Over the past five years, the Institute on Education Law and Policy has been a force for quality public education in New Jersey. Now, it is working to provide a model for educational excellence that can be replicated throughout the state.

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The institute also has received a contract from the New Jersey Department of Education to study public school choice, including charter schools and the state’s five-year-old pilot program that allows students to attend school in a district other than their own. That project builds upon the institute’s previous study, funded by the Dodge, Prudential and MCJ foundations, the Fund for New Jersey and the Schumann Fund for New Jersey, which looked broadly at school choice to identify best practices.

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A Visual History Illustrated in Book Covers

by Kathleen Brunet Eagan

While their book *By Its Cover: Modern American Book Cover Design* has received wide attention, including a lengthy review in *The New Yorker* by John Updike, there is another story Ned Drew and Paul Sternberger, associate professors in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, like to share.

...continued on page 2

Book covers from The Verificationist by Donald Antrim, designed by John Gall; and *The Man Who Died* by D.H. Lawrence, designed by Alvin Lustig.

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JAN. 12

*Khmer Rouge, Then and Now: A Photographic History*

A photo exhibit about the crimes carried out by the Khmer Rouge. FOR MORE INFO, SEE R-N CALENDAR ON PAGE 3.

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Excellence and Equity:
Providing a Model for Quality Public Education in New Jersey

by Michael Sutton and Kathleen Brunet Eagan

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...continued on page 4
Nirmala Ramalingam is not your everyday undergraduate student.

She had already earned a master’s degree in computer science in her native India and was working in the field when an interest in biology spurred her into the study of neuroscience.

Attracted by Rutgers-Newark’s reputation in neuroscience, by January 2005, Nirmala found herself in Associate Professor Ralph Siegel’s research lab in the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience, studying how the brain interprets images and objects—its appearance and position in the world—and how the brain responds to these images.

“Dr. Siegel challenges me constantly to think in new ways and to apply my classroom knowledge to practical problems and situations,” she notes. Siegel urged her to apply for an Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship from the American Physiological Society (APS)—only a dozen are awarded nationwide—and she won the prestigious fellowship for summer 2005. The award also included a stipend to attend the organization’s 2006 Experimental Biology conference in San Francisco in April 2006, where she will present an exhibition on her research.

Nirmala’s fellowship ended in August, but her research with Siegel will continue throughout the 2005-2006 academic year—her senior year. She plans to continue that relationship when she pursues her doctorate in neuroscience the following fall.
Executive MBA Gains Top Rankings

The Rutgers Business School Executive MBA program tied for fifth in strategy and placed sixth in finance in Business Week’s biannual ranking of the world’s best executive MBA programs. “We are gratified that Business Week has recognized the quality of our program in this way,” said Howard Tuckman, dean of Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick. “This is especially significant considering we are the only school in the New York metro area to be listed as best in any of the five ranked subject areas.” This is the program’s second appearance on the list. In 2001, the program was ranked fourth for the same subject area.

Nationally Acclaimed Author to Develop MFA Program

Rutgers-Newark English Professor Jayne Anne Phillips sees the university’s diverse urban campus as a fertile ground for producing the next generation of great writers. That’s why the nationally acclaimed author is thrilled the campus asked her to join the faculty to lead the development of a new Master of Fine Arts Writing Program. “I am excited to be part of the most diverse college campus in the nation and I look forward to the opportunity to develop a dynamic MFA for the 21st Century, a time in which diversity and communication will be paramount,” Phillips explains. “We have a campus located in an urban environment that presents many intriguing possibilities for an aspiring writer.”

New Director and Curator of the Paul Robeson Gallery

Jorge Daniel Veneciano joins the Rutgers-Newark community as the new director and curator of the Paul Robeson Gallery. Mostly recently, Veneciano taught contemporary art at the Rhode Island School of Design. Prior to that, he served as the curator of exhibitions for the Studio Museum in Harlem and as exhibitions and education curator for the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. Veneciano earned his bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and Political Science from the University of California – Los Angeles, a master’s of fine arts from the California Institute of the Arts, and is completing his Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University.

Honors Student T-Shirt Campaign Helps Katrina Victims

Enterprising Rutgers-Newark freshman and Honors College student Grace Kim and her classmate Conika Majumdar put their creativity to work when it came to assisting with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts on campus. Kim and Majumdar, with the assistance of Honors College Program Coordinator Seth Mann and the R-N Red Cross, developed the idea for a national campaign to raise money for the relief efforts. Their idea: Sell t-shirts with a “Blow a Kiss” logo, designed by Kim as a universal gesture of caring. The Red Cross embraced the idea and it quickly became a fundraiser affiliated with 19 other colleges throughout the United States. Through pre-orders alone, sales totaled nearly $1,500. To find out more, visit http://blow-a-kiss-campaign.tripod.com.

Governor Kean on Campus

“A Conversation with Governor Thomas Kean” was hosted by the Office of the Provost and the Eagleton Institute of Politics on Oct. 25. Moderated by Rutgers Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor Clement Price, the conversation included discussion of urban revitalization in Newark and Kean’s careers in public service and higher education. Governor Kean, chair of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States and the 9/11 Public Discourse Project, and past president of Drew University, is the 2005 Rutgers University Clifford P. Case Professor of Public Affairs.

