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A newsletter for the Rutgers-Newark community and neighbors

COMMUNICATIONS



Photo: Elenora Luongo

Designed for Connection

Whether it is the art of jazz or simple actions, research shows we are constantly coordinating our efforts in ways that join us together.

By Kathleen Brunet Eagan

With something even as small as a glance, we connect. In fact, the human need for connection is so strong that perception and action constantly work together to unite us.

In her recent article in *Scientific American Mind* (Dec. 2006/Jan. 2007), Natalie Sebanz, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, describes how the links between perception and action act as a "social glue." We sit and talk with a friend; he leans forward and so do we. We observe a woman lifting a glass and instantly perceive whether she will take a sip or toss the contents in anger.

We are asked to lift a heavy package, but it seems so much lighter when we know someone will help us.

All different events and situations, yet all part of an interrelated cascade of perception and action. "People are constantly attuning to one another," Sebanz notes in her article. "Long before their first birthday, even babies will follow the gaze of another."

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PROTECTING NEW JERSEY'S NATURAL RESOURCES

By Kathleen Brunet Eagan

Established in 1986, the Environmental Law Clinic at Rutgers School of Law-Newark is the only public interest law firm in New Jersey solely focused on protecting the state's natural resources.

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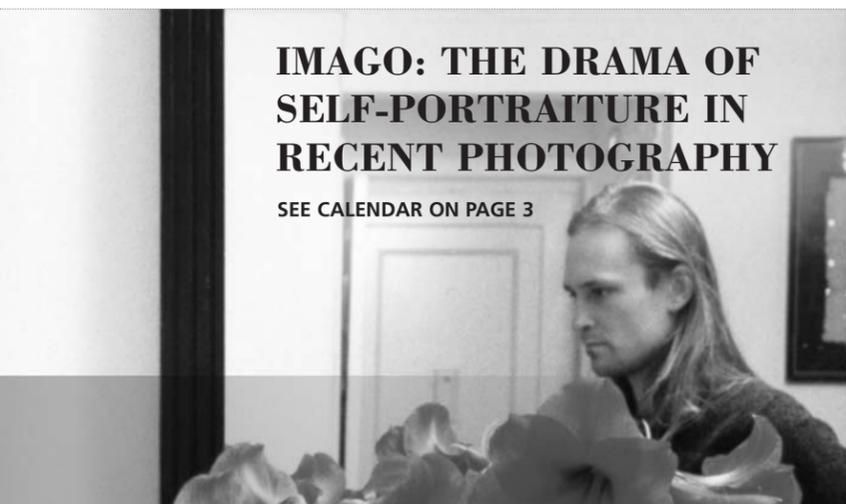


Photo: Julia Gorton

Actor Alec Baldwin (l) and Richard Webster from the Environmental Law Clinic at the symposium on the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant held at Rutgers-Newark in December.

IMAGO: THE DRAMA OF SELF-PORTRAITURE IN RECENT PHOTOGRAPHY

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Office of Communications

Rutgers-Newark
249 University Ave.
Newark, NJ 07102



www.newark.rutgers.edu

RICHEE-LORI SMITH NAMED VICE PROVOST FOR DEVELOPMENT

By Carla Capizzi

Rutgers-Newark business and law alumna Richee-Lori Smith, most recently national director of workplace initiatives for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), has joined Rutgers-Newark as vice provost for development. In her new position, Smith is responsible for assisting Provost Steven J. Diner in pursuing major gifts and coordinating the fundraising work of the development officers of R-N's six schools and colleges.

Diner noted that her appointment represents a "key position" in the efforts to greatly expand fundraising at Rutgers and on the Newark campus. "Richee-Lori Smith brings to this position valuable professional experiences in fundraising and great familiarity with New Jersey and Newark," said Diner.

While working with UNCF, Smith achieved a 294 percent increase in the 2005 combined federal campaign for the UNCF Washington, D.C. area, and also served as acting area director and assistant area director for the UNCF New Jersey area office.

From 1998-2005, Smith was a special prosecutor and an assistant corporation counsel in the office of the City of Newark Corporation Counsel, and owner and associate in Smith & Garrett Associates, LLP, based in Newark. Prior to that, she served as chief of staff, senior legislative aide and senior constituent advisor to the late New Jersey State Senator Wynona Lipman.

She earned her JD from Rutgers School of Law-Newark in 1997, after earning her MBA in finance from the Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick, and a BA from Hampton University. In 2005, she was presented with UNCF's Rising Star Award, and in 2003 was selected as a Fellow for the Leadership New Jersey program.

