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Photo: Fred Stucker

## Honoring a Man, Celebrating a Life: The Clement Alexander Price Institute On Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience

by Carla Capizzi

*"I look forward to  
the Price Institute's  
continuing tradition  
of excellence and  
access to all, and to  
its role in explaining  
and healing the rifts  
in our society."*

—Mary Sue Sweeney Price

**The Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience has been renamed in honor of its founder, the late Dr. Clement Alexander Price, Rutgers Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of History. Rutgers University President Robert Barchi announced the renaming at a tribute to Price at the Newark Museum, culminating day-long events surrounding the 35th Marion Thompson Wright Lecture (MTW).**

Barchi noted in his remarks that the eminent historian Kenneth L. Jackson had declared that "No other scholar or teacher about cities in the United States has ever had so profound and lasting an influence as Clement Alexander Price." The extent of Price's impact as a public historian and humanist was evident in the more than 230 friends, colleagues, and fellow citizens who have stepped forward since his passing to guarantee that his vision

and legacy endure, donating gifts in Price's memory to carry on the institute's mission. Barchi announced that a total of more than \$5 million has been received to date in Price's honor. He thanked all of the donors, including "Clem's beloved family, childhood friends, educators, his barber, small business owners, current and former CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, foundations and corporations."

Barchi singled out four lead donors

who each contributed \$1 million:

- **Marc E. Berson**, Rutgers School of Law-Newark '68, founder and chair of The Fidelco Group. An attorney and philanthropist, Berson is a founding member of the Board of Trustees of NJPAC and a member of its executive committee. He is a former trustee of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and the Paper Mill Playhouse.
- **Raymond Chambers**, philanthropist and humanitarian; chair, The MCJ Amelior Foundation. Chambers serves as United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy

*Continued on page 6*

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# Hail and Farewell to the Class of 2015

by Carla Capizzi

**On May 18, Newark's Prudential Center will again host a multi-school commencement ceremony for the Rutgers University–Newark (RU–N) Class of 2015. Graduates from the Newark College of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers Business School (RBS), University College, the Graduate School, the School of Criminal Justice, and the School of Public Affairs and Administration will also see an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree bestowed upon Dr. Earl Lewis. Lewis, a highly regarded historian and one of the nation's leading scholars of African American studies, will deliver the main commencement address.**

The joint ceremony will be presided over by **Chancellor Nancy Cantor** and **Provost Todd Clear**.

A separate hooding ceremony for the Graduate School will take place May 16, while RBS masters and PhD recipients will be honored at a May 22 ceremony. The Rutgers School of Law–Newark will hold a separate ceremony on May 22. (For details see full schedule.)

Lewis is president of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, one of the world's largest, with more than \$5 billion in assets. Lewis's personal story reflects

that of many RU–N students. Lewis was raised in modest surroundings, the son of schoolteachers. But he overcame the pervasive disadvantages of being educated in segregated elementary and middle schools and was one of the first black students to integrate his high school in Norfolk, Virginia. A National Merit Scholarship for Minority Students enabled him to attend Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, earning a bachelor's degree in history and psychology. Earning a Bush Foundation Fellowship and university-



Photo: Shelby Kuznetz

based dissertation research funding, he completed masters and doctoral degrees in history at the University of Minnesota.

Lewis has held faculty appointments at the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Michigan and Emory University; at Michigan, he ultimately served as vice provost for academic affairs and dean of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. He went on to become provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of History and African American Studies at Emory.

This year's commencement festivities include a "student salute" week of activities including a "Day of Service" on May 11, a May 12 "Movie Under the Stars," a field day on May 13 (featuring a picnic and a softball game pitting students against faculty, staff, and administrators), and a May 14 "Alumni Toast."

## Schedule of Commencement Ceremonies

### Rutgers University–Newark Commencement (2400 graduates)

Newark College of Arts and Sciences, University College, Graduate School, Rutgers Business School (undergraduate), School of Criminal Justice, School of Public Affairs and Administration  
Prudential Center  
Monday, May 18, 9 a.m.

### Graduate School–Newark PhD and MFA Hooding Ceremony

Paul Robeson Campus Center  
Saturday, May 16, 3 p.m.

### School of Law–Newark (245 graduates)

New Jersey Performing Arts Center  
Friday, May 22, 10 a.m.

### Rutgers Business School–Newark and New Brunswick (731 graduates)

(graduate programs)  
New Jersey Performing Arts Center  
Friday, May 22, 4 p.m.



