. Paris had its Hausman, New York its Moses, and Rutgers-Newark, its Samuels. We expect university administrators to be educators; we do not expect them also to be architects. In the years that I have been at Rutgers-Newark, the school has not simply grown, but it has also transformed itself, in the process realizing, embodying Norman's vision. The bricks, the mortar, the flowering trees on the plaza at the center of the college, the most diverse student body in the nation, the grit, the drive, the energy, all of these are Norman's creation and his legacy to this campus. He built something in Newark at a time when others ran away, and he stayed until they came back. The campus is a monument to his vision, a living monument, filled with students, scholars, resolve, and hope."*

Jan Lewis, History professor

*"At a conference a couple of years ago, I overheard an audience member, who had just heard a rousing speech by Norman about our campus, say: 'I don't know how he does it every time—he always finds exactly the right words. I actually know how Norman does it, and it's not complicated—he believes in Rutgers-Newark's mission and that firm belief has guided his actions as the campus's leader. There's been so little change in Norman's message about the campus, and such a complete lack of pretentiousness in his*

*style of leadership, that one might think it could all get a bit boring—unless, of course, one looks around campus and sees that it has been completely transformed and matches, pretty close to perfectly, the vision that Norman had the courage and brilliance to articulate and fight for."*  
Harvey Feder, associate provost



The groundbreaking for the Dana Library expansion in 1991.

*"Everyone knows about Norman's integrity, hard work, and organizational skills. He is relied on to provide the pithy comment, the new twist on an idea, or the reasoned argument. All of these traits makes him remarkable but what takes him above the crowd, into a small group of one, is his ability to put all of these together in the role as unconditional leader. How has he run a university campus for so long while receiving universal acclaim for fairness and*

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## What's Happening on and around campus from pg. 2

students/senior citizens, \$5. Info: 973/353-5119, ext. 28

**April 29**, 11:45 am, free campus concert by the Rutgers-Newark Chorus. Bradley Hall Lounge, 110 Warren St., Info: 973/353-5119, ext. 28.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**April 20**, Spring Open House, hosted by the Admissions Office. Volunteers are welcome. For more information, call 973/353-5205.

**May 20**, noon–2 pm, Staff/Faculty Picnic and Service Awards Program, Campus Plaza.

**May 23**, 1:30 pm, Convocation Ceremony for the College of Nursing, Golden Dome Athletic Center, 42 Warren St.; and 4:30 pm, for the Newark College of Arts and Sciences and University College, Campus Plaza.

**May 24**, 10 am, Convocation Ceremony for Rutgers Business School Undergraduate Program-Newark and Graduate Programs Newark and New Brunswick, Campus Plaza; and 1:30 pm for the Graduate School-Newark and the School of Criminal Justice, Golden Dome Athletic Center, 42 Warren St.

**May 31**, 10 am, Convocation Ceremony for Rutgers School of Law-Newark, New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

### ATHLETICS

#### BASEBALL

**April 25**, 3:30 pm, Ramapo

**April 26**, 3:30 pm, Kean

**April 27**, noon, Richard Stockton

#### SOFTBALL

Home contests played at Alumni Field, on the corner of Warren St. & University Ave.

**April 20**, 1 pm, Rowan

**April 25**, 4 pm, Centenary

**April 27**, noon, College of New Jersey

#### MEN'S TENNIS

Home contests played at the Golden Dome Athletic Center, 42 Warren St.

**April 24**, 3:30 pm, Western Conn. State

**April 29**, 3:30 pm, Staten Island

## Rutgers' Board of Governors Honors Tireless Visionary

The Rutgers University Board of Governors has named History Professor Clement Alexander Price of Newark, as a Rutgers Distinguished Service Professor. The award honors Price for his "unwavering commitment to the ideas of community, and his sustained impact on the development of cultural, civic, educational and academic institutions in the City of Newark and the State of New Jersey." The award also acknowledges that Price has been "recognized and honored for his vision and leadership in the ongoing revival of the City of Newark, his deep engagement with and social responsibility toward the communities in which he lives, his tireless involvement in the community at all levels, and his dedication to social justice."

**An anonymous donor** has given \$1 million to Rutgers School Law-Newark to create the Loan Repayment Assistance Endowment. The endowment will enhance the law school's program for graduates who make a five-year commitment to public interest employment, by helping them to repay their student loans.

"Our donor was inspired by the strong student support for the public interest program and by the opportunity to advance the law school's mission of training lawyers who care about public service," said Dean Stuart Deutsch.

