

Spring
2014

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Donald Katz



Photo: Shelley Kuznetz

*“...this is the
start of a new
tradition.”*

—Provost Todd Clear

Commencing a New Tradition

by Carla Capizzi

Commencements are an end to one phase of life, and the beginning of another, and this year that’s the case for some 3,200 graduating students and Rutgers University–Newark alike. For the first time, a multi-school commencement will take place in the Prudential Center.

“The legislation that integrated New Jersey’s medical schools into Rutgers University provided for a new kind of autonomy for Rutgers University–Newark,” explains **Provost Todd Clear**. With the appointment of **Nancy Cantor** as chancellor in January, RU–N “is charting a new vision for excellence as Rutgers’ ‘Urban University,’” notes Clear. “Consistent with new leadership and an emerging mission, Rutgers University–Newark is holding its first ever multi-school commencement ceremony this year, on May 21, at 9 a.m. We believe this is the start of a new tradition,” he states.

At the Prudential Center ceremony, the founder and CEO of Audible, Inc., **Donald Katz**, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Katz will also address approximately 2,800

graduates and their guests.

The School of Law–Newark will hold a separate ceremony at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on May 21, at 2 p.m. Approximately 230 law graduates will hear remarks from Rutgers Senior Vice President and General Counsel John J. Farmer Jr. during a combined commencement and graduation recognition program. The school will host a reception for its graduates in the Center for Law and Justice.

On May 22, some 200 students graduate from the College of Nursing (CON), in a ceremony at the Golden Dome Athletic Center. Come July 1, CON is merging with the School of Nursing from Rutgers Health Sciences at Newark

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Honoring a Visionary Entrepreneur and Friend of Newark

This year’s honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree recipient and commencement speaker is Donald Katz, founder and CEO of Audible, Inc., the leading provider of premium digital spoken audio information and entertainment.

Prior to founding Audible, Katz was a journalist and author for 20 years. His work won a National Magazine Award, an Overseas Press Club Award, the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize, and was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award, among other prizes.

Founded in 1995 and headquartered in Newark, New Jersey, since 2007, audible.com (US) serves millions of listeners and offers more than 150,000 downloadable audiobooks, audio editions of periodicals, and other programs. Under Katz’s leadership, audible.com commercialized the first portable digital audio player in 1997,

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Exploring the Brain for Keys to Solving Parkinson's Disease

by Rob Forman

One of the final frontiers of science is the human brain, the source of our intelligence, feelings and ability to make our bodies move – as well as the locus of terrible diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. It is as complicated as any object that scientists can explore.

For more than three decades, Rutgers neuroscientist **James M. Tepper** of the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience, and his colleagues have added to understanding of the brain and its innermost workings, mapping the myriad electrical impulses that course through the brain.

So intricate is Tepper's work that he doesn't even study the entire brain. His territory is the striatum, the largest portion of the basal ganglia, a set of structures below the cerebral cortex involved in voluntary motor behavior as well as cognition, learning and memory, emotion and motivation. Parkinson's can progressively degrade many of those functions, so experts say that learning more about the basal ganglia is essential to uncovering the mysteries of Parkinson's disease—a primary reason why last September the National

Institutes of Health awarded Tepper a five-year, \$3.4 million grant to delve ever more deeply into the circuitry and function of the striatum.

One way to understand Parkinson's, according to Tepper, is to think of the screeching feedback that reverberates through a room when a microphone is held too closely to a very loud speaker. Until it subsides, the senses of people in the room are overwhelmed. In a brain that functions normally, the billions of electrical impulses that neurons generate each second are generally independent of one another. But in Parkinson's, for unknown reasons, many of the impulses occur simultaneously, synchronize with one another and then bounce back and forth in unison between brain structures called the subthalamus and the globus pallidus, and elsewhere, generating their own form of pathological "feedback."



