Business is Booming in Mini-MBA Program

by Michael Sutton

When a group of Chinese officials and CEOs recently traveled to the United States, they had a special request: design a version of Rutgers’ Mini-MBA program and teach it in Mandarin Chinese. Rutgers was happy to oblige.

The request isn’t surprising, given the program’s strong reputation. In fact, the Rutgers Center for Management Development (CMD) – which operates out of Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick (RBS) – celebrated a milestone last semester: the graduation of more than 1,000 participants from its Mini-MBA program, which it introduced as a pilot program at Rutgers-Newark in 2002. The program has since spread with classes also in Piscataway, Freehold and Morristown, while two versions of a fast-track Mini-MBA are offered during the summer.

“I am really fired up about this program,” said Abe Weiss, director of the CMD, who administers the Mini-MBA with Claudia Meer, program director at CMD, associate professor and associate extension...continued on page 4
**Chen Nominated as New Jersey Public Advocate**

By Janet Donohue

Ronald Chen, associate dean for academic affairs at Rutgers School of Law-Newark, has been nominated by New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine as public advocate of New Jersey.

"Ron has long been a leader in public interest advocacy in New Jersey," said Dean Stuart Deutsch of the law school. "In the position of public advocate, he will have the tremendous opportunity to rebuild the Department of Public Advocate and, thereby, help ensure that all people of the state are given full and equal access to the law."

Deutsch noted that Chen, a well-known constitutional scholar, has been a tremendous asset to the law school. "For more than 18 years, he has been an inspiring teacher, a first-rate administrator and a wonderful colleague."

Chen, who participated in the Minority Student Program while a student at the law school, received his J.D. degree with high honors in 1983. As a law school student, he was editor-in-chief of the Rutgers Law Review and the Saul Tischler Scholar. After graduation, he clerked for Judge Leonard Garth of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Before joining the law school's faculty in 1987, he was associated with the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore. Chen has been associate dean since 1995.

**Menendez’s Rise to Senate Is Another Minority Student Program Success Story**

By Michael Sutton

When Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), a 1979 alumnus of Rutgers School of Law-Newark, accepted an offer last December by newly elected New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine to serve out the remaining year on Corzine's Senate term, it was more than a triumph for Menendez – it also reflected how successful the law school's Minority Student Program (MSP) has been since 1968 at providing invaluable mentoring, internships and academic support for minorities and disadvantaged students of all races.

Menendez, who had previously served in Congress as the representative from New Jersey's 13th District, is the state's first Hispanic member of the Senate and one of only three Hispanic senators in Congress.

Many of the more than 2,000 MSP participants who have graduated from the law school have gone on to become judges, members of the U.S. Congress and New Jersey Legislature, presidential and gubernatorial appointees, and mayors of cities.

Menendez has credited the MSP for contributing both to his own professional success and for opening doors for others.

"The MSP gave me the opportunity to help bring others closer to achieving the American dream," he said. "The success of MSP graduates makes clear that it is in our country's best interest to offer opportunities for those at a disadvantage and to provide a means to overcome many of the educational barriers that still exist in America."

**School of Law-Newark Graduates Fill Top State Positions**

Sen. Robert Menendez and Ronald Chen, Rutgers School of Law-Newark associate dean, aren't the only law school graduates whose sterling achievements have drawn New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine's attention.

To fill the position of state attorney general, he turned to another law school graduate and Minority Student Program participant, Zulima Farber, a 1979 graduate.

The state's former public advocate and public defender under former Gov. James Florio's administration, Farber was the first Hispanic woman to serve as a New Jersey cabinet officer. She then went on to become a partner at Lowenstein Sandler, one of New Jersey's largest law firms.

Corzine also has not been alone in turning to the law school community for top talent. Last December, Acting Gov. Richard Codey appointed Fred M. Jacobs, a 1990 law school graduate, to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services. Corzine now has asked Jacobs to continue on in that position.

**R-N Faculty and Alumnus Serve on State Transition Team**

Prior to being nominated as the state's next attorney general, Zulima Farber (N-LAW 74) was selected, with several others from the Rutgers-Newark community, to serve on Gov. Jon Corzine's gubernatorial transition team.

