



303 Cooper Street • Camden • New Jersey 08102-1519
856/225-6095 • FAX 856/225-6495

Roger J. Dennis
Provost

Dear Friend of Rutgers-Camden:

As we close the 2004-05 academic year, I would like to begin a series of conversations with you, our graduates and friends.

Let me begin by acknowledging that Rutgers-Camden continues to work on improving its communications with our graduates. During the past few years, our schools and colleges and the campus alumni relations office have significantly increased their outreach initiatives to our alumni, so you likely have a better handle on the activities of your college as well as the alumni events available to you.

Of course, Rutgers-Camden is much more than the sum of its individual academic units. The campus is a vibrant center for research that resonates in scholarly disciplines around the world just as strongly as it does at home in New Jersey. Students in every academic program post successively greater accomplishments. Our efforts to improve the quality of life are making a real impact on communities from Camden to Cape Town.

In October, Rutgers President Richard L. McCormick announced the findings of the Rutgers Constituency Research Project, which indexed how various audiences perceive Rutgers and its individual campuses. According to responses from students, faculty, and staff, Rutgers-Camden offers the highest quality of life and learning among the three regional Rutgers campuses. The survey is online at www.president.rutgers.edu/constituency_research.pdf.

Clearly, there's a lot to say about Rutgers-Camden. The past year was especially active, and laid the foundation for some exciting growth. Let me offer some highlights of those recent activities and future plans:

Physical Growth

Rutgers-Camden is committed to the continuous enhancement of the campus as a comfortable environment for learning, living, and working. During the past year, an underutilized facility at 405/07 Cooper Street was rehabilitated as the new home of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, as well as the Center for Childhood Studies. This renovation reflects our ongoing efforts to bring new life to Cooper Street and Camden's burgeoning University District.

In January, the Board of Governors approved the construction of a new four-story, 50,000-square-foot facility for the School of Law. This \$37 million project is partially funded by an \$11 million grant from the State of New Jersey through the Municipal Recovery and Rehabilitation Act of 2002, and another \$1 million state grant; the balance of the project will be bonded by Rutgers and generously supported by our friends and alums. Groundbreaking is slated for late 2005, and occupancy is anticipated in 2008. When completed, the new facility will provide our first on-campus moot courtroom; appropriate space for our clinical and pro bono legal programs; and seminar classrooms and office space. The building is being designed by Ayres Saint Gross, a firm with exceptional experience in creating state-of-the-art space for preferred academic institutions nationwide. The facility will stand on Fifth Street on the former DeMartini parking lot.

Plans are progressing to build additional on-campus student housing and a Science Building suitable to the research of the 21st century, as well as to renovate the Gymnasium. These facilities are of crucial importance to student recruitment and campus growth.

Programmatic Growth

Long considered an outstanding resource for undergraduate and master's-level education, Rutgers-Camden is poised to add doctoral programs to its portfolio in a thoughtful manner that reflects the strengths of the campus and the needs of the higher education marketplace.

The launch of a doctoral program in childhood studies in 2006 will place Rutgers-Camden at the forefront of an emerging scholarly field. Our faculty are national leaders in this area, and their reputation for innovative research and effective teaching will fuel the growth of Rutgers-Camden's first doctoral program. Additional doctoral programs in public affairs and computational biology will be introduced within the next few years.

New master's programs in psychology and computer science will debut in 2006.

These new programs help to cement Rutgers-Camden's reputation for excellence in research and graduate education and will attract top students and scholars from across the nation. Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean Margaret Marsh has taken a leadership role in establishing these programs, and she and the FAS faculty are to be commended for their creativity in assembling unique academic offerings that exceed every standard of excellence.

Campus reputation continued to grow during the past year. In the 2006 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of the nation's law schools, the School of Law advanced to 65, tied with Chicago-Kent, Temple, and Houston. In 2004, the Rutgers-Camden law school was listed at 73, up from its listing as 78 in 2003. While such rankings are subject to justifiable criticism, it would be disingenuous to suggest that we take no pride in the upward trajectory of our law school. Dean Rayman Solomon and the faculty, staff, students, and graduates of the School of Law deserve congratulations for their demonstrable progress toward building a public law school of national distinction.

Our School of Business, which prepares undergraduate and MBA students to be successful managers of change, currently is in a period of transition. After more than 30 years of service to Rutgers, Dean Milton Leontiades has announced his retirement. During Milt's 16 years as dean, the Rutgers-Camden business school has emerged as a prominent center for economic development, scholarly research, and business education. Rutgers-Camden became southern New Jersey's first institution to receive accreditation (and subsequent reaccreditation) from the prestigious AACSB, an honor warranted by the superior quality of the school's faculty, students, and programs. Milt has forged an identity for the business school that has advanced Rutgers' reputation immeasurably, and Rutgers-Camden is indebted to him for creating such a strong academic and service presence in this very competitive higher education market. A national search for his successor is underway; I will be certain to keep you apprised of our progress.

