Uncovering the Secrets of the Smallest Life Forms

R-N Tops in Diversity — 10 Years Running

Celebrating The Spirit — R-N Homecoming 2006

A New Era for Rutgers in Newark

RUTGERS IN NEWARK JUST KEEPS ON GROWING. From its humble roots where classes once were held in a converted beer brewey, a former razor blade factory, old stables and brownstone residences, R-N today is a cohesive campus of first-rate facilities and continual activity.

The six-floor Life Sciences Center greatly expands R-N’s scientific research and teaching facilities, adding about 67,000 square feet to the campus’s infrastructure. Housed within the curved glass building are innovative open-format research and teaching laboratories to support the campus’s research and academic programs in the life sciences. Moving away from the closed, narrow labs of the past, the open-format labs are designed to foster collaboration among researchers and the students who work with them.

Biology classes currently are being taught in the new facility, and chemistry courses will be offered there in the spring. Two of the floors are being held as unfinished shelled floors to allow for the future growth of the sciences at R-N.

...continued on page 2

THE ONCE AND FUTURE NEWARK – A MESSAGE OF HOPE

It’s a city rich in history, hidden treasures and a future that is unfolding, yet few really know or appreciate all Newark has to offer.

By Kathleen Brunet Eagan

One clear exception is Clement A. Price. Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor and Newark historian, Price has been providing tours of the historical and cultural gems of New Jersey’s largest city for over 20 years. Now with one of his tours...

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The Once and Future Newark production crew gets ready to film another segment with Professor Clement A. Price.

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...continued on page 2
A New Era...

A student works on a research project in the new Life Sciences Center.

UNCOVERING THE SECRETS OF THE SMALLEST LIFE FORMS

By Ann Calandra

Built to support cutting-edge research, the new six-floor Life Sciences Center is where you will find two Rutgers-Newark professors who are deciphering the dynamics of some of the smallest life forms.

Charalampos (Babis) Kalodimos, assistant professor of chemistry, is elucidating how proteins locate and connect with specific DNA sequences in human cells, allowing the genes to express themselves as traits or behaviors. Using biochemical and biophysical techniques as well as nuclear magnetic resonance imaging, a procedure where radio waves and a powerful magnet create detailed images of the inside of living organisms, Kalodimos has discovered that proteins first will bind weakly with any nearby DNA strand. They then will slide along the DNA helix structure to locate the correct DNA complex and form a sequence. Understanding how proteins and DNA find each other offers researchers valuable information on how the transfer of genetic information can be modulated at the gene level.

And Nihal Alan-Bonnet, assistant professor of cell biology, is researching the Ras superfamily of GT_Pases, which are small proteins that play key roles in cell growth, differentiation, movement and transport. These proteins can bind to specific sites on the cell membrane and recruit molecules to these sites, possibly remodeling cell membranes into new structures with specialized functions. For example, some GT_Pases are involved in viral replication in diseases affecting animals and humans (encephalitis, hepatitis A, the common cold). Knowing how GT_Pases remodel cellular membranes and regulate molecular activity, explains Alan-Bonnet, could provide insight into ways to combat such diseases.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHED THIS FALL

By Carla Capizzi

The first new school established at Rutgers in Newark in more than 20 years opened its doors this semester. Under the leadership of Dean Marc Holzer, Rutgers Board of Governors Professor of Public Administration, and longtime chair of the Graduate Department of Public Administration, the School of Public Affairs and Administration offers master’s and doctoral programs in public administration, an executive MPA and professional certificates in such areas as nonprofit management and urban educational administration.

During Holzer’s tenure as department chair, R-N’s programs in public administration gained national and international distinction. In the most recent rankings by U.S. News & World Report of graduate programs in public affairs, R-N’s program was ranked 26th in the nation, and 11th in public management. “Public administration has long been a strength of the Newark campus,” commented Rutgers President Richard McCormick. “We look forward to its growth here as the renowned department expands its operations as an independent school.”

Currently, the school has 300 students. Its student population is expected to reach at least 500 students over the next few years.