The Corzine transition team draws on such faculty talent as School of Law-Newark Professor David Troutt, who was asked to serve on the Revitalizing and Investing in Communities Policy Group, and Adjunct Professor Marilyn Ashkin, a 1970 law school graduate, who was asked to co-chair the Advisory Task Force on Property Tax Reforms. In addition, Michael Wagers, director of the Police Institute at the School of Criminal Justice (SCJ), and SCJ Professor Johanna Christian were named to Corzine's Corrections Policy Group. And Rosemary McFadden, a 1975 MBA graduate of Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick, was asked by Corzine to co-chair his Economic Development Policy Group.

**Bringing Diverse Perspectives... from page 1**

"Although tremendous progress has been made in the neurosciences, daunting challenges remain," Tepper said. "The solutions to these problems are likely to be found by bringing together the tools and approaches from many different disciplines.

"The HHMI award will allow us to train a new generation of scientists who can work at the interface of quantitative, computational and biological science to address these problems.

"Berlin agreed. "The HHMI program will serve as a catalyst to bring together students and faculty from many neuroscience-related disciplines into a single entity devoted to studying complex questions posed by present-day and future medical science," he said.

"This effort will lead to a much greater degree of collaboration among the many universities and biomedical research institutes in Newark."

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which made this important collaboration possible, grounds its research programs on the conviction that scientists of exceptional talent and imagination will make fundamental contributions that benefit mankind when given the resources, time and freedom to pursue challenging questions.
MTW LECTURE
Each February, the Newark campus is fortunate to be the gathering place for some of the nation’s foremost scholars in African-American and African history and culture, brought together for the annual Marion Thompson Wright (MTW) Lecture Series. The series takes an in-depth, thought-provoking look at issues with a deep impact on the past, present and future of New Jersey and its Afro-American population in particular, and black Americans in general.

On Feb. 18, Cheryl Wall will deliver the keynote address at the 26th annual MTW lecture, discussing “Black Creativity and Modern American Life.” Wall, an English professor at Rutgers-New Brunswick, is an expert on black women’s writing, the Harlem Renaissance and writer Zora Neale Hurston. She has written and edited several books, including Worrying the Line and Their Eyes Were Watching God: A Casebook. Other speakers include: Robert O’Meally, the Zora Neale Hurston professor of English, Columbia University; Brenda Dixon-Gottschild, professor emerita of Dance Studies, Temple University; and A.B. Spellman, former deputy director of the National Endowment for the Arts.

One of New Jersey’s oldest and most highly esteemed Black History Month events, the conference is named in honor of East Orange native Marion Thompson Wright, who was the first professionally trained black female historian.

The free public program is sponsored by the Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience; the Federated Department of History, Rutgers-Newark and the New Jersey Institute of Technology; and the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State.

INFLUENCING GOVERNMENT POLICY SYMPOSIUM
Who shapes public policies? For the answers, participate in Feb. 24’s “Influencing Government Policy Symposium,” in Conklin Hall. The free annual program, which takes place from 8:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., will open with a panel presenting ways to influence government policy, ranging from political processes, to student activism, to academic involvement. The symposium will include workshops on political activism, education, children’s and women’s issues, and prisoners and their families, as well as student presentations.

The symposium is co-sponsored by the R-N Social Work Department, the Social Work Student Organization and the New Jersey Baccalaureate Social Work Education Association.

For more information, contact event organizer Paul Shane, Social Work, pshane@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

RIGHTS NIGHT
Once again, members of the campus and community will celebrate human rights and civil liberties – while also alerting the public to threats to rights and human dignity both in the United States and abroad – at Rutgers-Newark’s second annual RightsNight.

This year’s RightsNight on March 1 will include a marathon two-and-a-half hour reading of testimony on civil and human rights, past and present, by dozens of volunteers, as well as speakers, musical performances, poetry readings and other activities during the week.

The dates were chosen to bridge Black History Month and Women’s History Month. English Professor Janet Larson, one of the organizers, describes RightsNight as a “high-participation, grassroots-style extravaganza that will honor the defenders of our civil and human rights, deepen appreciation of these fundamentals, and raise awareness about their precariousness at various moments in U.S. history, up to today.”

Larson says the hope is to make RightsNight a bi-annual tradition at R-N.

“It’s not quite like anything else we do on this campus,” she notes.