**The Center for Global Change and Governance (CGCG)** at Rutgers-Newark has partnered with Kassel University in Germany to offer a new Global Studies Exchange Program. Each university will benefit from the exchange of students and faculty to attend summer courses on the Rutgers-Newark campus or the Kassel University campus in Kassel, Germany. According to Richard Langhorne, co-director of CGCG, the program will help Rutgers-Newark faculty and students understand the perspectives of German and European scholars on a range of political and social issues.

## Steven J. Diner Named Acting Provost

Steven J. Diner, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences-Newark, has been named acting provost of Rutgers-Newark. Diner came to Rutgers-Newark in 1998 from George Mason University where he was a professor of history. He is widely published on public policy and urban issues. Since joining Rutgers, he has recruited many top scholars to the campus. He has also strengthened the university's relationship with the community to capitalize on the campus' location in Newark, the state's largest city.

"Norman Samuels has given us splendid leadership for twenty years, and I will seek to follow the course he has charted," said Diner. "We must continue to build a distinctive urban identity for the Newark campus, and to take full advantage of our location in a revitalizing city. We must further strengthen our excellent professional schools, foster first-rank research and doctoral study, and maintain the diversity that has become the hallmark of Rutgers-Newark. And we must continue to build on the fruitful collaborations with our University Heights partner institutions."

Steven J. Diner, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, will become acting provost of Rutgers-Newark on July 1.

Photo: Roy Greeting



## Showcase of Scholarship

Rutgers-Newark will showcase some of its leading scholars on May 6 with the introduction of The Norman Samuels Annual Research Day. The event was planned as part of a semester-long tribute

to Norman Samuels, whose advocacy for Rutgers-Newark has resulted in a significant increase in research funding at the campus during the past 20 years.

A diverse range of research topics in the sciences, arts, humanities, business and law will be covered during brief presentations by various faculty. The topics were selected to reflect the depth

and breadth of the scholarly work conducted at Rutgers-Newark. The event has been organized by Associate Provost Harvey Feder and Professor Glenn Shafer of Rutgers Business School.

The program will be held from 9–11:30 am in the Robeson Campus Center Multipurpose Room.

## Two Decades... from pg. 3

*compassion? He has done it by taking the time to understand peoples' needs and by making every effort to meet them. Anticipation is the hardest thing to teach but is the key to successful leadership. I have never met anyone who uses anticipation so astutely."*

Leslie Kennedy, dean, School of Criminal Justice

*"How for 20 years Norman Samuels consistently managed never to seem harried or haunted, yet also avoided the blandness of the stereotypical administrator, is one of the benign mysteries of my Rutgers experience. I doubt if it's a mystery that will ever be fully solved, though perhaps the next few years may be the best time to learn more about my distinguished colleague, perhaps by sitting in on one of his political science classes. He will certainly have much to teach about balancing conflicting demands and temperaments on a cramped yet diverse urban campus and in a richly varied, feisty urban/suburban community".*

Rachel Hadas, English professor

*"Norman Samuels has truly been a role model and an inspiration to all of us who have happily devoted our professional lives to Rutgers University and, in particular, to the Newark campus. At least for me, the identity of Rutgers-Newark is synonymous with his personal vision, energy, and*

*enthusiasm—it's difficult to imagine one without the other."*  
Rosa Oppenheim, associate dean, Rutgers Business School

*"... the key word about Norman Samuels is consistency—consistency of purpose and long term strategy, consistency in support of the Newark campus and its faculty and the most remarkable consistency of courtesy and understanding. I have acquired the deepest respect for his achievement: he has undoubtedly been the most effective head of a university I have worked with--on two continents."*

Richard Langhorne, co-director, Center for Global Change and Governance

*"The addition of the dormitories, tennis courts, an athletic field and a swimming pool, as well as neuroscience, management and law buildings, are all testimony to Dr. Samuels' determination and ability to build a campus. However, it is his respect for and support of people that have resulted in the sense of community that is so unique to Rutgers-Newark."*

Rosa Zamora, Golden Dome Athletic Center

Photo: New Jersey News Photos



The Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience has become one of the leading centers for research on the human brain and brain disorders. In this 1989 photo, Samuels revealed plans for the center.