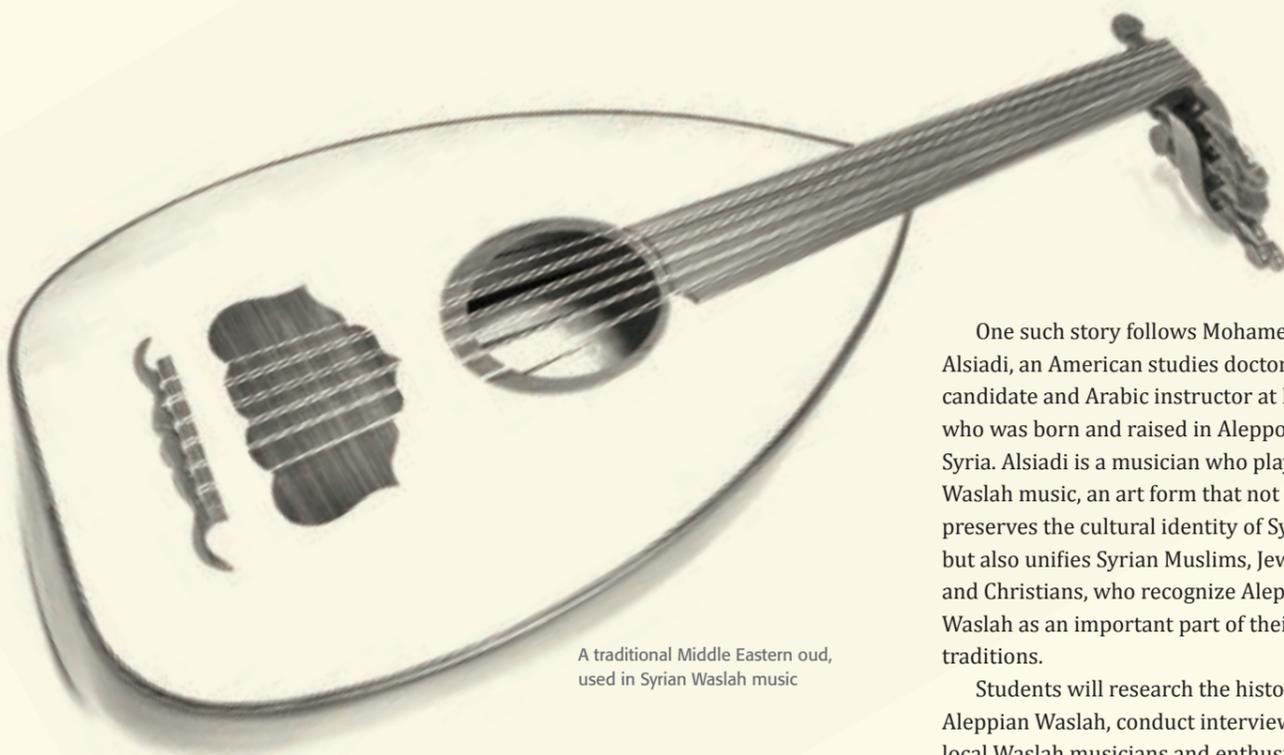
Professor Tepper in his lab at the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience.

Tepper says this "perfect storm" then overwhelms the brain's ability to focus on muscle movement, memory, and more. Unfortunately, the brain does not have a simple volume control to tame the howling neurological noise, a problem that probably cannot be solved at least until researchers like Tepper can fill in more gaps in the map of the brain's circuitry.

Tepper says Parkinson's comes from a constellation of genes, making it difficult to pinpoint specific genetic defects and produce gene-based

therapies to reverse them. So in the quest for a Parkinson's cure, mapping the circuitry of the brain may be the most promising option, at least for the foreseeable future.

On its own, Tepper says, his research will not uncover cures for Parkinson's and other maladies that originate in the brain. But, he adds, "To understand what Parkinson's disease is and how it comes about, one of the things you have to understand is how the striatum works. That is what we work on."



A traditional Middle Eastern oud, used in Syrian Waslah music

The Newest Americans Project

by Jade McClain

Fall 2014 will mark the beginning of The Newest Americans, a three-year longitudinal study at Rutgers University–Newark that will document the lives and communities of students at the university. The project, spearheaded by Tim Raphael, director of the Center for Migration and the Global City (CMGC), will focus on immigrant experiences in New Jersey with Newark as the hub where these different stories converge. "We're starting off this year with five stories that we're going to follow. And the idea is that by focusing on our students and letting them take us into their communities and tell the stories of those communities, we're able to take advantage of the fact that we are the most diverse campus in the United States with access to stories that you can't find anywhere else," he states.

