



**Faculty of  
Arts and Sciences**

# Rutgers-Camden

Camden College of Arts and Sciences  
Graduate School and University College

## Annual Report 2005-2006

► **Dean's Letter**

Camden Faculty of Arts  
and Sciences

Research Centers and  
Initiatives

Academic Departments

Undergraduate  
Programs

The Graduate School

Student Services

Appendices

December 6, 2006

Roger Dennis, Esquire  
Provost

Dear Provost Dennis:



Arts and Sciences has decided to retain the practice of compiling an annual report for several practical reasons. It allows us to benchmark our progress towards our collective goals and objectives, as well as to discuss obstacles and impediments. Annual Reports provide easily accessible comparative data; having such data assists us to make judgments both about academic matters and resource allocation. It also provides you, Executive Vice President Furmanski, and President McCormick with useful information about FAS in Camden.

We are pleased to announce that on July 1, 2005, Dr. Michael Palis became Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Palis, the founding Chair of the Department of Computer Science, is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is a leading scholar in the areas of parallel and distributed computing, real-time systems, design and analysis of algorithms, and computational complexity. We are delighted to have him join us as Associate Dean.

On June 30, 2006, Dr. Marie Cornelia stepped down as Associate Dean for the Graduate School, leaving behind an exceptional legacy of accomplishment, including the implementation of new graduate programs and several new concentrations in existing graduate programs – totaling twelve in all. Until Christopher Dougherty joined us as Associate Dean for University College two years ago, Marie served in that position as well, and she has been an exceptional teacher and mentor. In 2005, one of her former students, JoAnn Mower, endowed a teaching prize in honor of Professor Cornelia and two other faculty members, Robert Ryan and Christine Dougherty. She has made a major difference to the Graduate School and to the campus. We cannot thank her enough. Dr. Cornelia will retire at the conclusion of the academic year 2006-07.

Dr. Cornelia will be succeeded as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies on July 1, 2006 by Luis Garcia, Professor (and former Chair) of Psychology. Honored with the Alumni Association's Outstanding Teacher Award (2001), the Provost's Award for Teaching Excellence (2005), and the Class of 1962 Public Service Award (in 1993). Professor Garcia is past President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality – Eastern Region and the author of more than two dozen research articles as well as a book on ethical issues in psychology.

Several years ago, when New Jersey was for the first time considering the possibility of consolidating its three public research universities, our

campus took the opportunity to examine its own future, with or without major restructuring of the three universities. We all agreed that our future success would require us to develop and enhance our programs so that Rutgers-Camden could emerge as a top-ranked small urban public research university. In Arts and Sciences, we concluded that in order to make achievement of that aspiration possible within the next decade, it was essential for us to pursue five goals: 1) attract high quality undergraduate students and provide additional opportunities for their intellectual growth; 2) expand opportunities for graduate education; 3) increase opportunities for adult learners; 4) enlarge our endowment funds through the Gateway Endowment Campaign; and 5) increase capacity by adding capital and human resources.

To further these goals, in April of 2006 the Dean's Task Force, co-chaired by Associate Dean Michael Palis and incoming Associate Dean Luis Garcia, was formed. Its membership includes elected and appointed faculty members, students, alumni/ae, and administrators. The Task Force was charged with recommending procedures for implementing the goals described above, devising specific strategies for implementing the goals, recommending additional goals, if warranted, and establishing benchmarks for measuring progress towards these goals. The Task Force will complete its work early in 2007.

Even as the Task Force is at work, we have been pleased that we have begun to make progress towards achieving some of our goals. In graduate education, perhaps our most exciting news is the approval of our new Ph.D. program in Childhood Studies. The interdisciplinary study of children and childhood within historical, multi-cultural, national, and global contexts, Childhood Studies provides new insights into the lives of children and the families, cultures, and societies within which they are embedded. Although human development programs have studied children for decades, Childhood Studies is a new field. Rutgers-Camden is the first university in the United States to offer the Ph.D. in Childhood Studies. We will also offer the B.A. and the M.A. degrees.

Proposals for two other Ph.D. programs, in Computational Biology and in Public Affairs, are in the development phase. Enrollments in existing programs are robust, and the Graduate School initiated a second option to our own undergraduates in addition to its popular dual degree program. The new "joint degree" program will make it possible for qualified entering first year students to complete their Bachelor's and Master's degrees in any of our 30 credit master's programs in a total of five years. Other graduate programs approved this year include those at the Master's level in psychology and computer science. Our proposal for an MFA in creative writing was approved at the campus level and will be reviewed in New Brunswick in the fall of 2006. Our proposal for a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, which we will offer jointly with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, is now in New Brunswick and awaits university approval.

We are delighted that we continue to attract high quality faculty, and in the fall of 2005 we welcomed nine tenure-track faculty in seven disciplines. This infusion of new talent complements a strong core of senior faculty and will also enable us to move in new directions.

Our Gateway Endowment Campaign, still in its silent phase, is at sixty percent of our original goal. We expect to be over that goal within the next few months. As a result, we expect to raise the goal when we go public in the spring of 2007.