OBFS Celebrates 35 Years at R-N

The Organization of Black Faculty and Staff (OBFS) celebrated its 35th Anniversary on Oct. 22 at its annual African Family Night. Provost Emeritus Norman Samuels, Professors Clement Price and Phyllis Petersman, retired student life Dean James Creidle, and R-N administrators Phillip Jones and Janice Morrell were honored with the first-ever OBFS Legacy Awards for their “sustained contributions and tireless efforts toward developing a compassionate and conscientious community at Rutgers-Newark.” OBFS is the oldest faculty and staff organization within the Rutgers University community.

The issue surrounding today’s pharmaceutical industry admittedly are intricate and complex. Published in October, a book co-edited by Associate Professor Michael Santoro, of Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick, and Dr. Thomas Gorisse, corporate vice president, government affairs and policy at Johnson & Johnson, is the first-ever book to bring together leading thinkers to tackle the critical issues.

Ethics and the Pharmaceutical Industry

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Just a few years ago, Rutgers-Newark was a caffeine wasteland—almost. More than one newcomer to University Heights in Brick City noted the absence of coffee hangouts, the kinds of places conducive to reading, relaxing, and discussing politics, philosophy and professors.

Fast forward to fall 2005. If you study or work at R-N and coffee is an essential fuel for your intellect and life energy, lucky you. With the recent opening of Starbucks in the R-N campus center, and the availability of decent java at the CLJ café and some nearby coffeehouses, Newark is starting to brew like a real college town.

Lovers of good coffee may rarely, if ever, be truly satisfied; yet they seem never to tire of the pursuit. We recently made the rounds, starting at the new Starbucks, where the atmosphere, aroma and offerings are pleasantly familiar. On to CLJ café, where law students seem to tackle their coffee as aggressively at their torts, and a decent cup can be had most hours of the day.

Within minutes from campus are more options—Woodrow’s, the cute café and lunch spot on New Street, and Euphoria, one of Newark’s first forays into contemporary coffee culture, on Academy Street.

The sweet and caloric “caramel macchiato” is reportedly the most popular drink at R-N’s Starbucks, but our roundup considers just two classics at each spot—a cup of “regular” and a small cappuccino. Results were mixed, but mostly satisfying.

But what about atmosphere? Great urban coffeehouses, whether in London, Vienna, Seattle or New York, are places to sit, savour the atmosphere and engage in lengthy conversations. Newark may be a renaissance city, but it still awaits a visionary entrepreneur willing to start a great coffeehouse. Anyone interested?

### Location | 12 oz. Coffee | Small Cappuccino | Discounts | Atmosphere
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
**CLJ Atrium Café**
Center for Law & Justice | $1.19 pedestrian, decent | $2.65 *make your own* | none | grab ‘n’ go
**Euphoria Café**
* 17 Academy St. | $1.22 moderately strong, smooth | $2.25 no espresso available the day we visited | none | laid back, dark, gritty
**Starbucks**
Robeson Campus Center | $1.35 strong, a little bitter | $2.65 very good, nice foam | no tax for students | pleasant/predictable, loud music
**Woodrow’s**
* 61 New St. | $1.25 strong, a little bitter | $2.75 very good, great foam | frequent coffee buyer card | pleasant, homey, moderately loud music

*Rutgers-Newark does not officially endorse commercial ventures outside the university.*

### A Career Built on Fostering Community

by Carla Capizzi

James Credle, dean of student life, retired this past spring after 32 years at Rutgers-Newark. This is a look back at his contributions to R-N’s rich culture of diversity and acceptance.

James Credle understands why students from a broad range of cultures and backgrounds feel comfortable at Rutgers-Newark. He felt the same way, first as a student, then as an employee. “It was a home away from home, a place where students feel comfortable and welcome,” he says. At no time was that more evident than in the days following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. “Many Muslim students said they felt safer and more comfortable on this campus than in their home towns. That says a lot about our sense of community here.”

That was the sense of community that greeted a younger James Credle, fresh from a two-year hitch in the U.S. Army that included a year’s tour of duty in Vietnam in the late 1960s. He majored in sociology, then tried—and rejected—law school. So he took a full-time job where he had worked as a student: Veterans Affairs at R-N. “I understood their problems,” explains Credle. He eventually headed the office for several years before moving into student affairs – the area from which he retired this spring. Filling that post now as dean of student life and leadership is Clayton Walton, former assistant director of student activities at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Now that he is retired, Credle plans to travel and eventually relocate in the Netherlands with his partner. What he’ll always remember fondly, he says, are the students who made his job so rewarding. “I’ll miss the new perspectives they bring. So many different backgrounds, yet all having the same basic needs, but never predictable. I cared for them all.”

### Excellence and Equity...

Additionally, the institute has received a $70,000 grant from the Rutgers University Academic Excellence Fund for “Don’t Forget the Schools: Education Finance Considerations for Tax Reform.” That study will be examining the potential impact various tax reform proposals could have on public education.

Alan Sadovnik, professor in the Department of Urban Education and associate director of the institute, explained that the goal of each study is “to provide the citizens of New Jersey with models for improving educational services in a manner that is efficient and equitable.”

### KEEP CONNECTED

Connections and Connections Online are published by the Office of Communications. Your comments are welcome.

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by Carla Capizzi

Dean James Credle with Lillian Robbins, professor of psychology, and Cornel West, professor of religion and African American Studies, Princeton University, at a recent Rutgers conference.