Protecting Ideas and Information – The Center For Law, Science and Technology

By Janet Donohue

The challenge of protecting ideas and information – the common currency of innovation in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, computer science, engineering and related industries, as well as the arts – has made intellectual property (IP) one of the hottest fields in law.

One of those celebrating, one of five alumni co-chairs of the gala, will be Barbara Bell Coleman, Newark College of Arts and Sciences, Class of 1974. Bell is known for working behind the scenes to affect social change. “Rutgers to me has always felt like an extension of my home. Like home, Rutgers was an institution that to, and for, me was warm, embracing and intellectually stimulating,” says Coleman.

Thanks to her social activist parents, “I was destined to be involved in some kind of community service,” she explains, adding that Rutgers gave her “outstanding scholars and mentors who prepared me to be more analytical in my thinking, provided me with the rationale for my public policy foundation, taught me how to be strategic and to lead without being a leader.” She recalls professors and fellow students who were “bright and socially conscious,” and a university that “then, as it is today, was diverse, adding a richness and texture to our education.”

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Associate Professor Sabrina Safrin
Comencement 2008: Like Father, Like Daughter
By Carla Capizzi

Francisco Rivera always instilled in his children that education was the key to improving one’s life. So, in 1970 after arriving in New Jersey from Puerto Rico, he enrolled in classes at Rutgers-Newark, hoping to get a teaching degree. But fate intervened a few years later, as he found himself the single father of two young daughters. So he put his education on hold to raise them – but never lost sight of his dream of a college degree.

Fast-forward to May, and there will be two Riveras graduating from Rutgers-Newark – Francisco and his daughter Melissa. Francisco is an undergraduate, finally finishing up his degree, while daughter Melissa is completing her graduate degree in public administration. Both have worked full-time while taking coursework. They shared no classes – although they occasionally lunched together – but share the dream of better lives through education, the belief ingrained in Melissa by her father. Father and daughter each plan to attend the other’s commencement ceremonies.

Rutgers Business School
Tuesday, May 20, 10 a.m.
New Jersey Performing Arts Center
Speaker: Art Ryan, Chairman, Prudential Financial

Newark College of Arts and Sciences and University College
Tuesday, May 20, 2 p.m.
New Jersey Performing Arts Center
Speaker: Dr. Wolf Singer, director, Dept. of Neurophysiology, Max Planck Institute for Brain Research

School of Criminal Justice
Wednesday, May 21, 10 a.m.
Golden Dome Athletic Center
Speaker: Commissioner Andrew Hughes, UN Police Adviser

College of Nursing
Thursday, May 22, 10 a.m.
Golden Dome Athletic Center
Speaker: Dr. Yale Ferguson, political science professor and co-director of the Division of Global Affairs, R-N

Graduate School-Newark and School of Public Affairs & Administration
Thursday, May 22, 2 p.m.
Golden Dome Athletic Center
Speaker: The Hon. Cory Booker, mayor of Newark

For more information, please visit www.newark.rutgers.edu/commencement.

Correcting Language Difficulties Before Babies Speak
By Kathleen Brunet Eagan

Francisco is not sure if he will actually pursue a teaching career, due to the nearly three-decades-long delay in getting his degree. For now, he will continue working as both a home inspector and a sports commentator for the SAP channel, where he calls New York Yankees games in Spanish for radio and TV.

Melissa started on her bachelor’s degree at Rutgers-Newark in 1997, and in 2001 began working in what was then the public administration department (now the School of Public Affairs & Administration). She also found time to serve on the campus Diversity Committee and co-chair the Latina’s Caucus.

Like her father before her, Melissa teaches her children by example, impressing upon them the value of continuous learning. She also wants them to see the fruits of their mom’s and grandfather’s labors, so they will miss two afternoons of school to cheer first for their grandfather on May 20, and then again for their mom on May 22.

Today’s Rutgers University in Newark bears no resemblance to the brewery, stables and brownstones that once housed the New Jersey Law School (founded in 1908), Dana College, the Newark Institute of Arts & Sciences, the Seth Boyden School of Business, the Mercer Beasley School of Law and, ultimately, the University of Newark – the predecessors of today’s Rutgers University in Newark. To look back at the past century – including photos, histories and memories from alumni – visit www.newark.rutgers.edu/century.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities and tickets to the gala celebration, please contact the Centennial Gala Committee at 973.353.3326.

Photo: Shelley Kusnetz

April Benasich (right) and Silvia Ortiz-Mantilla of the Infancy Studies Laboratory position a bonnet of EEG sensors on the head of Connor Chase Atkinson, as he sits on the lap of his mother, Wendy Atkinson.

The ability to differentiate sounds quickly is critically important because decoding language requires distinguishing tiny auditory differences, such as the variation between “ba” and “da,” occurring in the 40-millisecond range.