Prof. April Benasich gently places a soft sensor net on a baby's head to monitor brain activity.

RESEARCH

## April Benasich Named to Elizabeth H. Solomon Chair in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience

by Jade McClain

**On Feb. 4, 2015, the Rutgers Board of Governors appointed Rutgers University–Newark neuroscience professor April Benasich as the first holder of the newly created Elizabeth H. Solomon Chair in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience.**

"The establishment of the Solomon Chair is an exciting achievement for Rutgers University–Newark, for the university as a whole, and also, in an intensely scientific and personal sense, for me as a scientist," Benasich said. "An endowed chair is perhaps the highest recognition accorded to a university faculty member, and I am thrilled to be the first recipient of the Solomon Chair."

Benasich's milestone is the latest in a career spent at the forefront of developmental cognitive neuroscience research, devoting decades to understanding how babies' brains organize to develop language and the early factors that may contribute to later learning disorders. She is among the first scientists to link deficits in rapid auditory processing in infants to later impairments in language and cognition.

"Many people, including some researchers within the scientific community, don't fully understand the vital importance of taking a developmental approach to understanding the links between brain and behavior," she said.

It was Benasich's innovative research that piqued Elizabeth H. Solomon's interest 20 years ago, leading to Solomon's lasting support and advocacy.

"Endowing this chair was an easy decision. I have chosen to support Dr. Benasich's research based on my personal experience of the havoc such disorders can inflict on children's lives and my conviction that her approach

holds the promise of changing the course of early development for children at risk for language disorders," Solomon said. "My hope is that someday no child will grow up with dyslexia and suffer in school and life because of it."

The creation of the Solomon Chair was part of an "18-Chair Challenge" issued by an anonymous donor, offering to match funds for chairs created at Rutgers University. The donor will match the \$1.5 million total that was generated by a \$1 million contribution from Solomon and \$500,000 from a separate donor.

Currently the director of the Infancy Studies Laboratory at RU–N's Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience, and the Carter Center for Neurocognitive Research, Benasich said that funding from the Solomon Chair will significantly enhance her research, increase her abilities to train post-doctoral students to ensure that this work continues, and create avenues for practical applications of her work.

Benasich asserts that the Solomon Chair has fast-tracked the development and implementation of groundbreaking strategies and technology for the general public that will optimize infants' ability to efficiently process prelinguistic sounds that support incoming language.

"I believe that this research is very important, because it may well decrease the incidence of developmental disorders in the next generation of children," Benasich said.

Photo: Shelby Kuznetz

## FACES OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY–NEWARK

### Marie Diaz-Torres, Registrar

by Ferlanda Fox Nixon

**“When I took a job in Student Accounting as an RU–N work-study student, I never imagined that more than 30 years later I would be RU–N’s registrar,” Marie Diaz-Torres smiles. “It’s been a wonderful journey, both as student and employee.”**

Before reaching her current destination, Diaz-Torres’s itinerary underwent several modifications along the way. From a full-time student at Newark College of Arts and Sciences, the Newark native’s status changed to part-time at University College–Newark, from which she earned her bachelor’s degree. After securing full-time employment in Student Accounting, Diaz-Torres eventually landed in the Office of the Registrar, where she progressed to assistant registrar before ultimately being named registrar in 2014.

Perhaps because of some of the challenges she may have experienced along the way, Diaz-Torres does not take lightly her role as registrar. “I believe our office should be a gateway to a positive experience at RU–N for all students. Consequently, I encourage each staff member to put him or herself in the shoes of our students and then ask, ‘How can I help?’ Transparency is important. So we continually reexamine our process and make improvements accordingly.”

In addition to being RU–N’s registrar, under the auspices of the U.S. Department

of Veterans Affairs (VA), Diaz-Torres has served as the VA “school certifying official” (SCO) since the late 1980s. Charged with administering the enrollment verification process of eligible recipients of VA education benefits, Diaz-Torres currently assists more than 400 individuals who self-identify as such. This includes veterans and military service personnel as well as the children and spouses of veterans and military service personnel with active duty status at any time on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

It is not uncommon for veterans and military service personnel to view the structure and culture of higher education as foreign terrain. So in addition to her customary responsibilities as registrar and SCO, Diaz-Torres assists members of RU–N’s student military community by providing referrals to various services, helping to resolve challenging issues, and allaying concerns. Leading by example, Diaz-Torres engages military students with an empathetic ear and a compassionate heart.

