Hail, Farewell, and Welcome Back: Two Distinguished Alumni Returning To Rutgers University, Newark, To Speak At Commencement

A message for the Class of 2011: Your future might be staring at you from the dais during this year’s commencement ceremonies. At two of the six campus convocations, distinguished alumni of Rutgers University, Newark, will deliver the addresses to their successors.

The May 27 ceremony for the School of Law at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) will see the return of law school alumna Elizabeth Warren, ’76, one of the nation’s leading legal scholars. Warren will both receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree and deliver the convocation address.

Warren has led a most distinguished career in the decades since she attended law school at Rutgers. In 2009 and 2010, Warren was listed by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world, and by the National Law Journal as one of the 50 most influential women attorneys in America. A renowned authority in the field of bankruptcy, contract, and commercial law and a leading academic consumer advocate on banking issues, Warren is the Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law at Harvard University. She currently serves as Assistant to the President of the United States and Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Warren has testified before Congress on behalf of American families, chaired the Congressional Oversight Panel for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and served as chief adviser to the National Bankruptcy Review Commission.

Prior to Warren’s being honored, yet another distinguished graduate of the law school will give a commencement address, this one on May 16. Marc Berson, ’68, will speak at the Rutgers Business School convocation. Berson is chairman of the Newark-based real estate company, the Fidelco Group, and is well known in New Jersey for his many involvements in public service and philanthropy. Berson is a founding member of the Board of...
SCHOLARSHIP WITHOUT BORDERS.

Many Rutgers-Newark faculty members regularly travel to global “hot spots” to conduct important research and scholarship. Meet a few, in the first of a series of Connect profiles.

ALDO CIVICO: at the intersection of peace and conflict

Aldo Civico’s scholarship examines the relationship between politics and violence, and the influence of organized crime on the cultural, social, economic and political life of society, so his fieldwork takes him to highly volatile locales like Colombia, Haiti and Mexico.

The assistant professor of sociology and anthropology has met with anti-Mafia crusaders, child soldiers, and members of the paramilitary. “Working with people living at the margins, I have realized that the point is not to give the marginalized a voice, which they have, but rather to lend them an ear. In the process, one discovers the dark side of one’s own society; and even of one’s own persona. It is both academically and existentially an extraordinary journey.” His interactions have taught him that “as an anthropologist, I have the opportunity to represent the tip point of a different society from the one perpetrators many times are caged in.”

Civico’s first-hand observations have made him a much-sought-after media expert, and he is a regular blogger on The Huffington Post.

The scholar usually feels fairly safe in his journeys, noting that “it was the members of gangs, guerrilla groups or paramilitary I was spending time with who always took good care of my safety and well being.” Civico works to earn the respect and trust of people in the field by always trying to be “very honest, respectful and transparent.”

JODY MILLER: Research and humanitarian efforts in Sri Lanka

Jody Miller, professor at the School of Criminal Justice, specializes in feminist theory and qualitative research methods. Her research focuses on gender, crime and victimization in the context of urban communities, the commercial sex industry, and youth gangs.

For five years, amid its intermittent civil wars, Miller collected data on Sri Lanka’s commercial sex trade. Primarily through interviews of industry participants, Miller questioned clients and workers about their involvement in the business. But in 2004, Miller’s focus in Sri Lanka took a different turn. That was the year the great tsunami hit Indonesia and neighboring islands like Sri Lanka. With a desire to help the Sri Lankan victims, especially the Indian Tamils, Miller helped to establish the Tsunami Reconstruction Project, now known as the Sri Lankan Educational Fund. The primary goal of the fund is to raise money to improve educational opportunities for children living on the Macaldeniya Estate, a remote tea estate in the central hills of Sri Lanka. The fund’s efforts have helped to build a Montessori school, a library, and a vocational training center.

Another important goal of the Sri Lankan Educational Fund is to foster cultural exchange between American and Sri Lankan children,” notes Miller, the fund’s project coordinator. “The spoue of a Sri Lankan, Miller looks forward to her annual trips to Sri Lanka to share with the children the many letters, cards and artwork she collects in the United States.

