Celebrating Diversity

By Irene O'Brien

More than 200 dignitaries, community and business leaders, and alumni joined the faculty, staff, and students of Rutgers-Newark in January to celebrate America’s most diverse national university. The gala event celebrated diversity as a key mission of the campus and the university, and recognized the campus’ number one diversity ranking by U.S. News and World Report—a designation it has received for four consecutive years.

Speakers for the ceremony included Rutgers-Newark Provost Norman Samuels, U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.), New Jersey Secretary of State DeForest Soaries, Marcus Johnson, a student at the Rutgers School of Law-Newark, and the first African-American editor of the Rutgers Law Review, and Pei-yu You, a student at the Graduate School of Management.

Corzine told the crowd that Rutgers-Newark should serve as an example for what the rest of the state can achieve. “It is only when we have that mosaic of life... that I think we have great strength,” he said.

The 2001 edition of U.S. News and World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” ranked Rutgers-Newark .72 on its campus diversity index, with 1.0 being the highest ranking. In determining the ranking for national universities, U.S. News factored in the total proportion of minority students—not including international students—not the mix of racial and ethnic groups.
**The Institute of Jazz Studies** has a decades-long special relationship with jazz great Benny Carter. In 1994, Carter performed at the celebration of the opening of the jazz institute's new facility in Dana Library; he has donated most of his personal musical archives to the Institute; and he established the Morroe Berger-Benny Carter Research Fund at the IJS in honor of Ed Berger’s father, Morroe. So it was no surprise that Carter invited the IJS staff, including director Dan Morgenstern and Ed Berger to Washington, D.C., when he received the National Medal of the Arts in December. The group’s itinerary included a “meet-and-greet” with the Clintons in the morning, the medal ceremony, and a reception and White House tour at noon, where Morgenstern and Berger had a chance to relax with Carter.

**Safer Cities Initiative Launched**

Thanks to a new alliance between community, faith, social service, university, business, government, and law enforcement leaders, “Safer Cities,” a new crime prevention strategy for Newark, was launched this fall. George Kelling, School of Criminal Justice, helped secure partnerships for the initiative and obtained funding from public, corporate, and private sources. Newark Mayor Sharpe James lauded the collaboration as one that will ensure Newark’s renaissance while benefitting the city’s children, residents, local businesses, and visitors.

**The IJS Staff Goes to Washington**

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**Quitnet Launched at Rutgers-Newark**

**New Jersey Governor** Christine Todd Whitman and Department of Health and Senior Services Commissioner Christine Grant (Law School-Newark, ’82) launched the state’s QuitnetSM and New Jersey QuitlineSM, two free interactive smoking cessation programs, on the Rutgers-Newark campus this past fall. Rutgers-Newark students Kim Lutter (seated) and Adebayo Browne (left) provided a demonstration and testimonials on how they used the services to kick the habit.
Cornwall Center Update

Barely a year after its founding, Rutgers-Newark’s Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies is fully engaged in innovative activities and programs. The center is offering awards to Rutgers-Newark faculty for research and policy analysis on metropolitan topics and issues through two new programs. The Metropolitan Research Awards Program provides assistance for scholarly research focusing on urban or metropolitan settings; and the Newark Area Public Policy Awards Program provides assistance for analysis of local conditions and/or public policies in Newark and/or Northern New Jersey for non-scholarly audiences. Awards will be made in time to begin work over summer 2001. More information is available at www.cornwall.rutgers.edu or 353-1750.

The center has a number of new projects underway. Dr. Ruy Lourenço, former dean of New Jersey Medical School, has been appointed the first senior visiting fellow to the Cornwall Center. He is studying how medical schools and university hospitals connect with their surrounding communities to deliver health care to low-income families in Newark and other cities. Leslie Kennedy, School of Criminal Justice, and Erika Poulsen, graduate assistant, are analyzing how shifts in urban development are tied to shifts in crime patterns. Gerald Miller, public administration, is conducting a comparative analysis of the financial practices of Camden, Elizabeth, Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, and Trenton. Dennis Gale, director of the Cornwall Center, and Mona Choudhary, graduate assistant, are working on a cooperative project with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice to examine predatory lending practices by some sub-prime housing lenders in the Newark area.

In its continuing effort to encourage understanding of Newark’s youth culture, the Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience will present an April 18 public discussion on “City Children & Their Cultures: Blacked Out & Streetwise.” The talk will feature two authors: Dr. Elijah Anderson, University of Pennsylvania, who wrote “Streetwise: Race, Class and Change in Urban Society” and “The Code of the Street: Decency, Violence and the Moral Life of the Inner City,” and Dr. Siginthia Fordham, University of Connecticut, who wrote “Blacked Out: Dilemmas of Race, Identity and Success at Capital High.” The institute launched the “City Children and Their Cultures” lecture and discussion series last year to raise awareness of urban youth culture.