For more information, go to www.newark.rutgers.edu/events, or contact Larson at jlarsen@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

RUTGERS BUSINESS SCHOOL HOSTS USA TODAY CEO FORUM
Rutgers Business School–Newark and New Brunswick was chosen by USA TODAY to host its first-ever CEO Forum. The event, which took place Feb. 9 at Rutgers-Newark, featured Henry Juszkiewicz, chairman and CEO of Gibson Guitar, the famed instrument maker, in conversation with Kevin Maney, USA TODAY’s technology columnist and senior technology reporter.

The “USA TODAY CEO” Forum is a series of four programs to be held throughout the 2006 academic year on the campuses of four select major universities—Rutgers, UCLA, MIT and Chicago. The host schools were selected based on their academic excellence in the field of business. Each CEO Forum features a distinguished CEO of a corporation heralded for its achievements and advancements in the arena of technology.

Pianist Richard Alston has played hundreds of concerts since his first public performance at the age of 5. But perhaps none is more memorable to him than the one he gave on his Eminence toy organ for his stuffed animals. The animals were mute critics, but within months members of his church were enthusiastically encouraging the 7-year-old organist at Sunday services. Alston went on to win the Young Artist Competition at the Brevard Festival in North Carolina three times, then made his New York debut at Avery Fisher Hall at the age of 17, and earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Juilliard. Since then, Alston has played as both a soloist and in orchestral performances in the United States and Europe, made appearances on radio and television programs, and recorded CDs.

On Feb. 15, Alston will perform in the John Cotton Dana Library, playing works for piano solo by composers of African descent, including Pulitzer Prize-winner George Walker, a retired Rutgers-Newark music professor. The free performance begins at 12:30 p.m.
CHARLES CUMMINGS: A REMEMBRANCE

By Clement Alexander Price

Charles Cummings, adjunct professor of history at Rutgers-Newark, passed away in December 2005. Clement Alexander Price, Board of Governors Distinguished Professor of History, and a trustee of the Newark Public Library, offers his reflections on Cummings’ life and contributions to the city.

Charles Cummings’ illustrious work as a librarian, archivist, teacher and historian places him among the most favored citizens in twentieth-century Newark.

More than any other Newark, Charles Cummings helped the city to remember itself – the way it once looked, the pioneers who laid out Newark’s physical and cultural landscape, and those who helped the city survive.

He was the keeper of Newark’s collective memory.

In over four decades of service to the Newark Public Library, he made the New Jersey Reference Division into the state’s premier archive for historical matters relating to Newark and the state. He gave more talks, more tours, more hours of civic service, and more care to Newark’s story than anyone on the planet. Virtually every dissertation, thesis, book, article and treatise on Newark is indebted to Charles’ considerable assistance. Every exhibition, documentary film, and every cohort of old Newarkers seeking to reconnect with the town relied upon Charles’ encyclopedic knowledge and archival expertise.

His weekly column in The Star-Ledger is arguably one of the nation’s longest running historical series to focus on a single city. It is indispensable reading for those interested in the nook and cranny of Newark’s long and fascinating life.

During Newark’s lean years – that long period from the 1960s to the 1980s when Newark was a metaphor for all that could go wrong with an urban community – Charles kept his poise. Never one to bemoan the city, he was a beacon of optimism in the face of our past bouts with fear and foreboding. In that sense, many who knew him relied upon Charles, and his upbeat dutifulness, to keep the city moving forward with their heads held high.

How does one human being interpret and predict both his or her own or another’s actions and motives when they interact? The answer may be perception of body posture and motion as much as words, and his groundbreaking insights in this area have earned Guenther Knoblich, his current research focuses on perception and action, action and understanding, body perception and insight problem-solving. In one experiment, Knoblich – using 12 pianists as experimental subjects – noted that his research indicated that the performers recognized recordings of their own playing by internally simulating their actions. He has conducted similar research focusing on individuals’ handwringing and on how people recognize their communications online.

He noted that in the future, this work may be applied to better understand disorders such as schizophrenia, where patients will frequently attribute their own motions – such as a hand movement – to an outside agent.

“For instance, they may say, ‘Someone else made my hand move or made me go there,’ ” he observed. “This may move or made me go there, ‘ “ he observed. “This may provide us with clues to better understand the condition.”

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