KEVIN KOLBEN: Education that shatters the comfort zone

While backpacking through India in 1995 as a recent college graduate, Kevin Kolben realized that studying abroad is not a luxury, but an essential element of the learning experience. Now a Rutgers Business School professor and a recognized expert on international labor rights and regulation, international trade law, and corporate accountability, Kolben does extensive research in places that take Americans outside their comfort level. “India, Bangladesh and other developing countries around the world. He also regularly advises and consults with various governmental and non-governmental organizations such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Kolben also takes Rutgers students to India as part of his course on business, development and the global supply chain. There, they study that country’s economic development and experience the country “in a way they couldn’t otherwise.” On both his research and teaching visits to India and Bangladesh, he gathers his findings from locals at all levels: government, businesses, unions, workers and non-governmental agencies. He and his students visit slums as well as factories and executive offices.

The scholar usually feels fairly safe in his journeys, noting that “it was the members of gangs, guerrilla groups or paramilitary I was spending time with who always took good care of my safety and well being.” Civico works to earn the respect and trust of people in the field by always trying to be “very honest, respectful and transparent.”

KEVIN KOLBEN:
Education that shatters the comfort zone

Kevin Kolben’s recent travels to Sri Lanka focus on recovering from the 2004 tsunami.
Hail, Farewell, and Welcome Back
… from cover page

Trustees of NJPAC, where he will address the 2011 Rutgers graduates. He also serves as trustee for both the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and the Paper Mill Playhouse. Berson is founder and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Opportunity Project, Inc., a not-for-profit organization that aids individuals with brain injuries.

Speakers at the remaining ceremonies are: Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Annette Gordon-Reed, a former Rutgers-Newark professor, will speak at the joint convocation of the Newark College of Arts and Sciences and the University College, in NJPAC, on the afternoon of May 16; Dr. Susan Hassmiller, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will address the College of Nursing convocation on May 17 in the Golden Dome Athletic Center; Dr. Joan Morrell, Rutgers Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience, is the speaker for the May 17 joint ceremony for the Graduate School-Newark and the School of Public Affairs and Administration, in the Golden Dome; The May 18 18 convocation of the School of Criminal Justice will feature Dr. John Laub, director, National Institute of Justice, in the Golden Dome.

A total of 3,006 undergraduate and advanced degrees will be awarded during the various ceremonies. On May 12, all who are receiving diplomas are invited to join in a relatively new campus tradition: A Graduating Student Toast, on the Norman Samuels Plaza, hosted by the Rutgers University Alumni Association.

THE BASICS
Eight schools, six ceremonies, four days, two venues (Golden Dome Athletic Center and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, or NJPAC); six speakers, one honorary degree recipient, 3,006 graduates in total.

WE’VE DONE THIS BEFORE
This will be the 102nd convolution for Newark College of Arts and Sciences (NCAS); the 77th for University College (UC); #78, Rutgers Business School (RBS); #100, School of Law (SL-N); #54, College of Nursing (CON); #35, Graduate School (GS-N); #5, School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA); #36, School of Criminal Justice (SCJ).

PAPER CHASE
Total number of invitations printed: 12,025; number of programs printed: 3,800.

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC
The six ceremonies require the musical talents of two bands, the Rutgers Brass Ensemble and the Majestic Brass Quintet, with a total of 14 musicians: six on trumpet, three on trombone, three on French horn and two on tuba, playing Sir Edward Elgar’s Pomp and Circumstance as well as the national anthem.

THE WINDING ROAD
How do graduates and faculty from NCAS, UC, RBS and SL-N get from the campus to the nearby NJPAC, where their convocations are staged? They march on foot, led by bagpipers, of course! The Newark Fire Department Pipe and Drum Squad leads the graduates and faculty from NCAS/UC and the RBS around Military Park to NJPAC. Jim Tansey, a law school alumnus, donates his services to his alma mater and “pipes” the law graduates’ procession to the center, taking a short cut through Military Park.

DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION
Before they march down the aisle, Rutgers-Newark undergraduate and graduate students rent or buy between 2,000 and 2,300 caps and gowns, while faculty rent or buy about 150. About 25-30 Ph.D. students opt to purchase custom Rutgers robes.
ON THE PLAZA

RBS: Jersey Roots, Global Feat

Add another major win to Rutgers Business School–Newark and New Brunswick’s (RBS) ever-expanding wall of fame. A team of Rutgers business students outperformed all other U.S. schools for a global competition, the 9th annual New York Society of Security Analysts (NYSSA) Global Investment Research Challenge. Rutgers was named runner-up behind the winning team, Politecnico Di Milano from Italy. The finals of the competition took place in Omaha, Nebraska.