What’s Happening ON AND AROUND CAMPUS

All events are open to the public, and free, unless otherwise noted. Dates, times and programs subject to change.

EXHIBITIONS

Through Feb., “Books by John Ross and Clare Romano,” two of the publishing world’s pre-eminent illustrators and printmakers. Dana Library lobby and fourth-floor exhibit area, 185 University Ave.

TALKS/LECTURES


March 3, 9 am “Globalization and its Discontents.” Annual Ethics Conference sponsored by the Rutgers-Newark Philosophy Department and the New Jersey Medical School. New Jersey Medical School of UMDNJ, 185 South Orange Ave.

March 13, 5 pm, “The Chinese Diaspora.” Speaker: Dr. Amy Freedman, continued on pg. 4

Understanding Urban Youth

By Carla Capizzi
Farrokh Alemi and Mary Haack, College of Nursing, received a $350,573 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Substance Abuse Policy Research Program to investigate “Reimbursement Policy for Online Substance Abuse Treatment.”

Frank Askim, Law School, received the Equal Justice Medal for New Jersey Community from Legal Services of New Jersey and the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Fran Bouchoux, Law School, was appointed to the New Jersey Supreme Court’s Committee on Women in the Courts.


Christopher Coleman, College of Nursing, was the keynote speaker at the eleventh annual New Jersey’s Black Nurses Association meeting.

Farok Contractor, international business/business environment, was elected chair of the International Management Division of the Academy of Management. He is also co-chair and convener of the forthcoming conference on Alliance and Cooperative Strategies in Switzerland.

Elizabeth Scannel Desch, College of Nursing, was awarded one of two “Best Paper of the Year for 2000” awards from the Journal of Transcultural Nursing for her research manuscript, “The Culture of War: A Study of Women Military Nurses in Vietnam.”

Hurdis Griffith, dean, College of Nursing, received a $2,019,657 multi-year matching grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the planning, design, and start-up of a new building for the nursing program on the New Brunswick campus. She was also appointed to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Government Affairs Committee to help develop legislative and regulatory policy recommendations to the association’s board of directors.

Janet Grossman, College of Nursing, was elected a Distinguished Practitioner in the Nursing Academy of the National Academies of Practice.

Rachel Hadas, English, received the O.B. Hardison Jr. Prize from the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Elinda Fishman Kiss, accounting and information systems, was selected co-chair of the National Association for Business Economics Policy conference in March.

Richard Langhorne, Center for Global Change and Governance, was named a Carnegie Scholar by the Carnegie Corporation.

Dan Morgenstern, Institute of Jazz Studies, was a senior advisor for Ken Burns’ “Jazz,” the acclaimed PBS documentary.

Joanne Robinson, College of Nursing, was nominated by Governor Whitman to serve on the New Jersey Commission on Aging.

Roberta Schorr, education and academic foundations, lead a session “Children and Computer Technology,” a national conference sponsored by the Board on Children, Youth and Families at the National Academy of Sciences.

Sandy Skoglund, visual and performing arts, was one of 14 artists whose work was shown as part of the “2000 Fine Arts Annual: Into the Millennium” exhibition at The Newark Museum. The Craft Museum in New York also hosted a show of her work entitled, “Sandy Skoglund: Breathing Glass.”

Paul Trachtenberg, Law School, Alan Sadovnik, education, and Marc Holzer, public administration, have received $225,000 from the New Jersey Department of Education to study state-operated school districts.

Olga Jimenez-Wagenheim, history, was honored by Hispanic Americans for Progress, Inc. for her humanitarian efforts.

What’s Happening
ON AND AROUND CAMPUS  from pg. 3


April 10, 5 pm, “The Indian Diaspora.” Speaker: Dr. Prema Kurien, Princeton University. Center for Global Change and Governance’s Spring Colloquia Series. Conference room, Suite 510, Rutgers Center for Law and Justice, 123 Washington St. RSVP: 973/353-5585.

April 18, 6-8 pm, “City Children and Their Cultures: Blacked Out & Streetwise.” Location to be announced. Sponsored by the Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience. Info: barcliffe@andromeda.rutgers.edu, or 973/353-1871.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Feb. 24, Academic Challenge. Robeson Campus Center. For info. or to volunteer visit www.rutgersnewark.rutgers.edu/occ/hottopics/challenge.