RBS-NEWARK TO RELOCATE TO 1 WASHINGTON PARK

By Helen Paxton

The Newark programs of Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick (RBS) soon will have a new home at 1 Washington Park. RBS will occupy 11 stories of the red-brick tower, substantially increasing classroom, lecture hall and office space, along with the visibility of the business school. “Moving our business school to this strategic location in downtown Newark will contribute significantly to strengthening our business programs and increasing the visibility and reputation of the school, and at the same time also will contribute to the development of downtown Newark,” noted Provost Steven Diner. The new location for the school is ideal, Diner said, given its proximity to the headquarters of a number of major corporations, the Broad Street Station and New Jersey Transit’s new light rail system.

The building is located one block from 15 Washington Street, the former home of Rutgers School of Law-Newark, which the campus plans to convert to graduate student housing. Expansion of the R-N campus north was identified in the university’s master plan adopted in 2003. By freeing up the current space used by RBS, the campus also will be able to expand space for other current and future uses, including its plans for increased enrollment.

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On The Plaza

Avian Visitors Arrive on the R-N Campus

True, the phrase “urban university” conjures up images of traffic, scurrying pedestrians and concrete. But at certain times of the year, birdsongs replace car horns as flocks of avian visitors become part of the Rutgers-Newark landscape.

During the fall migration, birds traveling south for the winter fill the campus and its trees. With so many birds passing through, Claus Holzapfel, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, likes to take advantage of the opportunity by leading bird walks in October. Over the past two years, the groups have identified almost 90 species.

So why do so many birds visit the R-N campus? Holzapfel explains that many birds orient themselves during migration along the Atlantic coastline, and, therefore, pass through New Jersey twice a year. The R-N campus’s proximity to the coast and its forest-like atmosphere, specifically on the Plaza, make it an especially inviting environment where birds can find some shelter.

If you missed this fall’s bird walks, be sure to take part in the walks Holzapfel will be offering again in May when the birds return.

Helping Students Develop the Write Stuff

Since 1998, Rutgers collegians in Newark have had a not-so-secret weapon in their battle to succeed academically and in the world beyond the campus: the Writing Center. More than 13,000 undergraduate and graduate students, from all academic disciplines, have either worked one-on-one with tutors or attended workshops, all with one goal: to improve their communication skills.

“Writing isn’t just for English majors; it’s a skill everyone needs, in every discipline,” explains Writing Center Director Patricia Bender, noting that every major requires students to write papers and reports.

Writing well goes beyond grammar, says Bender; tutors help students learn how to analyze and organize their research findings, and “talk out” the best ways to present their ideas on paper. In the process, adds Bender, students also improve their oral communications skills.

The need to write effectively and persuasively doesn’t end with graduation either. Citing a frequent complaint within the corporate world: many employees have a great grasp of their field of expertise but cannot communicate well with colleagues, producing confusing reports, memos and even poorly written email.

There’s also another, more important reason to communicate well, says Bender. “Writing is power, especially in a democracy. Democracy and literacy can’t be separated.”

RBS Earns High Grades from Recruiters and Wall Street Journal

The word is out – recruiters find Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick (RBS) one of the best sources for top MBAs. Earning high marks from recruiters, RBS now has been included in The Wall Street Journal’s MBA survey. According to Jack Kirnan, RBS senior director of MBA programs, The Wall Street Journal survey is particularly significant since it is based solely on the opinions and experience of employment recruiters.

With a ranking of 39, RBS was one of only eight new schools this year to make it into the “Regional Ranking.” Also it was the only AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accredited institution in New Jersey to place in the survey.

Also this year – for the fifth consecutive year – RBS has placed among the top 80 business schools out of more than 400 schools covered in the U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Business Schools Survey.” As with The Wall Street Journal survey, RBS was the only MBA program offered within New Jersey included in the U.S. News listing of top business schools.

By Miguel Tersy

The State University of New Jersey
Rutgers

RUTGERS COLLEGE OF NURSING CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

A CENTURY OF REACHING HIGHER – www.newark.rutgers.edu/history

Rutgers College of Nursing, with more than 700 students on the university’s three campuses, is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a series of events celebrating the achievements of its students, alumni and faculty.