“Over the years, I’ve grown to understand the mindset of our student military community and have established fond relationships with many of them,” Diaz-Torres reflects. “Having never served in the military myself, my role as SCO affords me the opportunity to express my gratitude for the sacrifices they have made and are willing to make

to safeguard the liberties we so often take for granted.”

Spending time with her husband of 31 years and her three children—two adult sons and one teenage daughter—is one of those freedoms Diaz-Torres most relishes.

Marie Diaz-Torres



Photo: Shelley Kuznetz



Luis de Jesus, MD

### Luis de Jesus, MD, Health Services Senior Staff Physician

by Ferlanda Fox Nixon

**Like most Rutgers University–Newark faculty and staff, Dr. Luis de Jesus enjoys his job immensely because of the campus’s rich diversity. During his 18 years as a physician with Health Services, he likely has had at least one patient from each of the more than 100 nations represented at RU–N.**

“Our patients are endearing and intriguing. Not only are they smart and eager to learn and make healthy lifestyle changes, they are founts of knowledge

given their varied ethnic and cultural backgrounds,” notes de Jesus. “Their energy and enthusiasm keep me young,” he smiles, “an invaluable perk of my job.”

An immigrant himself (de Jesus emigrated from the Philippines in 1988), de Jesus proudly boasts that the composition of Health Services’ staff parallels the diversity of RU–N’s student body. “It fosters a more welcoming environment to have health care professionals who resemble our patients. Moreover, having highly competent, hard-working personnel makes the experience all the better.”

De Jesus primarily provides internal or general medicine care to his patients. He focuses on the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases (colds, influenza, pneumonia, and sexually transmitted diseases) and chronic diseases (asthma, high cholesterol, diabetes, and high blood pressure). He also counsels on smoking cessation, nutrition, and exercise.

When he’s not seeing patients, de Jesus is busy maintaining and writing content for the Health Services website. He vigilantly follows public health threats, like the recent measles outbreak, and continually posts alerts and useful advice. De Jesus also spearheaded Health Services’ environmentally conscious move to electronic medical records. After a yearlong transition toward a paperless infrastructure, all data now are stored in one secure place, at one’s fingertips.

“I can’t overstate what a tremendous

advantage this is in treating patients. No more pieces of paper getting lost; follow-up tasks are easier to track; nothing falls through the cracks; and data retrieval is much faster for doctors and patients. This effort probably is one of my greatest contributions to Health Services to date.”

Also rewarding to de Jesus is his time spent in the classroom. He is a frequent guest lecturer of Dr. Sandra Samuels’s “Health and Social Justice” course where he shares with undergraduate students his insight on health disparities, preventable diseases, and sexually transmitted infections.

To avoid becoming a familiar cliché, “all work and no play ...,” for recreation, de Jesus and his spouse of 17 years hike up and down New York’s Adirondack Mountains during warmer months, enjoying the majestic views. The peace and tranquility are a welcome contrast to the verve and pulse of the Big Apple, de Jesus’s place of residency, and Brick City, his place of employment.

## Funding Our Future

The nearly eight-year “Our Rutgers, Our Future” capital campaign – the most successful in Rutgers history – included a record-setting \$109,517,988 raised specifically for Rutgers University–Newark academic programs, faculty and student research, student support, and facilities. Alumni were a huge source of this financial support, with donations totaling \$42 million. Other gifts came from foundations and corporations, friends, faculty, staff, and administrators.

Giving during the campaign already has had a major impact, and will continue to do so thanks to a number of endowed gifts that support scholarships and endowed chairs. Specific areas of impact include:

- \$24 million to support undergraduate and graduate students, including scholarship, fellowship, and research support. One such gift provides \$1 million for financial assistance for students in the Honors College, courtesy of **Eileen Newman**, NCAS '65, in memory of her husband, RU–N alumnus **Arthur B. Newman**;
- More than \$59 million for faculty and research support, including funding to create four new endowed chairs, more than doubling the number of endowed chairs at RU–N.
- More than \$13 million for facilities, including a number of gifts to help support the renovation and expansion of 1 Washington Park, which houses Rutgers Business School–Newark, and to construct 100 Rock, which houses Rutgers Business School–New Brunswick; and
- More than \$12 million for numerous other initiatives and programs throughout the university.

