Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-Camden: A Five Year Retrospective

2000-2005

College of Arts and Sciences • University College • The Graduate School
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

A look back at five remarkable years in Arts and Sciences

The past five years have been a rewarding time in Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-Camden.

We have seen our innovative programs take dramatic leaps forward that have led, in turn, to truly noteworthy success:
- Freshman applications have increased to almost 7,500 annually,
- Enrollment has shot past 3,400,
- The number of degrees awarded annually has increased to more than 600,
- Research funding now exceeds $4.5 million annually, and
- Annual fund raising now regularly exceeds the $1 million mark.

As these statistics indicate, Arts and Sciences is enjoying one of the most successful and productive periods in its history. This five-year report chronicles these achievements and charts the substantial progress of Arts and Sciences.

We have pursued an agenda of dynamic programs to extend the research, service, and teaching mission of Rutgers across the state and the nation. Examples of these programs include:
- The Honors College, which creates a community of talented scholars and student leaders involved in research projects and community outreach.
- The creation of joint and dual degree programs such as the BA/MA and BA/JD that allow undergraduates to fast-track their graduate and professional studies.
- The Center for Children and Childhood Studies, which touches the lives of more than 40,000 children and adults through its emerging national leadership in research, teaching, and service activities.

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We have taken strides toward the establishment of doctoral programs in Childhood Studies (2007), Public Affairs (anticipated 2008), and Computational and Integrative Biology (anticipated 2008)—three cutting-edge national growth areas for higher education.

Thus Arts and Sciences offers students the best of two worlds:
- The small scale of a first-rate liberal arts college, plus
- The special opportunities offered by a major research university.

Our small size enables the faculty to give our students special attention in a comfortable intellectual setting, where they receive excellent preparation for graduate education, professional studies, and the workplace. Students in Arts and Sciences are privileged to work with professors who are creating and discovering the knowledge that will shape the twenty-first century.

Student achievements include the first Rutgers-Camden students inducted into the Rutgers chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s premier undergraduate honor society. Increasingly, student research is being recognized by prestigious academic organizations such as the American Chemical Society, the Eastern Sociological Society, SIGGRAPH, and the Popular Culture Association.

Our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the Dean’s Leadership Council can be proud of the central role they have played in these accomplishments.

Now, through the efforts of many, we will continue to build an even stronger future for generations of Rutgers-Camden students and the state we serve. As both Dean and a graduate of Rutgers-Camden, I am excited about the many possibilities the future holds.

Margaret Marsh, Ph.D.
CCAS 1967 and GSNB 1974

TIMELINE 1999-2000

- Assistant Professor of Psychology Mary Bravo’s research funded by National Science Foundation
- Associate Professor of Chemistry Georgia Arbuckle-Keil receives National Science Foundation award to support thermal properties research
- Professor of English Robert Ryan receives Keats-Shelley Distinguished Scholar Award
- Professor of Political Science Arthur Klinghoffer testifies about Rwanda at the United Nations
TIMELINE 2000-2001

- Center for Children and Childhood Studies launched—directed by distinguished Professor of Anthropology Myra Bluebond-Langner
- Professor of Sociology Robert Wood receives the Warren I. Sussman Award for Excellence in Teaching, Rutgers' premier teaching award
- MA in Criminal Justice implemented
- Dean's Leadership Council formed
- First Dean's Undergraduate Research Awards presented
- Distinguished Professor of Physics E. Roger Cowley receives SNJ-Commission on Higher Education grant for research into Hybrid Materials.
Seventy percent of the students on the Camden Campus are enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences

SAT scores top the national mean by more than 100 points

The College of Arts and Sciences enrolls seventy percent of the students on the Camden campus and student quality has risen consistently—with entering student SAT scores annually exceeding the national mean by more than 100 points.

Each year, the Dean’s Undergraduate Research Prize recognizes exemplary student research conducted under faculty guidance. Recipients have included:

• English student Susan Cheetham (2002) for her project on “Walt Whitman’s Kitchen,” directed by Associate Professor of English Carol Singley.

• Fine Arts students Robert Wuilfe, Bruce Massey, and Shaun Jennings (2003) for their project titled, “Animating Art History: Building a Bridge between Disciplines,” directed by Assistant Professor of Fine Arts LiQin Tan and Associate Professor of Fine Arts Roberta Tarbell.