The goal of Benasich’s lab is to identify how to help babies who struggle with auditory processing even before they learn to speak. About 5 to 10 percent of all children beginning school are estimated to have language-learning impairments (LLI), according to Benasich. Many of these children go on to develop dyslexia.

To gain additional insight into how the brain develops, Benasich and her team have developed a MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) protocol for scanning sleeping babies. The researchers hope to identify the period when the brain is most “plastic,” or able to change through learning.

“We can predict with 90 percent accuracy what a baby’s language capabilities will be just by their response to tones,” says Benasich. “Our hope is that we will be able to gently guide the brains of infants who are at the highest risk for LLI to be more efficient processors so they can avoid the difficulties that result from language learning impairments.”

The lab’s work is funded by the Solomon Center for Neurodevelopmental Research, the Don and Linda Carter Foundation, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Ellison Medical Foundation and others.

For more information, visit http://babylab.rutgers.edu.
Felissa R. Lashley Retires as College of Nursing Dean

By Miguel Torres

A fter serving as Rutgers College of Nursing Dean for more than five years, Felissa R. Lashley is stepping down effective June 30. Under her leadership, the College of Nursing has experienced numerous successes: it has initiated new graduate programs, established the Nursing Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases and Bioterrorism Preparedness, increased the diversity of faculty and administration, increased externally funded research, begun construction on a new nursing building in New Brunswick, and experienced significant growth in undergraduate and graduate enrollments. While guiding these efforts, Lashley also continued to maintain an impressive record of scholarly publication and research.

During her tenure, Ph.D. enrollments began increasing after the college introduced the first online Ph.D. program at Rutgers. The college developed the program to attract candidates who are unable to attend school in a traditional classroom setting. “We listened to potential candidates and we responded to that demand,” said Lashley.

In addition, the college launched the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program, in an online and blended format, to prepare graduates for leadership in nursing and healthcare practices. Also under her leadership, the college instituted the use of high-fidelity patient simulators at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to better prepare students for their careers in nursing.

Lashley plans on taking a leave for a year and then will return to the faculty. As dean, she said, she has enjoyed the variety of responsibilities, meeting with “exciting and interesting people,” and being involved in making decisions that will shape the future of the college. A specific source of pride, she noted, is the college’s success at attracting an outstanding faculty.

“In a time of a nursing faculty shortage and a restricted budget for the college,” she said, “we have attracted the highest qualified faculty members to teach our students to become Rutgers nurses, who are skilled in critical thinking and competent practice.”

Administration of Renmin University of China will jointly organize the Fourth Sino-US International Conference on Public Administration at the Paul Robeson Campus Center, June 7–8.

This year’s theme is “Improving Government Performance.” The conference, which has been held every other year since 2002, has the widest scope and largest number of attendees among conferences and exchanges between China and the U.S. in the field of public administration. Since 2002, the audience size has averaged 200.

Economics Students Gains Top Accounting Internships

Christopher Thomas, an economics major, apparently has what it takes to gain high-level internships. Last year, he was selected as one of 50 students nationwide to take part in KPMG’s Future Diversity Leaders program. This summer, he will be taking part in PricewaterhouseCoopers’ eXceed internship program, another highly competitive training series for those who plan to earn their CPA.

A second-year student, Thomas explains that the key to gaining such internships is the ability “to clearly articulate your accomplishments and goals.” Also assisting the Jersey City resident is his strong commitment to volunteer service.

At Rutgers-Newark, he serves as co-chair of the membership committee for the National Association of Black Accountants, vice president of the Black Organization of Students, and member of the Economics and Finance Society.

School of Criminal Justice, Division of Global Affairs, and the Turkish National Police Sponsor Peacekeeping Summit

On March 27, the School of Criminal Justice, Division of Global Affairs, and the Turkish National Police (TNP) sponsored a day-long workshop focused on the policies and practices involved in developing diplomatic policing in post-conflict environments such as Afghanistan, Bosnia, Iraq, Kosovo, Rwanda and Somalia.

Recognizing the importance of security and effective law enforcement in developing stable, democratic governments, participants engaged in spirited discourse on issues facing the international community in establishing viable law enforcement institutions.

The TNP is the largest law enforcement agency in Turkey. Actively involved in organizing international programs, both for training and professional purposes, the TNP in 1999 launched an educational movement to send qualified police managers to pursue academic degrees abroad. Of the 170 students pursuing graduate degrees in the field of international affairs at Rutgers-Newark, approximately 5 percent are students from the Turkish National Police College.

International Conference on Educational Access Comes to Rutgers-Newark

When the International Standing Conference for the History of Education was looking for a site for its 30th annual conference – the first to be held in the U.S. – Rutgers-Newark became a clear and well-suited choice.

Located in Newark and the New York metropolitan area, the campus’s location provides plenty of features for conference participants to explore. Plus, Rutgers-Newark’s distinction as the most diverse university in the U.S. fits well with this year’s conference theme focusing on reducing educational inequities.