Some of the key gifts included \$4 million in grants from the Ford and Sunshine Lady foundations to fund NJ-STEP, which provides college courses to people in prison and works to enroll them upon release, as well as \$1.5 million from Albert and Janice Gamper for an endowed scholarship for Rutgers University–Newark students. **Albert Gamper** (University College–Newark, '66) was a campaign co-chair.

## The Newest Americans Project Launches Documentary Series

In February 2015, the Center on Migration and the Global City premiered “Notes for My Homeland,” the first of a series of documentaries profiling unique immigrant experiences. Currently available on *National Geographic’s* Proof website, “Notes for My Homeland” shows the perspective of Syrian-American composer Malek Jandali, who grieves for the Syrian denizens suffering from violence and political unrest overseas.

It is this pain that has led to his creation of songs like *Watani Ana* (I Am My Homeland), which he performed during a demonstration in Washington, D.C. to denounce the killing of Syrian children in the city of Dara’a. His music’s messages of freedom and dignity have resonated with international audiences and on Jan. 31, 2014, he became the first Arab-American composer to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York.

“Notes for My Homeland” was produced by Talking Eyes Media in partnership with Rutgers University–Newark and VII photo agency.

Jandali’s gripping story is part of a larger project titled, “The Newest Americans: Stories from the Global City.” It was created and launched by **Tim Raphael**, director of the Center on Migration and the Global City.

The project is dedicated to sharing the stories of immigrants whose lives and contributions are integral to our diverse community, and highlighting Newark’s role as the cultural center where these experiences and interactions converge. The documentaries are one of several channels that will include oral histories, performances, photos, and essays for a comprehensive approach to emotional storytelling.

## Newark City of Learning Collaborative

Rutgers University–Newark is one of more than 60 organizations that have joined forces to establish the Newark City of Learning Collaborative (NCLC), a citywide network charged with increasing by 2025 the number of Newark residents with postsecondary degrees. Specifically, the goal is to progress from 17% of the city’s current population (or 29,000 individuals) to 25% (or 50,000 individuals). NCLC’s composition includes higher education institutions, the City of Newark, the Newark Workforce Investment Board, the Newark Housing Authority, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, college attainment programs, and community-based organizations.

In January 2015, RU–N hosted a launch event that gathered together NCLC

stakeholders to address program goals and implementation, including recommendations to build and support partnerships, ways to link colleges and the workforce, and strategies to effectively navigate students from college admission to college graduation. Proposed undertakings will include:

- Creating new college centers in high schools, community-based organizations, and higher education institutions;
- Expanding articulation agreements with two-year schools;
- Strengthening early college high school programs to develop jointly approved English and math courses;
- Expanding pipeline programs such as Rutgers Future Scholars to increase the number of low-income, academically promising, Newark students who complete high school and apply to post-secondary institutions;
- Identifying adult residents who have earned some college credits, then building pathways for them to complete high-quality degrees; and
- Doubling the number of students attending summer internship programs.

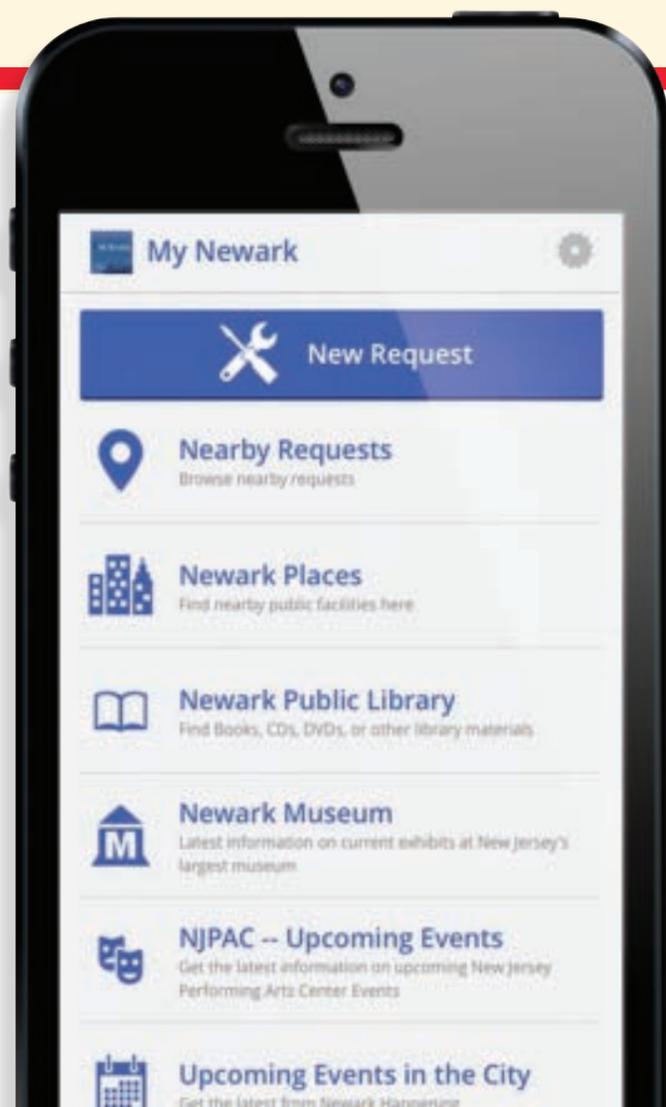
Through the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, RU–N will serve as NCLC’s coordinating hub and will facilitate its activities. To learn more about NCLC, visit the Cornwall Center’s website at [www.cornwall.rutgers.edu/newark-city-learning-collaborative](http://www.cornwall.rutgers.edu/newark-city-learning-collaborative).