Rutgers has educated nurses since the early 1940s when the Newark and Camden campuses began offering courses in public health nursing. The Rutgers College of Nursing officially became a college in 1956 after beginning as the School of Nursing in 1952. Throughout its history, Rutgers nursing students have benefited from learning from a faculty widely respected for their excellence as educators and researchers. Today, the college includes more fellows in the prestigious American Academy of Nursing on the faculty than any other college of nursing in New Jersey.

The college launched its 50th anniversary celebration with a faculty and alumni reception and exhibition at the John Cotton Dana Library on the Rutgers-Newark campus. More than 225 books were listed in the catalog. The yearlong celebration will conclude with a 50th Anniversary Gala at The Palace at Somerset Park on April 26.
Have you heard about R-N’s baby boom? With 16 babies born this year to staff and faculty, the youngest members of R-N’s extended family were invited to campus for a class photo.

The 10 who were able to sit (well, lie down) for their first Rutgers Class of 2028 picture are (clockwise from upper left): Madeleine (daughter of Teresa Tanay-Wilson, Health Services, DC ’91), Abigail (daughter of Sharon Lydon, RBS), Alexandra (daughter of Jason Hand, Admissions); Molly (daughter of Elizabeth Rowe, Summer/Winter Sessions), Nina Iette (daughter of Danny Villanueva, Registrar, UC-N ’94), Alexander (son of Annabelle Luu, Honors College), Donna (daughter of Monsique DeSilva, CMNB, NCAS ’97), Tyrone (son of LuWanda Thomas, Criminal Justice, NCAS ’94), and Rebekka (daughter of Cindy Fernandez, Health Services).

Not pictured are the youngest members of the families of Naseem Choudhurry, CMNB; Allison Creary, College of Nursing; John George, Physical Plant; Melissa Faulkner, FAS-N; Jaray Harvey, Housing and Residence Life; Doug Levine, Mailroom; Marangeli Melendez, Physical Plant; Hylona Revere, RBS; Annette Romeo, Admissions; and Thomas Lu, Criminal Justice.

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT—R-N HOMECOMING 2006

By Carla Capizzi

Who says you need a football game to have a Homecoming? That certainly wasn’t the case when Homecoming festivities at Rutgers in Newark brought together students, staff, faculty, alumni and their families to “Celebrate the Spirit, Share the Pride.” The four-day celebration of Rutgers-Newark spirit began Sept. 29 with a reception honoring College of Nursing authors and the Mr. and Mrs. Rutgers-Newark talent show, and culminated with a roundtable talk by recently elected Newark Mayor Cory Booker at an alumni brunch on Oct.1.

Booker called the Rutgers-Newark community a “shining example” by recently elected Newark Mayor Cory Booker at an alumni brunch on Oct.1. Booker called the Rutgers-Newark community a “shining example” of how people working together can bridge the lines separating races, religions and ethnic groups.

As it did last year, when Rutgers in Newark threw its first real Homecoming, this year’s party offered numerous memory-making opportunities: Fall Fest Fair, School Spirit Day and the rededication of Alumni Field, aHomecoming Showcase, an alumni/student basketball game and other athletic competitions, along with an alumni mixer, a concert, screenings of The Once and Future Newark video documentary, and walking and bus tours of the campus and city.

Homecoming reflects Provost Steven Diner’s commitment to improve student life and enhance community spirit. It evolved from Family Weekend programs for resident students and their families.

The Once and Future Newark ... from page 1

captured in the documentary The Once and Future Newark, others, too, can gain a deeper appreciation of Newark’s impressive past and promising future.

Top on that list are the young people who call Newark home. The producers of the documentary (Rutgers in Newark in association with Blackbird Media Group) hope to make the film available to students in Newark so they can be inspired by their city.

“We really do need to introduce our kids to their city,” said Price. “Kids in Newark don’t realize how special the history of their city is and how much hope its future holds.”

The documentary follows Price as he tours Newark with colleagues, visiting 18 historical and cultural sites, and shares his knowledge of the city and its often-overlooked aspects. In Newark Penn Station, he stops to point out the Art Deco architecture and images depicting transportation modes from Colonial times to the jet age. Other sites visited include Branch Brook Park, Weequahic High School, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Essex County Courthouse.