Our two gravest disappointments of the past year were a slight but

significant enrollment decline and a dramatic decrease in state funding for the university. The decline, although very small in percentage terms, was a particular disappointment because 2004 represented a high point of enrollment, both in numbers and in the high quality of our entering first-year class. In 2003, we had a total of 3407 undergraduate students in CCAS and University College. In 2004, our total was 4126, an increase of 21%. In 2005 our undergraduate enrollment stood at 4043, a decline of only 2%, but nearly all of the decline was in the number of first year students. Two specific issues in our host city appears to have accounted for the decline – the Morgan-Quitno ranking of Camden as “the most dangerous” city in America, and a series of sexual assaults by one person, three of them in the downtown, a generally safe neighborhood by any measure.

This disappointment was followed by significantly decreased state funding for Rutgers, prompted by a major statewide budget deficit. Such setbacks have made it even more important that we focus on the core missions of a public research university – high quality undergraduate teaching that serves the citizens of our state; excellent graduate education; world-class research that translates into providing a unique experience for our students; and public service that benefits the city, region, state, nation, and the world.

Our faculty have enjoyed working with undergraduates on faculty-led research projects or supervising students conducting independent research. Our generous donors support such efforts by contributing to the Undergraduate Research Fund and the Academic Excellence Fund, which fund student research projects. The faculty also continue to make major contributions in scholarship, teaching, and service. The departmental reports in this document highlight the faculty’s production of dozens of books, articles, presentations, poetry, musical recordings, and exhibits. The faculty this year received a total of nearly four million dollars in grants from government agencies and foundations. They have been elected to national and international societies, as well as editorial and foundation boards; appeared on television and radio; and been profiled in the national and the international press. They have also served their city, region, and state, by providing programs for the children of Camden, collaborating with elementary and secondary schools to strengthen education in the sciences, consulting on a host of regional and statewide questions, and sought to improve the lives of children and adults in our host city.

The Honors College, now enrolling more than four hundred students, continues to make a significant impact on the campus. In the spring, junior Maxim Kind succeeded Tyler Richendollar, a senior member of the Honors College, as president of the Student Governing Association. Eight students represented the College at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in St. Louis, and the College sponsored a variety of activities – on and off the campus – during the year. Four Honors College students were among the ten College of Arts and Sciences students inducted last spring into the Rutgers chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

We encourage students to participate in the campus’s commitment to our host city and region. Our students volunteered in the city of Camden; participated in applied research and service projects for the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, expanding their theoretical knowledge through interesting and relevant real world applications; and served internships at a broad range of institutions. Our undergraduate students also had the exciting opportunity to take part in study tours abroad – to England, France, Spain, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Egypt.

The three centers that are a part of Arts and Sciences – the Center for Children and Childhood Studies, the Center for State Constitutional Studies, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities, provided outstanding research and outreach programs. The Center for Children and Childhood Studies, directed by Professor Daniel Hart, sponsored a major conference in the spring on Race, Class, and Education, drawing five hundred registrants and featuring many of the nation's leading scholars in this field. The Center also continued to support research and outreach programs as well as the Rutgers University Press series in Childhood Studies.

The Center for State Constitutional Studies, directed by Distinguished Professor Alan Tarr, provided its expertise in the area of constitutional reform nationally to the states of Wisconsin, Missouri, and our own New Jersey; and internationally, in Italy, Burma, and Russia. The Center brought to the campus distinguished scholars on state constitutionalism as well. The highlight of the year was the publication, by New York University Press, of the Center's three-volume series, *State Constitutions for the Twenty First Century*.

The Humanities Center sponsored a major conference in November called "Beyond the Post-Industrial City." Built around the publication of Center Director Howard Gillette's *Camden After the Fall: Decline and Renewal of in a Post-Industrial City* and the Ford Foundation-sponsored website *invinciblecities.com*, which features the work of our Regional Fellow, photographer Camilo Vergara, the conference attracted more than four hundred registrants. Also featured at the conference was the first Richard Goodwin Lecture in honor of Civil Rights pioneer Ethel Lawrence, an endowed lecture series funded by philanthropist Richard Goodwin.

The Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs (WRI) and the Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership (CSUCL) do not report to Arts and Sciences but are headed by members of our faculty, Professor Richard Harris and Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor Gloria Bonilla Santiago respectively. The WRI engaged in a broad range of public service and applied research projects and raised funding for student support. The CSUCL engaged in a broad program of service and outreach to the community, and Professor Santiago spearheaded the expansion of the Educational Policy and Leadership concentration within the M.P.A. Program, which had earlier been offered only to teachers in Camden.

I am grateful for the support we've received from you and from the Central Administration in developing new programs. But of course we will all need more support in the coming years, including funding for physical and human capital, from our key constituents -- from the university to the State of New Jersey, from federal agencies to foundations, from corporations to our graduates and friends. Along with Associate Deans Dougherty, Garcia, Palis, and Rosoff, and Assistant Dean Boiskin, I am looking forward to working on this exciting challenge with you as well as the president, members of the central administration, and my fellow deans in Law and Business.

Sincerely,

Margaret Marsh  
Dean

[Back to Top](#)