## RU–N and City of Newark Form Data/Tech Partnerships

With the goal of improving the quality of life of its constituents, in December the City of Newark, in partnership with various municipal and law enforcement agencies and the Rutgers Police Institute, launched the Corr-Stat Region Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). Housed at the Newark Police Department headquarters on Clinton Avenue, the primary purpose of RTCC is to address expeditiously and concurrently the response, analytic, and support needs of police officers attending to events on the street immediately after the officers arrive on the scene. RTCC will save money and allow for enhanced use of technology and equipment, with the ultimate goal of reducing crimes.

In January, the City of Newark began a four-year partnership with RU–N and the School of Public Affairs and Administration

to develop and maintain a citizen-facing mobile application called “My Newark” and an Open Data repository of non-sensitive city data. My Newark, which can be downloaded in the iTunes and Android app stores, includes the reporting of non-emergency issues, anonymous police tips, current news, and local information. The new Open Data portal is available online at <http://data.ci.newark.nj.us> and features information on property ownership, 311 calls, permits, and more. My Newark allows for more citizen involvement while the Open Data portal offers more government transparency. An analytics team of three graduate students from RU–N’s Center for Information Management, Integration and Connectivity will leverage city data to propose smart efficiency recommendations.



## STUDENT PROFILE

### Following Her Parents' Path While Making Her Own by Carla Capizzi

**Rahimah Faiq's upbringing defies stereotyping. The 19-year-old Pakistan-born sophomore grew up being told, "You can do anything a man can do." Her role model? Her mom, who once raced cars and was the first woman to play on a previously all-male cricket team. Rahimah, the eldest child of college-educated professionals, says both parents have always encouraged her and her siblings to follow their example.**

Rahimah, who came to the U.S. at age 5, is packing her life with experiences she hopes will position her to "do anything." She and her family returned to Pakistan during her last two years of high school, re-exposing her to that culture. But she returned to New Jersey to complete high school, where she served on the student council and also was part of the Model United Nations. Through this program she interacted with students from across the

country and participated in eye-opening conferences at places like Harvard University.

As an RU-N student she has interned as an advisor to Pakistan's permanent mission to the United Nations, commuting to the UN building two or three times a week from her home in Rutherford, New Jersey. During this semester's internship she continued to maintain a fulltime credit load on campus.



Rahimah Faiq

Rahimah is currently chief of staff for the Student Government Association, where she oversees the student senate, runs their meetings and manages internal affairs. Those responsibilities have not only honed her administrative and organizational skills, but helped her develop the leadership skills needed to resolve interpersonal conflicts and fully tap the potential of her fellow students.

Rahimah has some advice for fellow students: "Don't limit yourself—try everything. You're too young to know what you want to do with the rest of your life."

It's advice she lives every day.

## School of Criminal Justice Celebrates Four Decades of Growth and Success

**The Rutgers School of Criminal Justice (RSCJ) celebrated its 40th anniversary with a conference and celebration dinner on Feb. 12, 2015. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends gathered for a day of activities, including the launch of the 40th anniversary book, *Rutgers School of Criminal Justice: Looking Back and Forward*.**



RSCJ alumni, former and current faculty, staff, students, and friends, taking a first look at the 40th anniversary book, *Rutgers School of Criminal Justice: Looking Back and Forward*. The text illustrates the school's history from its founding in 1974 to the present. Please visit [http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/40\\_celebration/](http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/40_celebration/) for a copy.