Faculty Achievements

Rutgers-Camden's strong academic programs are rooted deeply in the excellence of the faculty. No doubt many of you recall the ability of your professors to introduce new insights on existing subjects, to deliver ideas and perspectives that accelerated your education ahead of the curve.

Such is the nature of a research university. I am pleased to report that the faculty contributed greatly to the advancement of knowledge across every discipline during the past year, and were honored for their achievements in teaching and research. Here are just a few examples:

Dr. Carol Kaufman-Scarborough (professor, marketing) was selected by the Center for Retailing Studies at Texas A&M University as the recipient of the Outstanding Retailing Educator Award. The sole recipient of this top national honor, she was selected by her peers and retail executives nationwide on the basis of her effective teaching inno-

vations that prepare the next generation of retail industry leaders, as well as her role as a mentor for Rutgers-Camden undergraduate and MBA students. The award was co-presented by JCPenney and the National Retail Federation

The National Endowment for the Humanities rarely bestows more than one award to an institution during an academic year, so the receipt of two such grants places Rutgers-Camden in unique company indeed. Dr. Jacob Soll (associate professor, history) received a NEH Fellowship to research his forthcoming book, "The Secret Sphere: Jean-Baptiste Colbert's State Information System." Dr. Alan Tarr (professor II, political science and director, Center for State Constitutional Studies) was named the recipient of a NEH Fellowship Award, which will support his research into "Judicial Process and Judicial Accountability." Dr. Soll's award is the fourth recently awarded by the NEH to Rutgers-Camden's history faculty.

Faculty research merited significant support from other federal agencies as well. The National Institute on Drug Abuse provided a five-year, \$1.15 million grant to Dr. J.W. "Bill" Whitlow Jr. (professor, psychology), which will allow him to work with science teachers and students from the Camden and Penns Grove/Carneys Point school districts to motivate participation at regional science fairs, with an additional goal to encourage New Jersey's teens to pursue careers in the science and health sectors.

Dr. Daniel Shain (associate professor, biology) earned a competitive three-year, \$425,773 National Science Foundation grant to conduct groundbreaking molecular research into the unique biomaterials found in a cocoon produced by *Theromyzon rude*, an aquatic leech found in North America.

New books by Rutgers-Camden faculty added to research libraries and popular dialogue this year. The School of Law was especially prolific in this regard. Prof. Imani Perry (assistant professor, law) authored "Prophets of the Hood: The Politics and Poetics of Hip Hop" (Duke University Press), an incisive look into an important segment of American culture. "Taxation: Law, Planning, and Policy" (LexisNexis), by Prof. Michael Livingston (professor, law) provided concise research in the area of tax law.

Rutgers-Camden legal scholars confronted controversial matters in their books. Prof. Jay Feinman (professor II, law) offered a singular perspective on law and politics with his book, "Un-Making Law: The Conservative Campaign to Roll Back the Common Law" (Beacon Press). Prof. N.E.H. Hull (professor II, law) co-edited "The Abortion Rights Controversy in America: A Legal History" (University of North Carolina Press).

Similarly, Dr. Janet Golden (professor, history) published a new book widely hailed as an important contribution to the field of childhood studies. "Message in a Bottle: The Making of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome" (Harvard University Press) earned critical acclaim from the *New England Journal of Medicine* for its comprehensive examination of an underreported health crisis.

Student Accomplishments

The opportunity to work with faculty on research projects distinguishes the Rutgers-Camden experience for undergraduate and graduate students alike. A recent example comes from the chemistry department, where graduate student Anne Loyle and undergraduate student Jean-Pierre Pinto, working with Dr. Alex Roche (assistant professor, chemistry), coauthored research papers that appeared in the *Journal of Fluorine Chemistry* and the journal *Polymer Prep*, as well as a forthcoming paper in the journal *Magnetic Resonance in Chemistry*.

Dr. Roche credits the student researchers for their skill, a commendation echoed by outside agencies. Ms. Loyle, who returned to school after 10 years in the restaurant business, recently received one of less than 30 "Excellence in

Graduate Polymer Research" national awards presented by the American Chemical Society Polymer Division. Mr. Pinto, an undergraduate involved in this project, was awarded an American Chemical Society Scholarship for the remaining years of his undergraduate studies.