The RBS team consisted of RBS-Newark graduate students Ani Bhatia and Dmitry Malinsky, RBS-New Brunswick junior Joshua Cohen, RBS-Newark senior Andre Mendoza, and School of Arts and Sciences senior Russell Miller.

According to the NYSSA, the Challenge “is an educational initiative in which leading industry professionals teach business and finance students how to research and report on a publicly traded company.”

Faculty advisor John Longo, clinical associate professor, finance and economics at RBS, and professional mentor Allan Campbell, senior vice president at Daiwa Asset Management, coached the team.

“Professor Longo and Mr. Campbell were phenomenal. They brought so much experience and wisdom to our team. We felt completely prepared,” said team member Joshua Cohen.

Schools in the competition were asked to present to a panel of Wall Street experts their analysis of a publicly traded company and make a recommendation on whether to buy or sell the company’s stock.

“This team really embraced getting first-hand research about the company in question,” said Longo. “They performed extremely well in front of the judges.”

Law School’s Institute for Professional Education: An Accredited Site for CLE Credits

Alumni of Rutgers School of Law–Newark have another good reason to return to their alma mater. The Institute for Professional Education (IPE) at the law school is now an accredited site for earning continuing legal education (CLE) credits required by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

As of January 1, 2010, active attorneys admitted to practice law in New Jersey are required to complete 24 credit hours of CLE biennially. Four of those credit hours must be in ethics and/or professionalism. IPE’s CLE program, under the direction of Andrew Rosner, associate dean for professional education, offers a variety of formats that fit the bill. Whether there is a preference for seminars, workshops or in-house programs for law firms, corporate law departments, non-profit organizations and government agencies, IPE has competitively-priced CLE learning environments that cover a wide range of topics including drafting wills, closing real estate transactions, and representing domestic violence victims.

The College of Nursing: Together at Last

For the first time in its 55-year history of the Rutgers College of Nursing (CON), all of its Newark facilities are now housed in one central facility, thanks to the relocation of the Rutgers Business School.

CON had shared Ackerson Hall with the nursing college, but when RBS moved uptown to One Washington Park, nearly two floors of Ackerson were freed up for CON use. The spaces underwent major reconfiguring and reconstruction to convert them into a computer lab, three seminar rooms, faculty and administrative offices, an open layout study and a lounge area where students, faculty and staff can read or study while brown-bagging lunch. The office of CON Dean William Holzemer was moved to the third floor. Move-ins began during summer 2010 and renovations were completed this semester.

Before the consolidation, faculty and students had to travel between Ackerson and Conklin halls for meetings or to use the learning lab.

More Plaudits for MFA in Creative Writing Faculty

The highly ranked Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program is on a roll. The program is welcoming Nobel laureate Toni Morrison as a guest speaker this spring, capping a long list of prize-winning authors and poets brought to campus through the Writers at Newark Reading Series.

Now two MFA program faculty are receiving additional major literary honors:

What’s Cooking

So what do guests dine upon during post-convocation receptions? Well, typically ARAMARK catering prepares finger foods—such as the fruit, cheese & crackers, crudites, chicken tenders, Swedish meatballs, breaded ravioli marinara, and sheet cakes that it prepares for the 900 party-goers for the RBS reception. But ARAMARK also does brunch for the 200 guests of the RBS reception. But ARAMARK catering prepares finger foods–such as the fruit, cheese & crackers, crudites, chicken tenders, Swedish meatballs, breaded ravioli marinara, and sheet cakes that it prepares for the 900 party-goers for the RBS reception. But ARAMARK also does brunch for the 200 guests of the RBS reception. But ARAMARK catering prepares finger foods–such as the fruit, cheese & crackers, crudites, chicken tenders, Swedish meatballs, breaded ravioli marinara, and sheet cakes that it prepares for the 900 party-goers for the RBS reception. But ARAMARK also does brunch for the 200 guests of the RBS reception. But ARAMARK catering prepares finger foods–such as the fruit, cheese & crackers, crudites, chicken tenders, Swedish meatballs, breaded ravioli marinara, and sheet cakes that it prepares for the 900 party-goers for the RBS reception. But ARAMARK also does brunch for the 200 guests of the RBS reception. But ARAMARK catering prepares finger foods–such as the fruit, cheese & crackers, crudites, chicken tenders, Swedish meatballs, breaded ravioli marinara, and sheet cakes that it prepares for the 900 party-goers for the RBS reception. But ARAMARK also does brunch for the 200 guests of the RBS reception. But ARAMARK catering prepares finger foods–such as the fruit, cheese & crackers, crudites, chicken tenders, Swedish meatballs, breaded ravioli marinara, and sheet cakes that it prepares for the 900 party-goers for the RBS reception. But ARAMARK also does brunch for the 200 guests of the RBS reception. But ARAMARK catering prepares finger foods–such as the fruit, cheese & crackers, crudites, chicken tenders, Swedish meatballs, breaded ravioli marinara, and sheet cakes that it prepares for the 900 party-goers for the RBS reception. But ARAMARK also does brunch for the 200 guests of the RBS reception. But ARAMARK catering prepares finger foods–such as the fruit, cheese & crackers, crudites, chicken tenders, Swedish meatballs, breaded ravioli marinara, and sheet cakes that it prepares for the 900 party-goers for the RBS reception. But ARAMARK also does brunch for the 200 guests of the RBS reception. But ARAMARK catering prepares finger foods–such as the fruit, cheese & crackers, crudites, chicken tenders, Swedish meatballs, breaded ravioli marinara, and sheet cakes that it prepares for the 900 party-goers for the RBS reception. But ARAMARK also does brunch for the 200 guests of the RBS reception. But ARAMARK catering prepares finger foods–such as the fruit, cheese & crackers, crudites, chicken tenders, Swedish meatballs, breaded ravioli marinara, and sheet cakes that it prepares for the 900 party-goers for the RBS reception. But ARAMARK also does brunch for the 200 guests of the RBS reception. But ARAMAK
Christopher S. Dunn
Degree: J.D., Rutgers School of Law-Newark
Current City: Bayonne, New Jersey

Aspirations: Practice in the field of Criminal Law, Veterans Law and Redevelopment/Land Use
Activities: editor-in-chief, Rutgers Computer & Technology Law Journal (www.rctlj.org); Captain, New Jersey Army National Guard
Favorite class at Rutgers: I thoroughly enjoyed both Land Use with Professor Carlos Ball as well as the Skills Courses with Professor Andrew Rossner.
Biggest challenge getting to graduation: Maintaining the right balance between academic focus and the "other things" like internships, involvement in networking opportunities on and off campus, and fulfilling my National Guard obligations.
Reflections on R-N experience: Having never been to Newark prior to starting school, I had so many preconceived notions about the Brick City. Now I can proudly say that I am a major believer in its future.

Linda Louise Andino
Degree: Bachelor of Arts, Newark College of Arts & Sciences
Current City: Roselle, New Jersey
Major: Psychology

Aspirations: I aspire to pursue clinical research as well as establish myself as a clinician.
Activities & Interests: I have always enjoyed reading, painting and drawing. Two of my favorite books are Angela’s Ashes and Down and Out in London and Paris. I have a great interest in travel and culture but so far I have only explored Ireland, our east coast, and California.
Favorite class at Rutgers: Physiological Psychology. Sometimes I found myself simply baffled by the amount of information that was thrown at us in class. I have always been interested in our inner biological workings and how they influence our thought processes and mental state of being.
Biggest challenge getting to graduation: Overcoming my own personal doubts. After dropping out of high school, I had to work through feelings of inferiority. I sometimes felt my academic identity would be tainted or defined by the fact that I dropped out of high school. After overcoming those feelings, I have been able to truly visualize graduation.
Reflections on R-N experience: Overall, very positive. Rutgers-Newark offers a diverse learning environment, so not only have I learned a great deal from the faculty but by interacting with my peers. I cannot say that any other college can offer the well-diversified learning environment Rutgers-Newark has offered me.

Rimas Uzgiris
Degree: MFA in Creative Writing, The Graduate School-Newark
Activity & Interests: Tango; going to concerts of opera, chamber music, symphony, jazz; going to art museums; skiing, hiking.
Favorite class at Rutgers: Poetry Workshop
Biggest challenge getting to graduation: Convincing myself through writing that I was really a poet and not just someone wishing he were a poet.
Reflections on R-N experience: I feel blessed to have found myself in a dynamic, supportive and stimulating creative writing environment, all thanks to the fabulous students and faculty! The proximity to New York has allowed me to stay in my beloved Brooklyn neighborhood, and partake of New York City’s many cultural offerings, while also developing in the familial environment of the Rutgers-Newark MFA program. I have grown tremendously as a result of my time and effort here.

