It’s three in the morning and a Rutgers-Newark student night owl is taking an online exam for one of his courses.

When he finishes and submits it, he’ll instantly get his grade. Earlier in the evening, he engaged in an online discussion with his professor and a group of classmates to clear up some nagging last-minute questions, then consulted suggested links on the cyber-syllabus for additional information. When he finishes his term paper next week, he’ll send an electronic copy into the instructor’s virtual drop box, saving trees and a trek up to her office. She’ll correct the electronic version and send it back to him with comments. His professor receives constantly updated rosters of students registered in the course, and come the end of the semester, she’ll zap her final grades directly from her Web grade book to the registrar.

Welcome to the brave new world of BlackBoard 6, a Web-based course management system making its official pilot run in the economics department this fall, though many tech-savvy R-N professors have already seen BlackBoard’s potential to complement their classroom instruction and adopted it. According to Betsy Rowe, R-N’s director of the Office of Academic Technology, 123 classes across the campus are employing BlackBoard 6 this semester. In the spring, the pilot program will expand to the Department of Classic and Modern Languages and Literature. Rutgers Business School, which already uses the earlier 5.5 version of the system, plans to make the switch to BlackBoard 6 as well.

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ENRICHING STUDENTS’ R-N EXPERIENCE  BY CARLA CAPIZZI

The times are a-changing at Rutgers-Newark, and that’s good news for students.

Campus administrators are making across-the-board moves designed to improve the quality of student life, from tastier dining-hall food and more varied menus – including vegan and vegetarian meals – to increased after-school recreational activities and expanded hours at campus facilities.

Some of the changes come in response to Provost Steven Diner’s goal of turning R-N into a “24/7 campus,” while others address student concerns about university services, voiced during meetings between Rutgers administrators and students last February. The decentralization of student services gives campus administrators the autonomy to make improvements geared to the specific concerns of R-N students, notes Gerald Massenburg, assistant provost for student life.

The multi-faceted plan focused on making students’ R-N experience an even richer and more stimulating one includes:

• Improved food quality, larger selection – including pasta, stir fry and other food-preparation “action stations” featuring chefs cooking meals to order – and vegetarian/vegan offerings in Stonsby Commons, The Center for Law and Justice Cafeteria and the Paul Robeson Campus Center (PRCC);
• Campus participation in “GoNewarkU!” – a collaboration of Newark-based colleges, the Newark Alliance and other city groups – to provide and promote after-class recreational activities geared toward college students, as well as offer discounts at local restaurants and stores. This new effort kicked off with a series of events in September, including a battle of the bands at Military Park and a party at the Newark Museum;
• Longer operating hours at the Golden Dome and the PRCC, making them more customer-friendly for commuting students;
• Enhanced student health and psychological services;
• Creation of a “Family Weekend” in September to bring families of students onto the campus to view college life first-hand;
• And establishing a commuter services office, with plans to develop a commuters’ lounge.

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NEW MUSIC FACILITIES, CONCERTS HERALD A LYRICAL YEAR  BY CARLA CAPIZZI

The sounds of music are in the air at Rutgers-Newark, where an expanded 2004-2005 concert schedule is the perfect complement to the campus’s recently expanded music facilities in Bradley Hall.

The entire music program has been consolidated on the facility’s second floor, which now boasts improved soundproofing and acoustics, renovated classrooms, an enlarged university chorus rehearsal hall and classroom, six faculty offices/studios, a storage room for the Newark Youth Symphony, an equipment room, eight new practice rooms, and a student lounge.

This year’s expanded classical concert schedule includes the Chamber Music at Dana Library Series, which kicked off with “Atlantic Crossings,” a concert celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month featuring guitarist Ana María Rosado, on Sept. 28.

Future Dana concerts will feature the Lewis Porter Jazz Quartet, Nov. 10, 2:30 p.m; the Strathmere Ensemble, offering Renaissance and baroque music, Feb. 3, 12:30 p.m.; the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra String Quartet, playing Stradivarius, Guarneri and other instruments from the symphony’s renowned “Golden Age” collection, March 22, 12:30 p.m.; and soprano Julianne Baird performing The Jane Austen Songbook, April 7, 12:30 p.m.