Third-year School of Law students Kelly Gower, Heather Demirjian, and Jennifer Simon turned in a superb performance at the Ninth Annual International Environmental Moot Court Competition in October when, for the first time in campus history, a Rutgers team advanced to the quarterfinals and was undefeated through four rounds of oral argument against formidable competition from 26 law schools. Similarly, the Rutgers-Camden National Moot Court Team advanced to the national finals of the National Moot Court Competition for the third time in four years and earned Runner-up Best Brief honors in Region III for the second time in three years. In the words of the coordinator of the Region III competition at this year's awards ceremony, "Rutgers-Camden has emerged as a Region III moot court powerhouse."

Rutgers-Camden undergraduate business students combined classroom knowledge with popular culture and their own personal moxie to produce "The Intern," a weeklong competition that required student teams to apply their best strategic thinking to the task of collecting items for Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey, which, in turn, would resell the products to benefit regional job training initiatives.

Athletics

Scarlet Raptors and Pioneers alike had reason to celebrate throughout the year, as intercollegiate sports teams generated excitement and established Rutgers-Camden as a force to be reckoned with in the New Jersey Athletic Conference.

The men's soccer squad posted its best season in school history with a 15-2-4 record, which included a program-record 15th win of the year against Kean University in the first round of the NJAC tournament. The previous school record for wins was set in 1981.

On the women's basketball team, center Megan Rulon was named the nation's leading shot blocker among Division III players. The Rutgers-Camden women's crew team made school history April 17 at the Knecht Cup on the Cooper River, posting the first victory ever for the Women's Frosh/Novice Eight and winning the Division III final.

In April, the Rutgers-Camden softball team was voted fifth in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division III Top 25 poll, and remained on that list throughout the season, ending at 11. The team made the finals of the NCAA Division III Softball East Regional Tournament, and pitcher Michelle Schlichtig became the first All-American softball player in Rutgers-Camden history when she was named to the 2005 Louisville Slugger/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division III All-America First Team.

Baseball scored equally well, with the Scarlet Raptors breaking into the American Baseball Coaches Association/Collegiate Baseball NCAA Division III poll. Tameka Jackson finished eighth in the 100-meter dash at the 2005 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships to capture All-America honors for the second straight year.

Alumni Activity

Rutgers-Camden graduates are reconnecting with the campus in greater numbers than ever before. In May, more than 800 graduates and guests were among the very first visitors to the new Adventure Aquarium on the Camden Waterfront during the annual All-Campus Reunion. Many of you returned to campus for the first time in years, and a few even stayed the weekend in the on-campus housing complex. Just a few weeks later, several hundred gradu-

ates and friends visited the Rutgers tent during the Regatta on Cooper River. Throughout the year, the Office of Alumni Relations hosted gatherings keyed to cultural activities on campus and across the Delaware Valley, providing graduates with numerous opportunities to catch up with friends and faculty.

The academic units also reached out to their graduates. School of Law alumni enjoyed a series of regional gatherings throughout the northeastern United States. School of Business graduates networked at an annual mixer and participated in Rutgers events produced for the business community. Many academic units within the College of Arts and Sciences maintained close contact with their graduates, while Dean Margaret Marsh traversed the nation in her quest to visit alumni.

As graduates and friends of Rutgers-Camden, you have recognized our common interest in sustaining the reputation of the campus and the value of its degrees. Through your generous investments in our programs, we are able to provide scholarship assistance to students, attract top scholars, and offer new and innovative programs. On behalf of the entire Rutgers-Camden community, please accept my profound thanks for your continuing support.

Campus Safety

Campus safety remains a top priority for Rutgers. As many of you know, our neighborhood was targeted by an individual who committed three sexual assault crimes on and near the Rutgers-Camden campus during October and November. The perpetrator responsible for these reprehensible acts was killed during a Dec. 31 robbery attempt in Camden.

Immediately after the Nov. 22 assault on a Rutgers-Camden student, I held two town hall meetings where students offered their suggestions and recommendations about campus security. We took swift action taken on many of those ideas, which included enhancing existing technology and redeploying security patrols.

These efforts, and many others, are ongoing. Prior to the crimes perpetrated by this individual, Rutgers-Camden was known for its strong history as one of the nation's safest urban campuses. We are dedicated to restoring Rutgers' reputation as a secure learning environment for everyone.

I intend to provide campus updates to you on a quarterly basis. If I may answer any questions in the interim, or if you have ideas that you would like to share, please feel free to do so.

Sincerely,

Roger J. Dennis