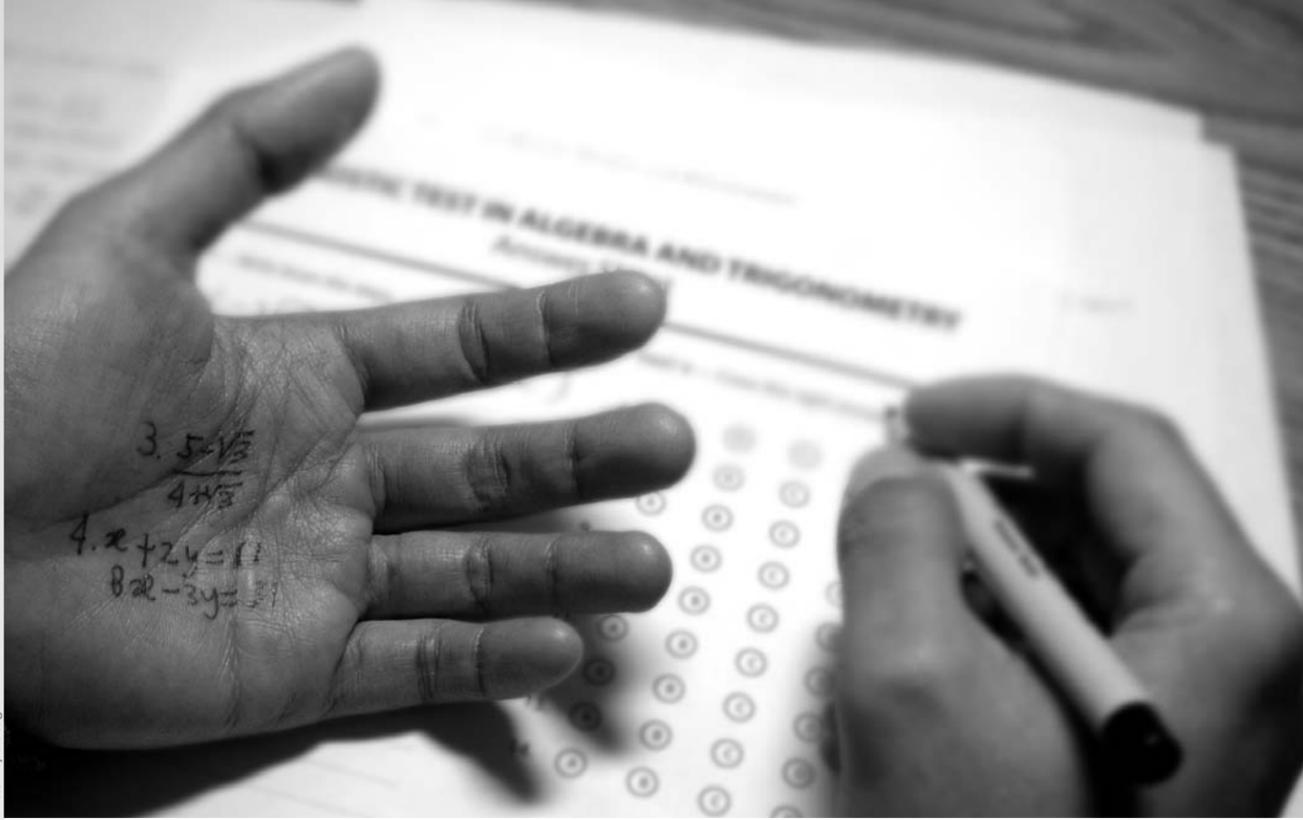


Photo: Altra Design

COMBATING STUDENT CHEATING

Donald McCabe, professor, Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick, holds the distinction of being one of the world's leading authorities on the phenomenon of cheating in college. He has been widely interviewed by the media on the topic, but his focus is different from what many newspaper headlines may suggest. Rather than a simple "catch-the-cheaters-and-throw-them-out" approach, he has devoted attention to understanding causes and seeking remedies.

McCabe recently conducted a study of academic dishonesty in graduate business programs, with Professors Kenneth Butterfield (Washington State University) and Linda Klebe Treviño (Pennsylvania State University), evaluating the effectiveness of methods commonly used to prevent cheating. The resulting article, which appeared in the Sept. 2006 issue of *The Academy of Management: Learning and Education*, illustrates that the threat of severe penalties is one of the least effective deterrents, and that the greatest influence is the behavior of peers.