All concerts are free. For a listing of all musical programs on campus, as well as visual arts and theater offerings, please go to www.newark.rutgers.edu/arts.
A Golden Opportunity for R-N Fulbright Scholar

Fulbright Scholar Ko-Lin Chin, professor of criminal justice, will be spending his time this school year in the company of powerful drug warlords, addicts and law-enforcement officials in the steamy jungles of an area known as the “Golden Triangle” – a geographic region where the borders of Burma, Thailand and Laos all meet, and one of the world’s premier sources of illegal drugs such as heroin and methamphetamine.

Chin received the prestigious Fulbright grant to expand on his research of the past two decades, which has involved ever-widening studies of the web of international crime involving Chinese offenders and victims. He will be examining the social organization and processes of heroin and methamphetamine production, drug use and drug distribution in China and Southeast Asia.

Joel’s Work Earns Healthy Dose of Kudos

College of Nursing professor Lucille Joel received the 2004 Governor’s Nursing Merit Award in the category of excellence as a nurse educator at a ceremony June 2. Joel was selected from among 135,000 licensed nurses in New Jersey.

Joel was first vice president of the International Council of Nurses, Geneva, and is the council’s representative to the United Nations and to UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund. She has served as president of both the American Nurses Association and the New Jersey State Nurses Association.

New Jersey State Health and Senior Services Commissioner Clifton Lacy noted, “A panel of your peers from the committee chose you from a group of outstanding nominees. Selecting an award recipient is challenging, as all of the nominees are superior in their areas of practice.”

Griffin Teams with R-N as New Athletic Director

Mark Griffin took the field Aug. 2 as Rutgers-Newark’s new director of intercollegiate athletics and recreation. In his new position, Griffin oversees all of the campus’s intercollegiate athletic programs for both women and men. He also administers the campus recreational program, which includes the intramural program and serves the entire campus as well as the Newark community. Griffin most recently was associate director of athletics at New Jersey City University.

“We are excited that Mark has joined our campus community,” said Marcia Brown, vice provost for student and community affairs. “By bringing his wealth of experience as a coach, administrator and teacher to the position, he is already making a difference.”

Griffin oversees both athletics and recreation as R-N’s new athletic director.
LERNERS’ GIFT SYMBOLIZES SUCCESS OF RUTGERS CAMPAIGN
BY MIKE SUTTON

When Rutgers-Newark alumnus Irwin Lerner decided to join more than 57,500 fellow Rutgers graduates and do his part for the university’s six-year-long Rutgers Campaign, he brought the same level of extraordinary intensity to his philanthropy that has long been his hallmark in the world of business.

The Blanche and Irwin Lerner Center for Pharmaceutical Management at Rutgers Business School (RBS) will be founded through a $1 million commitment from the couple. Irwin Lerner – who retired as CEO of Hoffman La Roche – is a double graduate of the business school (B.S., 1951; M.B.A., 1958), a longtime member of the school’s Board of Advisors and its first Distinguished Executive in Residence, as well as one of the first RBS graduates to be honored on the school’s Wall of Distinguished Alumni.

The Lerners’ exceptional generosity is a fitting symbol of the most successful fund-raising campaign in Rutgers’ history. More than 85,300 individual donors joined about 5,800 corporations, foundations and organizations to ring up a total exceeding $615 million – 23 percent more than the campaign’s $500 million goal. Of that total, $122 million is earmarked to assist students in paying for their education, to ensure that Rutgers remains affordable to low- and middle-income families. The campaign also established 194 new endowed scholarships and strengthened existing scholarships and other financial aid programs, will support new and ongoing research, and will assist in recruiting outstanding faculty.

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“This is in no way intended as a replacement for the superior interaction of in-class instruction,” Rowe emphasized. “It’s a tool for greatly enhancing that experience.” Marie Botticelli, director of Rutgers-Newark Computing Services, notes that this generation of undergraduate students is especially comfortable with Web-based communication.

In addition to allowing students enrolled in a course to access its BlackBoard component using their existing Net IDs, BlackBoard 6 is connected with the university’s student records database to allow incoming class rosters and outgoing final grades to make their way to and from a professor’s BlackBoard Web site, said Botticelli. Online tutorials show professors how to personalize the way they wish to use the system. In addition, faculty enrolled in the pilot program are assigned highly trained student mentors during the first five weeks of the semester for up to 10 hours of individualized assistance each week.