Attendees listening to a lecture at the 40th anniversary conference, the "Next 40 Years: The Future of Criminal Justice Research & Education" (from left to right: Jo Kubik (Ph.D. student), Dr. Michele Muni (alumna), Brian Wade (Ph.D. student), Janet Garcia (Ph.D. student), and Faculty member Dr. Bob Apel (RSCJ faculty).



Dean Shadd Maruna welcoming guests to the RSCJ 40th anniversary celebration dinner at the Newark Club.



Marcia Brown, vice chancellor for external and governmental relations; Roland Anglin, senior advisor to the chancellor; and Arcelio Aponte, vice provost for finance and administration, chatting at the 40th anniversary dinner.



Dean Lei Lei

## A New Dean for Rutgers Business School

by Dan Stoll and Carla Capizzi

An internationally recognized expert in supply chain logistics and deeply respected teacher is now dean of the Rutgers Business School–Newark and New Brunswick (RBS). **Dr. Lei Lei** assumed the deanship Jan. 1, following **Dr. Glenn Shafer**, who had led RBS as dean since 2011. She is the school's first woman dean.

Lei also was named one of NJBIZ's Best 50 Women in Business and honored at a March 2015 ceremony.

Lei's many contributions to the university include founding and directing the Rutgers Center for Supply Chain

Management in 2001, and establishing the Department of Supply Chain Management and Marketing Sciences in 2008 as founding chair.

She is globally respected as an expert in operations scheduling, project resource allocation models, logistics performance optimization, and distribution network design. She also is a deeply respected teacher, having received multiple best professor awards at RBS and having been nominated for the 2010 U.S. Professor of the Year Award.

Lei has been a faculty member at Rutgers since receiving her Ph.D. in

industrial engineering from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1989. She served as an associate editor for academic journals such as *IIE Transactions*, *Naval Research Logistics*, and *Journal of Supply Chain Management*; was a co-guest editor for *Annals of Operations Research* three times; and received the Meritorious Service Award from the Editorial Board of *Operations Research* in 1997.

Together with a team of faculty colleagues, staff members, and more than 100 industry sponsors, Lei helped bring Rutgers Supply Chain Management academic programs to national and

international prominence.

Lei was selected as dean due to her combination of accomplishments as an academic leader and her acuity as a scholar and teacher, deeply engaged with business challenges facing communities locally and globally, according to a statement from Rutgers University–Newark **Chancellor Nancy Cantor**, Rutgers University–New Brunswick **Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chancellor Richard Edwards**, and Rutgers University–Newark **Provost Todd Clear**.

## Honoring a Man ...from cover

for Financing the Health Millennium Development Goals and for Malaria.

- **Paul Profeta**, president and owner of Paul V. Profeta and Associates, Inc., which is involved in real estate investment, management and leasing throughout the country. He is founder of the Profeta Urban Investment Foundation at Rutgers Business School (RBS), which provides free consulting advice and seed capital for minority owned businesses in Newark, N.J., and endowed the Paul V. Profeta Chair in Real Estate at RBS.
- Rutgers University–Newark **Chancellor Cantor** and her husband **Steve Brechin**, a professor of sociology at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, whom Barchi credited with making one of the most extraordinary gifts he has ever known to come from an academic couple.

The university also announced that it is in negotiations with a leading foundation for an additional major gift to support the institute and its work.

"The outpouring of generosity in the form of support for the Clement Alexander Price endowment, to continue the urban education initiatives in which he so passionately believed, means everything to the Price family and to me," stated **Mary Sue Sweeney Price**, Price's widow. "I look forward to the Price Institute's continuing tradition of excellence and access to all, and to its role in explaining and healing the rifts in our society."

This year's MTW series commemorated Price, who had been founding



Dr. Lonnie Bunch, inaugural director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, presented the keynote Marion Thompson Wright Lecture.

director of the Institute now renamed in his honor. Price, who passed away in November, was a towering, nationally respected figure in the humanities and the arts, one of New Jersey's leading public intellectuals.

The institute reflects Price's commitment to public scholarship and engagement, carried out through programs and research initiatives that foster broad public discussion on the arts and culture, urban life and development, diversity and race relations, education, and history at the local, national, and transnational levels. Price co-founded the series in 1981 with the late Giles R. Wright.

## KEEP CONNECTED

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