If others cheat, then cheating becomes contagious, but if students don't see others cheating, then not cheating can become the norm. Also if it's clear that classmates aren't going to report cheating, or that authorities aren't going to watch for cheating and respond when it occurs, then cheating tends to increase.

The lesson seems to be that creating a culture of integrity and responsibility is one of a school's most important duties. McCabe and his colleagues advise that students must be engaged by faculty and administrators in a continuing dialogue that begins during recruiting and continues from orientation through the completion of studies – and maybe beyond. Expectations and rules need to be clearly communicated in an effort to achieve what might be called "moral socialization," explains McCabe.

Of course, using the same test for different classes or year after year is still a bad policy. But emphasis on community- and consensus-building ultimately may be the greatest deterrent.

R-N TEAM SCORES IN BRAIN BOWL

By Carla Capizzi

The Rutgers-Newark College Fed Challenge Team, with its brainpower and intellectual muscle, recently has scored some impressive victories.

In November, the team, coached by Economics Department Chair John Graham, took on Northwestern University, Boston College and Virginia Commonwealth in the national finals of the 2006 College Fed Challenge in Washington, D.C., and came in third in the nationwide academic competition organized by the Federal Reserve System. To be selected for the national finals, the team first had to win the semifinals, which it did in New York City. During that competition, the R-N team started out in a first-round field of 26 colleges, then made it to the semifinals where it beat out three other top regional schools.

Between the two competitions, the R-N Fed Challenge team brought home a total of \$25,000 in prize money (\$12,000 to be divided among the students, and \$13,000 for the economics department), as well as a trophy from the New York Federal Reserve Bank. The prize money is provided by the Moody's Foundation.

The eight members of the team are: Billy Joseph Jr., of Jersey City, a junior accounting major; Miodrag "Mike" Kapur of Edison, a senior economics major; Kristina Lopez of Elizabeth, a senior finance major; Jared Mijares of Teaneck, a junior economics major; Ron Mosseri of New York City, who graduated in December with an economics degree; Sneha Pendse of Parsippany, a senior finance and computer science major; Anthony Restaino of Nutley, a senior majoring in economics; and Andrew Verdon, a junior from Marlboro majoring in economics and mathematics.



The Rutgers-Newark Fed Challenge Team (top, l-r) Miodrag "Mike" Kapur, Jared Mijares and Andrew Verdon, (bottom l-r) Anthony Restaino, Billy Joseph Jr., John Graham, Kristina Lopez, Sneha Pendse and Ron Mosseri.

Designed for... from page 1

Through her research and collaborations with others, including fellow Rutgers-Newark researchers Guenther Knoblich and Maggie Shiffrar, Sebanz also has found that "the tendency for coordination with others is so deeply ingrained that we will follow it even when it hampers our ability to perform a task."

It is why learning to dance the tango, canoeing with a friend and playing a duet initially can be so frustrating. Such activity requires us to suppress our natural instinct to mimic so we can align different actions in space and time. Interestingly, knowing someone will help us in a task also can alter our perception, which is why moving a heavy object appears less challenging with the help of a friend.

"It seems that we not only see the world through our own eyes, but also through the eyes of the groups we form," says Sebanz. "Cooperation is not just something that joins us, we simply cannot do otherwise."

Findings from Sebanz's research and the work of others in joint action will be the topic of the second Joint Action Meeting to be held at R-N April 5-7.

On The Plaza



Guadeloupe women in front of the main building at Ellis Island in 1911.

Since 1981, the MTW Lecture Series has drawn thousands of people to R-N in observance of Black History month. The lecture series is named for East Orange native Dr. Marion Thompson Wright, the first professionally trained female historian in the United States. The 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.

Recent Faculty Awards

Karima Bennoune, associate professor, Rutgers School of Law-Newark, was selected by the Association of American Law Schools' Section on Minority Groups as the winner of the 2006 Derrick A. Bell, Jr. Award. The award honors a junior faculty member who, through activism, mentoring, collegueship, teaching and scholarship, has made an extraordinary contribution to legal education, the legal system or social justice.

Henry Martin, professor, Department of Visual and Performing Arts, is the recipient of an Aaron Copland Award composers residency. As a recipient and composer in residence, Martin plans to focus on his orchestral work inspired by Dante's *Purgatorio*. He was one of only nine composers chosen from among 120 applicants.

Gerald Miller, professor, School of Public Affairs and Administration, recently was named a Fulbright Scholar. He is spending this semester at the University of Ottawa in Canada where he is working on his research project "The Government Tax and Spending Decision Project: What Predicts Citizen Revolt?"