One such story follows Mohamed Alsiadi, an American studies doctoral candidate and Arabic instructor at RU-N, who was born and raised in Aleppo, Syria. Alsiadi is a musician who plays Waslah music, an art form that not only preserves the cultural identity of Syrians, but also unifies Syrian Muslims, Jews, and Christians, who recognize Aleppian Waslah as an important part of their traditions.

Students will research the history of Aleppian Waslah, conduct interviews with local Waslah musicians and enthusiasts, write the music's stories, and document Waslah concerts at clubs, hookah bars, weddings, and other venues in the tri-state region. Waslah is the lens through which students will gain insight into the implications of the Syrian diaspora and civil war.

The Newest Americans is a collaborative effort involving CMGC; VII, a group consisting of world-renowned videographers and photojournalists; and the Department of Arts, Culture and Media. Raphael expects additional partnerships as the project progresses.

The project also seeks to present the reality of Newark as a city of immigrants,

as opposed to a common perception as a black and white city with a strong racial divide. The project will address the significance of the Great Migration and emphasize Newark's role as the epicenter where different, recent immigrants are coming together, not only on campus, but in the surrounding areas.

Unlike research projects that typically present findings in a single medium, like a research paper, The Newest Americans will present information through multiple channels. These media include videos, performances, photographs, essays, and oral histories to effectively resonate with members of its wide and diverse audience who use these media, and have varying levels of English proficiency.

Raphael hopes that when the pilot phase concludes, the project will receive additional funding and continue to follow these students beyond their time at the university.

Saad Admani, an RU-N first-year student who will help oversee the project, is a Pakistani immigrant eager to tell these stories and highlight the contributions of immigrants. "By researching immigrant communities...it will allow us to showcase the great work of immigrants to the rest of the nation and also allow others to realize that we can also benefit from immigrants," Admani says.

Chief Carmelo “John” Huertas, Director, Department of Public Safety

by Ferlanda Fox Nixon

Chief Carmelo “John” Huertas’s face may be new to some at Rutgers University-Newark, but his leadership, charm and wit have been fixtures of the college town for nearly a decade. Now the director of the Department of Public Safety for RU-N and Rutgers Health Sciences at Newark (formerly UMDNJ), Huertas began his campus safety career as UMDNJ’s chief in 2005.

The son of a United States serviceman, Huertas moved from Puerto Rico to Leesville, Louisiana, when he was about 12 years old and for the next six years lived the life of a typical “military brat,” periodically moving from locality to locality with each transfer his dad received.

“When I came to the United States, I couldn’t speak a lick of English,” Huertas reminisces. Time spent reading comic books and watching television, at the behest of his father, quickly ratcheted him up the learning curve. This unconventional yet highly effective language arts pedagogy enabled Huertas to graduate from high school and ultimately earn a bachelor’s degree from Excelsior College and a master’s degree and *juris doctor* from Seton Hall University. Like many of RU-N’s students and employees, Huertas was the first in

his family to receive a college degree.

Despite what his 36-year stint in the policing profession might suggest, Huertas never had childhood aspirations of becoming a law enforcement officer. But when, as a young man, Huertas found himself looking for a job, he again followed the wise counsel of his father and explored employment opportunities with the New Jersey State Police. Huertas successfully completed its training program and served as a state trooper for 25 years.

Huertas appreciates the RU-N Department of Public Safety’s smaller stage because he enjoys the collegial interactions among the various stakeholders. Moreover, his role as director affords him the opportunity to change the perception of policing.

“Most people don’t realize that policing is as much about providing a

variety of services to people in need as it is about enforcing laws,” Huertas notes. “So while we might be unable to repair a disabled vehicle, we certainly can radio for assistance and stay with, transport or circle back to the stranded driver.”

Huertas believes the extent to which he is able to train and motivate the individuals he leads to improve the level of services they provide to those in need,

will determine his success as director.

When he’s not working to make RU-N a safer community, Huertas spends time reading, and during warmer months, golfing and boating. Recognizing that “some things that really matter in life often are taken for granted,” Huertas makes sure to share as much time as possible with his family, cat and three dogs.



Photo: Shelley Kusnetz

Sandra King, RU-N Alumna and Producer and Co-Host of *Due Process*

Nearly 20 years ago, Sandra King launched the critically acclaimed *Due Process* at NJN, expecting to hand it off after its first year. Instead, her passion for journalism and social justice had found its niche in the weekly public television series that she still produces, writes, reports, and co-hosts.