The conference, “Education and Inequality: Historical Approaches to Schooling and Social Stratification,” takes place July 23–26. Topics to be discussed include the role of education in reducing social inequality and the enactment of reforms to reduce educational achievement gaps. To coincide with Rutgers-Newark’s centennial, a special session will focus on the campus’s history as an urban university providing a quality education for students from diverse economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Working to Stop the Horrors of Mass Murder

Since it opened this past fall, the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers-Newark has been working to touch hearts while enlightening minds.

Center Director Alex Hinton, associate professor of anthropology and global affairs and expert on genocide, hopes that bringing home the horrors of genocide will help to avert future atrocities.

The center is utilizing public outreach programs, such as its spring 2008 speaker series and a conference on the Ukrainian genocide, as well as educational initiatives and student and faculty exchanges, to build awareness. The center also is developing a network of international and national collaborations and projects that will utilize interdisciplinary staff research by experts from such diverse fields as political science, law, history, global affairs, sociology, languages and anthropology.

Publications, internships and special projects, such as a model United Nations program, are in the works. Information is available at http://cghr.newark.rutgers.edu/events.html.

Fourth Sino-US Conference on Public Administration to be Held at R-N

The American Society for Public Administration, the Rutgers-Newark School of Public Affairs & Administration, and the School of Public Affairs, Sociology, Languages and Anthropology.

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Kudos—A Selection of Faculty Honors and Awards

Donald L. McCabe, professor of management and global business, Rutgers Business School, received the 2007 Best Paper award from The Academy of Management Learning and Education for “Academic dishonesty in graduate business programs: Prevalence, causes and proposed action.” He also received the Best Paper award from The Canadian Journal of Higher Education for “Academic Misconduct within Higher Education in Canada.”

Professor Evan Stark, School of Public Affairs & Administration, received the 2007 New Jersey Advocacy Award for “outstanding service to New Jersey’s women and children” from the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women. He also was presented with the American Publishers’ Association’s excellence award for the best published book in sociology/social work for 2007.

The late Zachary Stoumpos, professor of management and information systems and chair, Rutgers Business School, prior to his untimely passing was elected a Lifetime Fellow of the American Psychological Association.

J. Douglas Carroll, professor and chair of English, was elected a Lifetime Fellow of the American Philosophical Association.

Paula Tallal, professor of Neuroscience, received the 2007 New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women Advocacy Award for “outstanding service to New Jersey’s women and children” from the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women. He also was presented with the American Publishers’ Association’s excellence award for the best published book in sociology/social work for 2007.

Every picture tells a story, and the story told by the commemorative posters designed for Rutgers-Newark’s 100th anniversary is one of an ongoing progression in education, scholarship and research, and access for students from all walks of life.

The Design Consortium, a student-and-teacher collaborative, directed by Associate Professor Ned Drew, designed the set of five posters working with the Office of Communications, to mark Rutgers-Newark’s Century of Reaching Higher. The colorfully designed posters, featuring large-scale photography and historic photos, focus on the major themes of R-N’s centennial celebration: Educational Opportunity, Scholarship and Research, Diversity, and Urban Mission.

The “Positive Progression” poster notes that the campus began in 1908 with the founding of the University of Newark, which then became part of Rutgers University in 1946.

“First came the sons and daughters of Europeans, then migrants from the segregated South. Today, seekers come from every culture, religion and corner of the globe, making R-N the nation’s most diverse national university,” explains the “Diverse Views” poster.

“Urban Perspectives” notes that as one of the nation’s top urban universities, R-N draws extensively upon Newark’s rich resources to advance teaching and research.

“Extraordinary Minds” observes that over the past 100 years the campus has been a launching pad for professional careers, as it also has evolved into an incubator for new knowledge impacting life here and around the globe.

“Countless Opportunities” cites R-N’s central mission since its earliest school was founded – to provide a first-class education at an affordable price to all who qualify regardless of financial status.

The posters can be viewed online and ordered at www.newark.rutgers.edu/century. The posters are free to the Rutgers community. Others are asked to pay a small $9.95 shipping and handling charge.

Board of Governors Professor J. Douglas Carroll, Rutgers Business School, gave the keynote address, “Multidimensional Scaling and its Extensions: Applications to Perceptual, Preferential Choice, and other Behavioral Science Data,” at the 11th biennial conference of the Facet Theory Association held at Temple University.

New Jersey Public Advocate Ronald Chen ’83, who is on leave as Associate Dean of the School of Law, was named Lawyer of the Year by the New Jersey Law Journal.

Marketing Professor and Chair S. Chan Choi, Rutgers Business School, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Korea for the 2008-09 academic year.

The Society of Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses of the New Jersey State Nurses Association presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to College of Nursing Professor Lucille Joel.

Rachel Jones, assistant professor, College of Nursing, received the Nurse Educator of the Year award from the New York Times 2007 Tribute to Nurses.

Posters Commemorate 100 Years of Reaching Higher

By Kathleen Brunet Eagan

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