Mary Segers, chair and professor, Department of Political Science, is the recipient of the Ad Laudem Dei Award from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, presented to individuals whose professional lives are of "national significance and illustrate that service is not only an activity but also an approach to the responsibilities of work." Segers is a 1961 graduate of Mount Saint Vincent.

Keith Sharfman, associate professor, Rutgers School of Law-Newark, has been awarded an American Bankruptcy Law Journal Fellowship by the National

Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He was one of only two fellows selected nationwide from a highly competitive pool of candidates.

College of Nursing Receives \$550,000 for Scholarships

The Helene Fuld Health Trust has awarded a \$550,000 grant to the College of Nursing to develop a scholarship program for students seeking a nursing baccalaureate degree.

"We are honored to receive this grant from the nation's largest private funder devoted exclusively to nursing students and nursing education," said Felissa R. Lashley, College of Nursing dean and professor. "Helene Fuld Health Trust's recognition of our world-class research activities, as well as our pioneering programs, will afford nursing students the opportunity to participate and benefit from one of the most progressive and innovative programs in the state and in the country."

An initial \$50,000 will be allocated so the college can start providing students with scholarships beginning this fall semester. A total of \$500,000 then will be held as a permanent endowment so its annual income can provide scholarships to students well into the future.

One of the Nation's Top Research Universities

A new ranking of research universities, based on the objective analysis of faculty scholarship, has placed Rutgers-Newark as among the top 20 small research universities in the nation.

To determine placement, the new ranking – the Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index produced by Academic Analytics – examined the number of books and journal articles published by faculty, along with grants, honors and awards. The result: Rutgers-Newark tied for 12th place in the "Small Research Universities" category, which looked at 61 research universities with fewer than 15 doctoral programs.

"These rankings confirm what many of us have known for a long time – that Rutgers-Newark is a top research university," commented Provost Steven J. Diner. "It is rewarding to see our faculty's accomplishments validated and publicized in this way."

The findings of the new survey were featured as the cover story in the Jan. 12, 2007 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, "A New Standard for Measuring Doctoral Programs."

MTW Lecture: History and Memory

What role does historical memory play in African American and African societies? How does it shape identity in the African Diaspora? These and other questions about historical memory will be explored Feb. 17, during "Time Longer Than Rope: Historical Memory and the Black Atlantic," the 27th Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series, at the Paul Robeson Campus Center, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The free program is open to the public.

David Blight, professor of American History and director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University, will present the keynote Marion Thompson Lecture, "Slavery and the Memory Boom: Why, and Why Now?" Blight is the nation's foremost historian on memory and its intersection with African American historical narratives. Other speakers include: Professor Cheryl Finley, Cornell University; Professor Sandra E. Greene, Cornell; and Jeffrey Kerr-Ritchie, Howard University.

In a special presentation, Lonnie Bunch, director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, will receive the first Marion Thompson Wright Award for distinguished service to the public in the field of African American life and history.



Self portrait - Wojciech Gilewicz (Poland)

R-N Calendar

What's Going On at R-N?

www.newark.rutgers.edu/events

MARCH 1 – APRIL 5

Exhibition: "Imago: The Drama of Self-Portraiture in Recent Photography"

LOCATION: Paul Robeson Gallery

APRIL 12

"Vivaldi's Four Seasons" - Featuring the Strathmere Ensemble

LOCATION: John Cotton Dana Library, Dana Room

12:30 p.m.

APRIL 18 – 22

"The Detention Project" – A Rutgers-NJIT Theatre Arts Program Production

LOCATION: Bradley Hall Theatre

April 18–21, 7 p.m.

April 22, 2:30 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND SATURDAYS IN THE STUDIO

By Carla Capizzi



A new offering by the Department of Visual and Performing Arts is giving high school students a head start on the visual arts. Beginning this semester, the department is teaching Saturday art classes on the campus for high school students in the northern New Jersey area, for a \$300 fee that includes all art materials and field trips. Under the direction of Nick Kline, an instructor in the department, "RUN Art" is currently offering a 10-week college-level program in Drawing 1. The 10 three-hour Saturday sessions are limited to 20 students, so they can benefit from individual attention from the two instructors.

The curriculum eventually will be expanded to include other visual arts such as graphic design, photography, video computer animation and illustration. RUN Art also will offer intensive four-week workshops during the summer months, each workshop meeting four times a week. Classes are open to freshmen through senior-year students; no previous art background or art class experience is necessary.