Now a production of Rutgers School of Law-Newark in collaboration with the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and the Division of Continuing Studies and the Rutgers iTV Studio, *Due Process* is a unique weekly series, dedicated to cutting-edge issues of law and justice and aired four times weekly on NJTV.

And her work has not gone unnoticed or unpraised. With two new Emmys won at this year’s ceremonies of the New York Academy of Television Arts and Sciences - one for an investigative report on the broken bail system, the other on the tragedy of unnecessary drug overdoses - *Due Process* can now claim an unprecedented two dozen regional Emmy® Awards, garnered over 19 seasons.

In 1998, King became the first New Jersey recipient of The Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University (journalism’s highest academic honor), and she can boast a long list of successes as a journalist and an award-winning producer and anchor of news, documentaries, and public affairs programs. She never lets anyone forget she’s also a proud Newarker, who still makes her home here. “Please make sure you mention that I’m a product of Newark. That’s important.”

Born and raised in New Jersey’s largest city, King attended Newark’s public schools. She graduated from

Weequahic High School in 1965 at age 16, and more than 30 years later was inducted into the first class of the Weequahic Hall of Fame, along with novelist Philip Roth. King also attended Bard College, but graduated from the Newark College of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University-Newark, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology in 1969.

A child of the ‘60s, with a strong commitment to public service, it is no surprise that King serves as a member of the boards of trustees of the Newark Public Library, the Branch Brook Park Alliance and the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, all Newark-based organizations dedicated to the advancement of the lives of Newark’s residents. Also in the spirit of giving back, King shared her journalistic talents and experiences with RU-N students as an adjunct faculty member for nearly 15 years.

Of King’s many impressive accomplishments, her greatest source of pride undoubtedly is her family. The white mother of an African-American son, King doesn’t hesitate to scroll through her smartphone, searching for and enlarging photos of her grandson and granddaughter.

“They are my heart,” she sighs. “Wait until you have grandchildren of your own; then you’ll know what I mean.” No need to wait - her beaming smile explains it all.



Photo: Shelley Kusnetz

ON THE PLAZA



Members of the debate team celebrate their recent accomplishments. Clockwise from left: Christopher Kozak, Christopher Randall, Elijah Smith, Hannah Stafford, Kevon Haughton.

Debate Team Soars

For the first time in Rutgers University-Newark history, its debate team competed at its first National Debate Tournament (NDT). Hosted by Indiana University, March 27-30, the NDT is considered to be the most competitive and prestigious policy debate contest in the country. Only the top 78 teams in the United States out of a field of hundreds are afforded the opportunity to participate. Under the coaching leadership of Christopher Kozak, the veteran duo of **Elijah Smith** and **Christopher Randall** and the first-year pair of **Kevon Haughton** and **Hannah Stafford** represented RU-N. Smith was the champion of both the 2013 NDT and the 2013 Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) national championship.

Smith and Randall had an impressive showing and advanced as far as the Elite 8 at the quarter-final round of the NDT. Smith also received 14th place speaker honors among the NDT's top 20 speakers. As a result of the successes of Smith and Randall throughout the entire 2013-2014 collegiate season, the NDT committee officially ranked RU-N fifth in the nation, keeping company with premier debate teams from Harvard University, Georgetown University, and Northwestern University.

As for its CEDA standings, the debate team closed this year's season ranked first among its competitors in the Northeast and 19th nationwide. CEDA also ranked Smith the number one speaker in the nation while Randall held the 19th speaker spot.

Student Scholars Say 'Thanks for the Opportunities'

Meet some of Rutgers University-Newark's talented students, the everyday super heroes who are each doing remarkable work inside and outside the classroom. They come from the broad spectrum of disciplines at RU-N: arts and sciences, public affairs, business and law. They have one thing in common: scholarship support from RU-N alumni and friends that make it possible to pursue their dreams. Several of these students came together to offer videotaped thanks to donors and reflect on the impact of the scholarships.