The film is “part travelogue, part documentary and part history lesson,” explained Helen Paxton, the film’s producer and director of communications at R-N. “The goal is to engage viewers’ interest for personal exploration and discovery.”

For more information, including how to obtain copies of the DVD, visit www.newark.rutgers.edu/newark.
KUDOS A selection of recent notable achievements by R-N faculty

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF LATINA IMMIGRANTS
Karen T. D’Alonzo, assistant professor, Rutgers College of Nursing, has been awarded a $274,104 grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health to examine the attitudes and beliefs of young Latina immigrants with regard to physical activity, and to test a pilot physical activity intervention for Latinas.

INTEGRATING IMMIGRANT SCHOOL CHILDREN
Sherri-Ann Butterfield, assistant professor of sociology, was named a fellow of the Social Science Research Council for the 2006-07 academic year and is working on a National Science Foundation funded project, “Children of Immigrants in Schools.” As part of that project, she will be conducting international comparative research and investigating the role of educational institutions and policy in the integration of West Indian and South Asian immigrant students in Great Britain and the United States.

2006 PROVOST’S RESEARCH AWARD

THE NATION’S TOP JAZZ AWARD
The National Endowment of the Arts has awarded Dan Morgenstern, director of the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies, the A.B. Spelman NEA Jazz Masters Award for Jazz Advocacy. The award is considered the nation’s highest jazz honor. Morgenstern is the only non-musician among this year’s honorees. The long-time director of the Institute of Jazz Studies, Morgenstern earlier this year also was awarded the Deems Taylor Award for “outstanding print, broadcast and new media coverage of music” from the American Society of Composers.

NATURAL FERTILIZATION IN THE OCEAN
Yuan Gao, assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences, recently received a $249,616 grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to support her research on natural fertilization in the ocean and its impacts on ocean nitrogen fixation and carbon cycles.

THE SOCIETY FOR BUSINESS ETHICS
Edwin Hartman, founding director of The Prudential Business Ethics Center and professor at the Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick, recently began his one-year term as president of the Society for Business Ethics (SBE). Founded in 1980, the SBE is an international organization devoted to the study of business ethics. Hartman has been a member of the organization for 20 years.

A SLOAN FELLOWSHIP
Frieder Jaakke, associate professor of chemistry, has been awarded one of science’s most prestigious honors: an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship. The fellowship is awarded to those who have demonstrated excellence early in their careers. Jaakke’s current work includes the development of new functional materials that provide brighter and sharper alternatives to the current plasma and liquid crystal display technology used in television, computer and cell phone screen monitors.

MISSION TO AFGHANISTAN
Janet L. Larson, associate professor of English, traveled to Afghanistan this past summer where she was part of the human rights group Global Exchange’s delegation to investigate current conditions in the country. Specifically, her focus was on how women are faring in the country. Her findings: Afghanistan consists of “some very courageous, determined women who are working, under very difficult conditions, for peace and justice in their county.” Since returning, Larson has incorporated her findings into her classes and writings, and also is developing a script for National Public Radio’s “This American Life.”

PROVIDING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW WE LEARN
Paula Tallal, Rutgers Board of Governors Professor of Neuroscience and co-director of the Center for Molecular & Behavioral Neuroscience, is leading the How We Learn project. Preliminary results from the Newark Public School Systemic Initiative in Mathematics (NPSSIM) project, funded by the National Science Foundation, revealed that elementary students who participated in the program made significant gains, suggesting that a rise in standardized test scores was the result of the NPSSIM project. Led by Roberta Schorr, associate professor of mathematics education, the project’s five-year plan is designed to achieve comprehensive reform in mathematics education through new standards-based approaches to the teaching and learning of mathematics.

NEW THEORY OF RISK-averse OPTIMIZATION
Andrzej Ruszczynski, professor, Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick, was recently awarded a third grant from the National Science Foundation for research aimed at developing a new mathematical theory of optimization of dynamic stochastic systems under high uncertainty and risk. Ruszczynski is the principal investigator in this project being conducted jointly with the Stevens Institute of Technology. The research is designed to capture the entire distribution of outcomes, including events of small probability but high consequences, rather than just average performance.