Phylis Peterman, chair of the Department of Social Work, said that her entire department had already adopted BlackBoard 6. In addition to extensive cost savings on photocopying syllabi and handouts, she noted, “We are fully dedicated to excellent teaching and want to take advantage of every technology that supports this goal.”

To learn more about BlackBoard 6, go http://blackboardinfo.newark.rutgers.edu.
One is engaged in research involving behavioral neuroscience, with plans to focus on learning, memory, and Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases. The other, a native of Ecuador who immigrated to America five years ago, spent this past summer as a medical interpreter at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), enabling non-English-speaking patients from other countries with serious illnesses to communicate clearly with their American physicians.

But what Honors College students and juniors Stephanie Lazzaro and Vanessa Flores have in common is that both are Rutgers-Newark undergraduates whose work has earned them prestigious national science scholarships.

Lazzaro was one of only nine New Jersey residents – and one of just 310 students nationwide – to be awarded a $15,000, two-year Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship this past academic year. The Goldwater Scholarship, named for the late United States senator, is considered the nation’s premier undergraduate award for students studying mathematics, science and engineering. She already is interning in the laboratory of Mark Gluck, professor of neuroscience at R-N’s Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience.

Flores, a biology major, was one of only 16 recipients out of 300 applicants to receive a one-year, $20,000 NIH Undergraduate Scholarship – which is renewable for up to four years. The award covers her tuition and other educational and living expenses. She beat out students from universities such as Harvard, Brown and UCLA to earn the honor.

In addition her recent stint at the NIH, Flores will complete another 10-week internship at the NIH next summer before beginning her senior year at R-N. After she completes her studies, she must commit to working for the NIH for one year. Flores plans to eventually pursue a career as a research physician.

HILL WITH MASON GROSS (R), RUTGERS PRESIDENT 1959–71, AND BOARD MEMBER C. DOUGLAS DILLON, FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
A LOSS FOR RUTGERS, A LOSS FOR A FRIEND

BY ROBERT SNYDER

The war in Iraq has meant active duty for both Rutgers alumni and current students. Some, like Frank Carvill, who graduated from Livingston College but began his college years at Rutgers-Newark, have made the ultimate sacrifice. Carvill (LC ’75) attended Livingston along with Robert Snyder (LC ’77), director and associate professor of journalism and media studies at Rutgers-Newark, who writes here about his close friend.

From the hillside in Carlstadt, N.J., where Frank Carvill grew up, you can see across the Hackensack Meadowlands to Manhattan. It was a fitting home for a man whose life linked New Jersey and New York, along with Ireland and America, until he was killed in action as a sergeant with the New Jersey Army National Guard in Baghdad, June 4, 2004. He was 51.

The son of Irish immigrants and a dedicated social reformer, Carvill attended Rutgers-Newark from 1970 to 1971, then transferred to Livingston College and majored in political science. He joined the National Guard in 1984.

Carvill was working in the World Trade Center during the 1993 bombing and helped to evacuate elderly people during the long walk downstairs from his office. He narrowly missed the September 11, 2001 attack: He was getting into a car with a colleague outside the complex, where he worked as a paralegal, moments before the first plane struck.

In the aftermath of 9/11, Carvill supported the war in Afghanistan but opposed the United States invasion of Iraq. Still, he responded with solidarity when his Guard unit, the Third Battalion of the 112th Field Artillery, was deployed. He believed that the United States was obligated to repair Iraq, but he thought the effort’s cost in lives and money would be “exorbitant.” His wake and funeral drew many mourners and inspired widespread media coverage.

The non-profit foundation “Friends of Frank Carvill” has been established to support organizations with which he worked. Donations should be sent to Peggy Carvill-Liguori at 98 South Glen Road, Kinnelon, N.J., 07405.

To read more about Frank Carvill and three other Rutgers alumni who have lost their lives in the Iraq war, and to view a list of alumni deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, please go to www.alumni.rutgers.edu/share/iraq.shtml.

Enriching Students… from page 2

Massenburg is forming a Student Life Committee to get ongoing student feedback on services and other aspects of student life. His new role as assistant provost for student life is itself another move that reflects the campus’s heightened emphasis on student satisfaction, as does the designation of Marcia Brown as vice provost for student and community affairs.