• Political Science student David Healy (2004) for his project, “Reforming Automobile Insurance in New Jersey,” conducted with distinguished Professor of Political Science Alan Tarr.

• Psychology student Heather Fishman (2005) for her project, “A Qualitative and Quantitative Examination of Romantic Relationships and Health,” directed by Assistant Professor of Psychology Charlotte Markey. Fishman’s presentation at the Eastern Psychological Association Conference was supported by a Dean’s Undergraduate Travel Grant.

Academic excellence is highlighted annually at our Honors Convocation in the spring. Recipients of academic awards, campus service awards, and scholarships are recognized, as are the year’s inductees into Phi Beta Kappa, Athenaeum, and Alpha Sigma Lambda.

National award winners

Our students are also recognized nationally for their work and promise. For example, as a graduate English student, Carol Plum-Ucci received the top honor for books written for young adults, the Michael J. Printz Honor Book Award, for The Body of Christopher Creed (Harcourt Brace). She was one of only four authors nationwide to receive this award.

As an undergraduate student in Physics, Annita Ngatchou was awarded a Willie Hobbs Moore-Harry L. Morrison Physics Scholarship by Black Enterprise magazine through a partnership with the National Society of Black Physicists to encourage African Americans to pursue advanced degrees in Physics.

Faculty-student research

The opportunity to work with faculty on research projects distinguishes the Rutgers-Camden experience for undergraduate and graduate students alike.

Competitive research grants support students engaging in research under faculty guidance. Travel grants are also provided to support undergraduate and graduate student presentations at conferences.

In 2002, Biology student Kristi Hohenstein was recognized for her project on “Cloning the ATP synthase beta subunit in the ice worm, Mesenchytraeus solifugus,” directed by Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Daniel Shain. Kristi is currently enrolled in the Biology Ph.D. program at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Shain recently received a research grant from the National Institutes of Health to map genes associated with stem cell formation in leeches. Biology major Tej Nuthulaganti received a Dean’s Undergraduate Research Grant to support his research alongside Dr. Shain to examine how genes direct the formation of different cell types. In 2005, Dr. Shain received a research grant from NASA to examine how ice worms thrive on glacier ice. In this research, he will be joined by graduate Biology student Brittany Morrison who will study the possibility of life on similar frozen environments in our solar system.
During the past five years, Arts and Sciences has been the beneficiary of increased giving among all of our constituencies—including alumnis, friends, corporations, and foundations.

Our supporters share our vision, believe in our mission, and universally understand that their contributions will, indeed, make a difference.

Among these pledges and gifts are:

• $826,000 from the Ford Foundation in support of the Center for State Constitutional Studies and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities
• $500,000 from Sila Calderon, former governor of Puerto Rico, to fund graduate fellowships for MPA students interested in pursuing graduate research in the areas of Community Development, Educational Advancement, and Community Leadership
• $330,000 from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation for the Center for Children and Childhood Studies Childcare Outreach and Assistance Program
• $110,000 from Anthony Virgilio to create a haiku poetry project honoring the legacy of Haiku Poet Nick Virgilio
• $110,000 from Richard Goodwin to create an annual scholarship and lecture focusing on the legacy of civil rights pioneer Ethel Lawrence
• $100,000 from Mary and Jack O’Malley (RC 1959) to create an endowed fund for academic excellence

• $60,000 from Donald (CCAS 1965) and Angela Tilton in support of the Academic Excellence Fund
• $50,000 from Baratz and Associates (Brian Baratz (CCAS 1972), Fran Mulroy (CCAS 1985), Ray Giunta (CCAS 1980), and Cliff Simmons (CCAS 1981)) to create an endowed scholarship for the Honors College
• $45,000 from C. Edward Chaplin (RC 1978) to create an endowed scholarship for English in honor of his mother Professor Miriam Chaplin, (GSED 1976)
• $81,000 from the New Jersey Devils Foundation for scholarships
• $27,000 from George (CCAS 1976) and Kay Mamo to create an endowed scholarship for the Honors College
• $25,000 from Edward (CCAS 1977) and Carolyn Kiessling to create an endowed scholarship for the Honors College
• $25,000 from Eva, Sylvia (DC 1990), and Nicholas Bidwell to create an endowed scholarship in Mathematics in honor of their late father, husband and much-loved Mathematics faculty member, Professor Leonard Bidwell
• $25,000 from JoAnn Mower (GSC 2003) and Sandy Zeller to create an endowed award for teaching excellence, in honor of Professors Marie Cornelia, Robert Ryan, and Christine Cosentino-Dougherty
• $25,000 from Howard Gillette and Margaret Marsh, CCAS 1967 and GSNB 1974 toward the Gateway Endowment Fund
Distinguished faculty recruited
Enhancing student learning begins with innovative, talented, and dedicated faculty. That is why we aggressively recruit superior scholars and researchers. Since 1999 we have added new faculty members in all areas of the academic spectrum. We continue to maintain a 15:1 student/faculty ratio, allowing for close interaction between students and their professors.