THEIR SUCCESS IS IN THE MATH TEST SCORES
Preliminary results from the Newark Public School Systemic Initiative in Mathematics (NPSSIM) project, funded by the National Science Foundation, revealed that an additional $32 million over the next decade, to study and clarify the role that timing plays in learning.

THE PROVOST’S RESEARCH AWARD

Students at the Raphael Hernandez School in Newark use the Pythagorean theorem to determine how to maximize and minimize an area given a fixed perimeter as part of the Newark Public Schools Systemic Initiative in Mathematics.

Providing a Better Understanding of How We Learn

Paula Tallal guides a young girl in the use of the educational tools developed by her research into timing and learning.
HOME-BASED EXERCISE FOR ELDERS

Charlotte Thomas-Hawkins, assistant professor, Rutgers College of Nursing, has received a two-year $154,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to test the effects of home-based exercise intervention on elders with end-stage renal disease, along with the feasibility of a research plan for a larger clinical trial.

AN INFORMED DISCUSSION OF EDUCATION POLICY

Paul Tractenberg, Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor and founder of the Institute on Education Law and Policy, Rutgers School of Law-Newark, has received a $100,000 grant from The Prudential Foundation for implementation of a “Quality Single Accountability Continuum” in local school districts and general operating funds for the Institute on Education Law and Policy, along with a $50,000 grant from The Fund for New Jersey for “Promoting Informed Discussion of Education Policy Issues.”

ESSAYS ON KATRINA

David D. Troutt, professor, Rutgers School of Law-Newark, has edited a book of essays, After the Storm: Black Intellectuals Explore the Meaning of Hurricane Katrina, examining the social, policy and legal issues raised by Hurricane Katrina. Trout said that he was compelled to put the book together after examining first-hand the poverty and inequality revealed in the aftermath of the storm. He also contributed an essay, “Many Thousands Gone, Again,” to the book, published by the New Press.

A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

A recognized expert in discovering new ways to protect and preserve oceans, beaches and marshes, Judith Weis, professor of biological sciences, earlier this year was presented with a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award. The award allowed her to travel to Indonesia where she shared her research on metal pollution in the marine environment in a series of lectures and workshops that she gave in Sulawesi.

Mark Your Calendar

What’s Going On at R-N? A sampling of events this year at Rutgers-Newark

For a complete listing, visit www.newark.rutgers.edu/events

NOV. 29

“Imitating Relevant Firms”
Management Education Center
12:30–2:00 p.m.

NOV. 30

Newark Boys Chorus
Center for Law and Justice
12:30–1:30 p.m.

DEC. 8

The Campaign to Close Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant: An Environmental Law Clinic Symposium Hosted by Alec Baldwin
Center for Law and Justice
5:30 p.m.

DEC. 10

Rutgers University Chorus
St. Mary’s Abbey Church, Newark
3 p.m.

JAN. 16–FEB. 22

Night of the Khmer Rouge: Genocide and Justice in Cambodia
Paul Robeson Gallery
5–8 p.m.

JAN. 25

Stoffer Lecture by Professor Mark S. Weiner & Legal History Scholars Reception
Center for Law and Justice
6 p.m.

FEB. 1–FEB. 28

James P. Johnson: Father of Stride Piano Treasures from the Institute of Jazz Studies collections
John Cotton Dana Library

FEB. 17

27th Annual Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series
Paul Robeson Campus Center
9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

MARCH 21

Mechanisms of Decision Making in the Human Brain
Neuroscience at the Crossroads Colloquium Series Aidekman Research Center
11 a.m.

APRIL 12

Strathmere Baroque Ensemble Celebrates Spring
Vivaldi’s Four Seasons
John Cotton Dana Library
12:30–1:30 p.m.

APRIL 18–22

The Detention Project
Beadley Hall Theater
7 p.m., April 18–21; 2:30 p.m., April 22

APRIL 26

College of Nursing 50th Anniversary Gala
The Palace at Somerset Park
6:30 p.m.

MAY 16–25

Rutgers-Newark Commencement Ceremonies
www.newark.rutgers.edu/commencement