Go to Rutgers Scholars 2014 at www.newark.rutgers.edu/videos to learn these students' stories:

- Rutgers Business School students **Michelle Gromashchuk** (Class of 2014, marketing and supply chain management major) and **Paulo Seabra** (Class of 2016, finance major, economics minor)
- Rutgers School of Law-Newark student **Gwyneth O'Neill** (Class of 2014)
- Newark College of Arts and Sciences students **Ahmed Bendary** (Class of 2015, biology major, mathematics minor) and **Miranda Bandeli** (Class of 2015, biology major, minors in mathematics and chemistry)
- School of Public Affairs and Administration student **Christopher Randall** (Class of 2015, public service major, African American and African Studies minor)

Chorus Singing to Fund Overseas Tour

Some have never set foot outside the U.S.; others have never sung in an organized chorus; most are undergraduate or graduate students while a few are alumni and faculty. But come May 22, some 40 members of the Rutgers University Chorus, based at RU-N, will fly to Germany for the chorus's ninth international concert tour, under the direction of **Dr. John E. Floreen**. But before they leave, the singers will give benefit shows to help raise the final funds for their 10-day trip, where they will perform six concerts in Munich, Frankfurt, Regensburg, Rothenburg-obder-Tauber, Kolbermoor, and Bacharach. The tour is supported in part by generous gifts from RU-N alumni, many of them chorus alumni.

Members of the group will act as unofficial representatives of Rutgers, meeting with local families through the churches where they will perform, and possibly joining in performances with local choirs.

The spring concerts in New Jersey will feature the works of Billings, Fauré, Beach, Britten, Foster, and Manz. Reflecting the rich cultural diversity of RU-N, the chorus also will sing special arrangements of folksongs and African-American spirituals. Floreen has led the chorus since 1979; assistant conductor is **Dr. Susan McAdoo**, and the accompanist is **Dr. Brian Harlow**.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY CHORUS:

Sunday, May 18, 5 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 73 South Fullerton Ave., Montclair, \$25, preferred seating; \$10, general admission; \$5, students/seniors

Tuesday, May 20, 8 p.m.

St. George's Episcopal Church, 550 Ridgewood Rd., Maplewood; \$25/\$10/\$5



New Appointments

Dr. Clement A. Price, Rutgers Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of History, has been appointed the City of Newark's official historian by Mayor Luis Quintana. Price was sworn in during a City Hall ceremony where he also received the key to the city, adding to his many honors and accolades. Mayor Quintana also named Price to chair the committee that will organize observances of the 350th anniversary of Newark's founding in May 2016.

As a longtime Newark resident, Price's love of the city spurred him to promote Newark through civic engagement and education. For decades he has led popular city tours, identifying areas of historical, social, and cultural significance. In the award-winning

public television documentary, *The Once and Future Newark*, he highlights numerous sites in the city, putting them in the context of Newark's extensive history, including its struggles and assets. His reputation as an authority on Newark's

history is evidenced by his frequent commentary in national and international media outlets about Newark's history, current events, and politics.

In early April, **Arcelio Aponte** joined Rutgers University-Newark and the Office of the Chancellor as vice provost for finance and administration. Aponte is responsible for budget planning, resource allocation, and facilities planning. Prior to joining RU-N, Aponte most recently served as director of operations and management for the Department of Housing and Economic

Development of the City of Newark. He is an M.B.A. alumnus of Rutgers Business School, and an alumnus of the College of New Jersey, where he served as assistant director for facilities before becoming associate vice president at New Jersey City University.

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INTRODUCING SOME FACES OF THE CLASS OF 2014

by Carla Capizzi

There are thousands of graduating students from Rutgers University-Newark, each with a fascinating story to tell. Here are a few of them. For more stories please visit www.newark.rutgers.edu/commencement.



Michelle Gromashchuk
Rutgers Business School

Michelle Gromashchuk majors in marketing and supply chain management. Upon graduating, this resident of Fair Lawn will begin a career at one of New Jersey's major companies.

Aspirations: After graduation, I'll be starting a full-time role with Johnson & Johnson in their two-year Consumer Sales Leadership Development Program. My goal is to successfully complete the program and continue growing with J&J, while also attaining a master's degree in marketing from Rutgers.

Activities & interests: I played soccer at Rutgers and even though I stopped playing my sophomore year to focus on school and get a summer internship, I still love playing sports and staying active! I also enjoy traveling and upon graduation will be taking a vacation to Bermuda.

Favorite class or professor at RU-N: My favorite professor is **Prof. Thomas York**. He dedicates countless hours

to help students with Excel trainings, resume critiques, and is the reason why I am involved on campus. I am also fortunate enough to be his teaching assistant for Introduction to Supply Chain Management. Needless to say, he has made my experience at Rutgers an unforgettable one!