Mark H. Ziolkowski
Degree: Master of Business Administration, Rutgers Business School
Current City: Parlin, New Jersey

Interests: I love the outdoors and to challenge myself physically. I have competed in eight triathlons, two multi-sport adventure races, and three bodybuilding competitions
Favorite class at Rutgers: Having the opportunity to study abroad in the South of France.
Biggest challenge getting to graduation: TIME! Between work, business travel, and my time as an officer in the Army National Guard, devoting the necessary time to getting classes complete was difficult at best.
Reflections on R-N experience: Rutgers Business School is no monkey business!!

Natalae Anderson
Degree: J.D., Rutgers School of Law-Newark
Current City: Newark, New Jersey

Aspirations: To become an exceptional prosecutor and to use my skills to influence international law in the prosecution of human rights violations and crimes against humanity.
Interests: My interests include international human rights and criminal law, international relations, reading, traveling, dancing and playing the flute.
Favorite class at Rutgers: Sexual Orientation and the Law taught by Professor Carlos Ball
Biggest challenge getting to graduation: Learning how to deal with the rigors and stress of law school. The old saying goes, "The first year, they scare you to death; the second year, they work you to death; and the third year, they bore you to death."
Reflections on R-N experience: I was impressed with Rutgers-Newark’s Minority Student Program and the school’s commitment to serving members of the community and being a tool for social change. Besides an excellent legal education, I’ve been mentored by encouraging professors and surrounded by classmates who I admire and hope will be lifelong friends.
Summer Session:
A Time To Expand Minds
And Advance Careers

“Typical” Rutgers Summer Session students are professionals trying to advance their careers, or change career paths. “Typical” summer students are college students hoping to take enough classes to complete their degrees early. Some want to learn a new language or take interesting field trips, while high-achieving high school students want to get a jump on college classes.

In other words – there’s no such thing as a “typical” Rutgers Summer Session student; they can select day or evening courses, at the undergraduate and graduate level, in nearly 40 fields of study, ranging from business to economics to social work.

Summer is also an opportunity to experience unusual ways to learn. For instance, students in Mark Krasovic’s “American Studies in the Public Square” will participate in a scavenger hunt/walking tour through downtown Newark, identifying the many ways that the arts and humanities impact the city’s civic life. Whatever the interest, there’s something for every learner this summer.

More information: http://summer.newark.rutgers.edu/

IT’S A-MACE-ING

At commencement, formalities and traditions abound. Here’s one about which little is commonly known. Like many other colleges and universities the Rutgers ceremonies feature a mace, borne usually by a professor, at the head of the academic procession. The Newark College of Arts and Sciences has its own mace, an ornamental staff symbolizing the chancellor’s authority. The mace depicted here, held by Provost Emeritus Norman Samuels, was designed by two carpenters who worked for Rutgers. The symbols around the top of the mace are bronze recreations of the Rutgers seal.

Professor Gyorgy Buzsaki
Is Co-Winner of Major European “Brain Prize”

Rutgers Board of Governors Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience, Dr. Gyorgy Buzsaki, has received the Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Foundation’s award, “The Brain Prize,” along with two other Hungarian scientists, Tamas Freund and Peter Somogyi. The prize winners of what is referred to informally as the “Neuroscience Nobel” were announced on March 3 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The award was given to the three scientists for “their wide-ranging, technically and conceptually brilliant research on the functional organization of neuronal circuits in the cerebral cortex, especially in the hippocampus, a region that is crucial for certain forms of memory.”

Professor Colin Blakemore, Oxford University, who was chair of the selection committee for the award, said, “In order to know how the brain processes information we need a complete description of the structure of nerve cells and the dynamic characteristics of the connections between them. The work of Somogyi, Freund and Buzsaki has provided much of this essential knowledge for the cerebral cortex. Without such painstaking research there will never be full understanding of the brain.”

The foundation’s announcement notes that Somogyi, Freund and Buzsaki, all native Hungarians, symbolize the “remarkable quality of Hungarian science, which was sustained through periods of challenge and hardship. The three have worked together at Budapest, Oxford and Rutgers University (Newark, NJ), and had great influence on each other reflected in many joint publications.”

For more information about Buzsaki’s research, please visit www.newark.rutgers.edu/neuroscience