*"Provost Samuels recruited Dr. Ian Creese and me to Rutgers-Newark from the University of California, San Diego 15 years ago. In the beginning, our colleagues often asked how in the world Rutgers convinced us to leave beautiful San Diego for Newark. However, after visiting the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience, that we co-founded with the complete support of Norman Samuels, our colleagues fully understood our choice. You can share many things in life, but sharing a mutual vision, and working together to build that vision into a reality is truly special. Norman has taught us the meaning of trustworthiness, the power and integrity of keeping one's word based on a handshake, and the value of unwavering support".*

Paula Tallal, co-director, Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience

Photo: Sal Benedetto



The dedication of the Center for Law and Justice on September 9, 1999, was the culmination of more than a decade of planning. Dr. Samuels was joined by (from left), U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; Rutgers President Francis L. Lawrence; Donald DiFrancesco, a NJ State Senator at that time; NJ Supreme Court Chief Justice Deborah Poritz; Leslie Kennedy, dean of the School of Criminal Justice; and Stuart Deutsch, dean of the Law School-Newark.

## Rutgers leader... from pg. 2

Thirty-five years after arriving at Rutgers, Samuels says he has had few disappointments. He said he would have liked to have seen "better appreciation from the city, even the corporate community." And he would like to have seen closer coordination among Newark's four institutions of higher education--Rutgers, UMDNJ, Essex County College and New Jersey Institute of Technology. "I would have liked to have seen the

consortium develop," Samuels said. "It would allow the taxpayers to get a bigger bang for their buck."

In the end though, Samuels seems content, if not ready, to enjoy the rest of his life with Sandra, his wife of 38 years, and his four grown children. Summers hold the promise of canoeing on his favorite lake and plowing through the stack of books he has been accumulating over the years. His job for now is done. Said Samuels: "God put me down in this particular vineyard and so it was my job to make it flourish."

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# Convocation Ceremonies Scheduled

For more detailed information, visit [www.newark.rutgers.edu/commencement](http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/commencement)

## Newark College of Arts and Sciences and University College, May 23, 4:30 pm, Campus Plaza



Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, will receive a Doctor of Laws degree. She

became the first black woman to sit in Congress in 1969, representing New York, and served until January 1983. Chisholm ran for the U.S. Presidency in 1972. Throughout her career Chisholm championed social causes including education, day care, labor and assistance for inner cities.

## College of Nursing, May 23, 1:30 pm, Golden Dome Athletic Center



College of Nursing Dean Hurdis Griffith will address students as she marks her retirement. Griffith was named dean in 1995, and has since

worked to improve nurse work force development, bolster graduate nursing education and research, establish nurse-managed centers in urban areas, and raise awareness of how anticipated nursing shortages will impact patient care.

## Rutgers Business School, May 24, 10 am, Campus Plaza



Anna Estabrook, a member of the school's Board of Advisors, will address graduates. Estabrook is president of Elberon Development Co. and president of

David O. Evans, Inc., a property management and construction company. The Cornell graduate is active in the state chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, the Chamber of Commerce, and the National Conference for Community and Justice.

## Graduate School-Newark and School of Criminal Justice, May 24, 1:30 pm, Golden Dome Athletic Center

Commencement speaker to be announced.

## Rutgers School of Law-Newark May 31, 10 am New Jersey Performing Arts Center



U.S. Senator Jon S. Corzine will address the School of Law commencement. Corzine was elected to his first Senate term in November 2000;

previously he was co-chairman and co-chief executive officer of Goldman Sachs. Corzine is a member of the House Joint Economic Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, Budget, and the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. The ceremony will begin with a bagpipe-led procession from the Center for Law and Justice to NJPAC.



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973 643 6877  
[aljiradsn@aol.com](mailto:aljiradsn@aol.com)

## KEEP CONNECTED

Connections is published during the academic year by the Office of Campus Communications, Rutgers-Newark.

Have a great summer!

**Helen Paxton**, Senior Editor,  
[paxton@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:paxton@andromeda.rutgers.edu)  
**Irene O'Brien**, Managing Editor,  
[iobrien@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:iobrien@andromeda.rutgers.edu)  
**Carla Capizzi**, Editor,  
[capizzi@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:capizzi@andromeda.rutgers.edu)

Room 208, Blumenthal Hall  
249 University Ave.,  
Newark, NJ 07102  
phone 973/353-5262  
fax 973/353-1050  
[www.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.newark.rutgers.edu)

## Office of Campus Communications

Rutgers-Newark  
249 University Ave.  
Newark, NJ 07102



[www.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.newark.rutgers.edu)