All sessions will be in Bradley Hall, 110 Warren St. For information on the summer program, contact Nick Kline, director of RUN Art, at 973/353-5119, ext. 43, or domkline@andromeda.rutgers.edu.



Photo: Arthur Paxton

The Newark skyline as viewed from the Rutgers-Newark campus

EXPLORING THE NEWARK METRO

By Alisa Alt

Have you explored the Mini-Zoo at the Newark Museum? Attended a Bears game at Riverfront Stadium? Or experienced the essence of Indian life in Jersey City? The Newark Metro promises to take you there and beyond.

The Newark Metro, "covering metropolitan life from Newark, to North Jersey, to New York City," is a Rutgers-Newark student-run online publication. With oversight from Robert W. Snyder, associate professor of journalism and media studies, the webzine publishes articles, short stories, photo essays and poetry that often begin as journalism and writing

assignments. Readers can find articles ranging from the history and philosophy behind the Newark Gateway, to a Kenyan student's trial and tribulations while studying in Germany, to the generational issues affecting Chinatown, along with plenty of articles about the Newark experience.

As described by the webzine, "writing from cities, towns and neighborhoods that don't always make it onto the national media map," contributors to The Newark Metro help to show what makes Newark and the region distinctive and special. To find out more, visit www.newarkmetro.rutgers.edu.

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

A WOMEN'S PLACE

By Bill Glovin

One in a series of articles celebrating Rutgers-Newark's history

In the late 1950s, out of every 100 people enrolled in college only about 34 were women, and few faculty members were female. Today, women earn about 58 percent of the bachelor's degrees awarded in the United States and are a strong presence on university faculties throughout the country.

One of the first women's movements on a U.S. college campus was sparked by a pay discrimination lawsuit filed against Rutgers in the early 1970s. Among the organizers were three Newark professors, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, today a U.S. Supreme Court Justice; psychologist Dorothy Dinnerstein, author of the groundbreaking book *The Mermaid and the Minotaur: Sexual Arrangements and Human Malaise*; and zoologist Helen Strasser, one of the first scientists to try to find a cure for AIDS.

Mary Segers, professor of political science, recalls that she was hired on the day of the Kent State killings in 1970. "I was one of two women and a male colleague from Nigeria who were hired around the same time," she says. "A group of women faculty members invited me and my new female colleague to a meeting to discuss the lawsuit. We were told that our new male colleague –

hired at the same level – was earning more money than we were."

The suit was won, and the nucleus of R-N women involved in the case went on to develop one of the first women's studies programs in the country in 1970. Two of the founders are still on the faculty: English Professor and Chair Virginia Tiger and Professor of French Marie Collins.

Rachel Hadas, professor of English and one of the most respected poets in America, says senior women faculty helped to create an environment at R-N that supports women. "The faculty here," she says, "is one of the best-kept secrets in America and a reason that Rutgers-Newark is one of the most desirable places to work in the country."

Protecting New Jersey ... from page 1

Since its founding, more than 500 law school students have worked with clinic attorneys on resolving such issues as land use and sprawl, hazardous waste site remediation, and the public's right to access to beaches in the state, notes Carter Strickland, acting director.

Now in another high-profile case, the clinic is working to ensure that the re-licensing process for the nation's oldest commercial nuclear power plant properly addresses the environmental, safety and security concerns surrounding the facility.

Located in Lacey Township in southern New Jersey, the Oyster Creek power plant has been in operation for 40 years. In ongoing litigation and advocacy before the

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, clinic attorneys and law students are assisting a coalition of six citizen groups in opposing re-licensing of the plant. Not only is the facility aging, it employs old technology that has been proven to be harmful to the environment and unsafe, says Richard Webster, staff attorney.

Helping to bring attention to the issues is actor Alec Baldwin, who was involved in raising awareness about the problems surrounding the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island. In addition to participating in hearings with the clinic, Baldwin served as moderator for a symposium the clinic held on Oyster Creek in December at Rutgers-Newark.

KEEP CONNECTED

Connections and *Connections: News Digest* are published by the Office of Communications. Your comments are welcome.

Helen Paxton, *Senior Editor*
paxton@andromeda.rutgers.edu

Kathleen Brunet Eagan, *Managing Editor*
oc@andromeda.rutgers.edu

Carla Capizzi, *Editor*
capizzi@andromeda.rutgers.edu

Alisa Alt, Bill Glovin, *Contributors*

249 University Ave.
Newark, NJ 07102
phone 973/353-5262
fax 973/353-1050

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