March 1, 2, 3, 7 pm, and March 4, 2:30 pm, “High Tech Tunes and Trouble,” an original musical comedy directed by Bill Gile. The Rutgers-Newark/NJ IT Theatre Arts Program, Kupfrian Hall Theatre, NJIT campus. $7. Info: 973/353-5119, ext. 17.


continued on pg. 5

CONNECTIONS 4
Rutgers-Newark is a Top Choice for Hispanic Students

By Irene O'Brien

Rutgers Newark was recently named a member of the Hispanic association of Colleges & Universities, a distinction reserved for institutions with a minimum of 1,000 enrolled Hispanic students. In fact, the campus is ranked by Hispanic Magazine as 10th in the nation in the publication's guide to the top 25 colleges for Hispanics. While these impressive statistics are a reflection of the campus' overall diversity, faculty and students agree that they are also an indication of the numerous opportunities available to Hispanic students at Rutgers-Newark.

Asela Laguna-Diaz, associate professor, Classical and Modern Languages and Literature, has seen a steady increase in the number of Hispanic students on campus. Recently, children of some of Rutgers-Newark's Hispanic alumni have enrolled as well.

"There is a rich Hispanic community here on campus that includes students from Argentina, Peru, Spain, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and other countries and regions," she explained. "Various departments and programs throughout campus highlight the positive contributions of these cultures as well as the richness of the language. As a result, the students enjoy their differences, and benefit from their diverse experience."

Lillian Acosta, president of the Latino Students Organization at the Law School, agrees that students appreciate the richness of the Hispanic community on campus. "Just at the law school, we have Hispanic students from all over the world," she explained. "We learn from each other, both in and outside of the classroom, and we appreciate the richness of our varied cultures."

What’s Happening

ON AND AROUND CAMPUS from pg. 4

March 28, 2:30 pm, “A Stranger’s Song 2001,” directed by Michele Raper Rittenhouse. The Rutgers-Newark/ NJ IT Theatre Arts Program, Hazell Student Center Gallery, NJIT campus.

April 2–6, World Week Celebration. Various locations at Rutgers-Newark, NJ IT, and Essex County College. Opening ceremonies April 2, 11:30 am, at Hazell Student Center, NJ IT campus. Street Fair, April 4, at noon, on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. between Bleeker and Warren streets. Food, games, and music. Info: 973/353-5300.

April 18, 8:30 am–4:30 pm, The New Jersey Sustainable Business Conference Robeson Campus Center, 350 Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd. Info: 1/888/293-3917.

What’s Happening

AROUND TOWN

Check out this website for a look at Newark’s vibrant arts and entertainment scene.

NEWARK DOWNTOWN
973/733-9333 Fax: 973/733-9339
www.downtownnewark.com offers a comprehensive listing of art, cultural and entertainment opportunities throughout the city.

THE NEWARK MUSEUM
973/596-6550 www.newarkmuseum.org

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
888/GO-NJ PAC www.njpac.org

Rutgers-Newark Plaza

Rutgers-Newark was a recipient of the Governor’s Many Faces-One Family Advocate Award this year. The award is presented to individuals and institutions that foster an environment of dignity and respect, and enhance the quality of life for New Jersey residents. Associate Provost Ray Smith accepted the award for the campus during a ceremony that was televised on New Jersey Network.

Rutgers-Newark welcomes Martin Roddini, new director of campus safety.

Roddini oversees police services, building access systems and security, parking and transportation services, identification systems, and life/safety programs on the Newark campus. The Levittown, N.Y., resident manages a staff of nearly 60, including 31 commissioned police officers, security guards, and other employees.

Roddini comes to Rutgers from CUNY, where he coordinated public safety operations for 19 colleges. He holds a bachelor of arts from St. Johns U. and a master in public administration from Long Island U.
Physical Plant Tames Winter Weather Woes

By Joy Dennis

What took three days, cost more than $23,000, and took 10 people to complete? The full-scale operation by Rutgers-Newark’s Physical Plant to clean up the remains of December 30, 2000’s major blizzard. When most students, faculty, and staff returned to campus they likely didn’t recognize the immense effort that was put into clearing the grounds so they could safely navigate buildings, parking lots, steps, streets, and walkways. The storm left 12 inches of snow and temporarily halted many activities throughout the region. But by the time campus reopened on January 2, the snow on campus was cleared away, and returning staff and faculty were able to resume activities.

The offices of Physical Plant are located just off the main campus at 85 University Avenue. According to Sal Palatucci, supervisor of grounds, “The 10 individuals on Physical Plant’s Snow Removal Team devoted their New Year’s weekend to reopening the campus on time. These hard-working people play a critical role in keeping the campus safe, so we can remain open despite inclement weather conditions.”

Joy Dennis is a student intern with the Office of Campus Communications.

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