Biggest challenge at RU-N: Transitioning from high school to college is a big challenge. The classroom sizes are larger, exams are tougher and there's high pressure to maintain a good GPA. It's tough to adjust to this change, but it's possible to do so.

Reflections on RU-N experience: The past four years have been exciting, hectic, overwhelming and incredible all at the same time. I've learned more than I ever imagined and through my involvement at the business school, I have met many interesting students, professors, and employees in various organizations.

Expressions of gratitude: Rutgers provided me with incredible opportunities – I played soccer for the school, interned for Target and Procter & Gamble and traveled to Arizona to represent Rutgers in a case competition. I'm so grateful for the professors, mentors, alumni, the Career Development Center, and RBS – a huge thank you for everyone's advice and support!



Rhoda Scott Sampognaro
Graduate School-Newark

Rhoda Scott Sampognaro is completing a master of arts in jazz history and research. The East Orange resident is an accomplished musician who has performed and recorded internationally (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhoda_Scott), as well as an active grandmother.

Aspirations: I hope to spend quality time with my grandchildren and continue to play my music as long as possible.

Activities & interests: I enjoy working with my church choir and trying to walk 10,000 steps per day.

Favorite class or professor at RU-N: My favorite professor is **Dr. Lewis Porter**, who created this unique program of Jazz History and Research.

Biggest challenge at RU-N: adapting to the computer age. When I got my first master's degree, there was no question of computers, and now computer savvy is essential.

Reflections on RU-N experience: RU-N is exceptional because of its location and also because of the diversity in its students. One feels like a part of a vast community of many nationalities come together for a common cause: education.

Expressions of gratitude: I am grateful to everyone for the support I have received: my family, my church, my professors, my fellow students, my medical advisors, thank you to all.

TWEETABLE ADVICE TO ENTERING STUDENTS

Rhoda: Make the most of it: study hard and plan to succeed.

Christopher: Don't let college pass you by. Challenge yourself and hold yourself to high standards.

Michelle: Get valuable internship experience on your resumé — this is how you'll stand out from your peers and land that dream job!



Christopher R. Kozak
School of Public Affairs and Administration

Christopher Kozak is a master's student studying non-profit management. After completing his MPA, the Newark resident, who helped establish the RU-N debate team, plans a career centered around debating.

Aspirations: I plan on working to develop speech and debate education programs in the City of Newark. It is my hope one day to make Newark the premier city for debate competition and help develop a \$10 million endowment to sustain debate operations here.

Activities & interests: My interests are studying philosophy and volunteering in Newark to help run afterschool programs for public school students. Any time I have after that I spend helping develop debate programs in the tri-state area.

Favorite class or professor at RU-N: My favorite class was Unions and Labor Relations taught by **Dr. Norma Riccucci**. She is not only a brilliant scholar but also an excellent teacher. I hope one day to get my Ph.D. in public administration and study under her.

Reflections on RU-N experience: Overall Rutgers University was excellent. I was able to professionalize something that had only been a hobby of mine for the past decade. Creating and developing the RU-N debate team was the hardest and most significant thing I have done in my life. I learned so much from my students and teaching them has been a pleasure.

Expressions of gratitude: My professors and advisors have really made the difference in my time as a student at RU-N. In particular I have to thank **Dean (Peter) Hoontis** for his guidance. The support of everyone from the chancellor's office down to adjunct professors has been excellent. Without their support I would not be able to realize my full potential.

Commencing a New Tradition ...from cover page

(formerly UMDNJ) and will be renamed the Rutgers School of Nursing, and will be headed by Dean William Holzemer. Dr. Barbara Aranda-Naranjo will address the final CON commencement. She is the director of the Division of Training and Capacity Development of the United States Department of Health, Health Resources and Services Administration HIV/AIDS Programs.

Honoring a Visionary Entrepreneur ...from cover page

four years before the introduction of the iPod. Audible is the exclusive supplier of audiobooks to Apple's iTunes Store worldwide and operates 12 global outlets including audible.co.uk in London, audible.de in Berlin, and audible.fr in Paris. Audible was acquired by Amazon.com, Inc., in 2008 and is now an Amazon.com subsidiary.

Katz graduated from New York University in 1974, where he studied with novelist Ralph Ellison. He attributes his fascination with audio to Ellison, who emphasized the role of oral and vernacular culture as a fundamental underpinning of American literature. Katz also attended the University of Chicago as well as the London School of Economics, from which he holds a master of science in economics. He lives in Montclair, New Jersey, where

he served as a member of the public library board for nine years. He has served on the board of Uncommon Schools, a nonprofit organization that manages several of the most outstanding urban college preparatory charter schools in the Northeast, since the organization was founded in 1997. In February 2014, he was named chair of Newark's Brick City Development Corporation.



Shadd Maruna

Shadd Maruna Appointed New Criminal Justice Dean

by Carla Capizzi

Dr. Shadd Maruna, currently director of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland, and a professor in the law school there, has been appointed dean of Rutgers School of Criminal Justice, effective September 1, 2014. Maruna is an internationally known criminologist whose first book, *Making Good: How Ex-Convicts Reform and Rebuild Their Lives* (2001), is considered a definitive statement and enduring contribution to the field. “Shadd Maruna is a superb match to lead our distinguished School of Criminal Justice,” states Rutgers University-Newark Chancellor Nancy Cantor. “He is a world-class scholar, teacher, and academic leader whose abilities and interests span disciplines and are perfectly aligned with our strengths and our trajectory.”

Maruna has received many awards and honors, including being named an H.F. Guggenheim Fellow, a Soros Justice Fellow, and a Fulbright Scholar. Maruna serves as editor of the American

Psychological Association’s book series, *Psychology, Crime and Justice*, and has held offices in professional organizations such as the British Society for Criminology, the Correctional

Services Advisory and Accreditation Panel for the United Kingdom (UK), the Scottish Advisory Panel for Offender Rehabilitation, and Oxford University’s Centre for Criminology.

In addition to *Making Good*, Maruna is the co-author of several other books, including *After Crime and Punishment: Pathways to Ex-Offender Reintegration* (2004); *The Effects of Imprisonment* (2005); *Rehabilitation: Beyond the Risk Paradigm* (2007); and *Fifty Key Thinkers in Criminology* (2010).

Prior to his years in Belfast, Maruna taught at the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge, in England, and at the School of Criminal Justice at the University at Albany, State University of New York. He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in human development and social policy from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

KEEP CONNECTED

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Rutgers Law Launches Associates Fellowship Program

In January of 2014, Rutgers School of Law–Newark launched the nation’s first post-doctoral fellowship program of its kind, designed to train recent law graduates as practitioners, while providing legal services to low to moderate-income New Jersey residents at fees substantially below market rates.

Fellows devote one year to closely supervised practice and associated courses in professional responsibility, small firm management, and relevant practice areas. Upon completing the program, these lawyers will be fully prepared to join established law practices in either the public or private sector or to launch viable quality practices of their own.

Managing the new program is **Associate Dean Andrew J. Rothman**, an attorney/educator and alumnus of the school who is committed to legal education and professional practice, and who has extensive courtroom and classroom experience. Unlike the established pattern for medical students, Rothman noted, “Law schools have never developed the residency model, and

that has left for an alarming deficiency in practical skills when beginning their practices soon after graduation.”

The first class of six law school fellows began working in the program this semester. They work on client matters about two-thirds of their time, and participate in seminars modeled after medical residency “rounds,” covering various specialized practice areas, courtroom procedure, business development and management, and problems in professional responsibility. As they progress through the program, Fellows devote some of their time to client development as well. The fellows receive a modest stipend, and Rutgers Law School covers all the tuition costs

associated with their coursework.

What distinguishes the Rutgers Law Associates Fellowship Program is the concentrated skills training gained while serving clients of modest means, with the daily vetting and support of that service during rounds. Fellows work collaboratively, brainstorming and critiquing one another with the managing attorney, to develop best practices for their client work. Unlike other post-graduation training programs, the Rutgers Law Associates Fellowship is an educational enterprise of the Law School and is not an independent non-profit law firm.

In keeping with a longstanding tradition at Rutgers School of Law–Newark, this program has benefits not just for the students but also serves the school’s public service mission. Recent economic stresses have put tremendous pressure on a growing segment of the population that falls in between those eligible for legal assistance (public defenders, legal aid organizations and law school clinics) and those wealthy enough to afford private attorneys. The new program offers affordable legal services to help meet this burgeoning need.



Photo: Theo Anderson