Exciting new programs
Our programs and resources draw faculty and students together for common purposes—supporting our mission of teaching, research, and service to the region, the state, the nation, and the world. Many programs enhance the faculty and student experience. Others break down traditional boundaries to broaden perspectives and understanding. For example:
- A web-enhanced curriculum supports studies in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice.
- Our Teacher Preparation Program combines discipline-based exploration of issues with experiential learning opportunities.
- The Freshman Seminar Program offers students the opportunity to take small classes taught by experienced faculty.
- Master’s degree programs now include criminal justice and public health, as well as new tracks in education policy and leadership, applied industrial mathematics, and the teaching of writing.
- Programs in digital design and electronic arts train students in cutting-edge technologies and techniques.

Research funding increasing
In 1998, we set our sights on achieving an ambitious goal of increasing research funding. From a base of $3 million in 1998, we have now surpassed $4.5 million in annual research funding. As external research funding increases, recruitment of even higher performing graduate students becomes imperative. Not surprisingly, enrollment in master’s programs—which has increased by 23% over the last five years—is due to the excellent reputation and dedication of our faculty.

At Rutgers-Camden, Arts and Sciences plans to pursue the goal of moving our campus into the ranks of leading small urban public research universities. This goal will be significantly enhanced with the establishment of new Ph.D. programs in the next five years.

FACULTY 2000-2005
Breaking down boundaries...broadening perspectives

Suneeta Ramaswami
Associate Professor of Computer Science

Joseph Barbarese
Associate Professor of English

J. W. Whitlow
Professor of Psychology

TIMELINE 2002-2003

- Board of Governors distinguished Service Professor in Public Policy Gloria Bonilla-Santiago launches the Leadership Academy for Principals with $640,000 funding from the Camden Board of Education
- Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice receives Rutgers University Award for Programmatic Excellence in Undergraduate Education
- Professor of Psychology Daniel Hart receives William T. Grant Foundation funding to support his research in the development of civic competence in adolescents
• Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities becomes first Camden Arts and Sciences research center to be endowed by qualifying for a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities
• The Center for Children and Childhood Studies receives William Penn Foundation and Knight Foundation grants to support the Center for Children and Childhood Studies Childcare Literacy Training Initiative
• Professor of Computer Science Jean-Camille Birget receives National Science Foundation grant for research in graphical passwords
• Martin Dillon, late Assistant Professor of Music, releases his CD, "Jungbrunnen," songs by German composer Robert Kahn

Lisa Zeidner
Professor of English
Lisa Zeidner has published four novels: Customs, Alexandra Freed, Limited Partnerships, and most recently Layover. Layover has been translated into six languages and is in production as a film. She has also published two books of poems, Talking Cure and Pocket Sundial, which won the Brittingham Prize in Poetry. Her short stories, essays, poems and reviews have appeared in GQ, The New Republic, The New York Times, Tin House, and many other publications. Her latest incarnation is as a screenwriter; she is currently working on a screenplay for Focus Features. At Rutgers, she runs an annual Summer Writers' Conference featuring nationally-known writers, as well as the Spring Writers' Conference—a one-day, free event that will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year, and has featured such writers as Toni Morrison, Richard Russo, and Nora Ephron.

Joseph Martin
Professor of Biology
Joseph Martin has acted as principal investigator on five research and equipment grants from the National Science Foundation, totaling more than a million dollars and closely involving undergraduate and graduate students. A major theme of Dr. Martin’s research has been the regulation of the receptor for aminobutyric acid (GABA), the major inhibitory neurotransmitter in the brain. The subtype of receptor on which Dr. Martin’s group focuses is the GABAA receptor, which opens a channel for chloride ions (“ionotropic” receptor) that open in the presence of GABA. Dr. Martin’s work was instrumental in demonstrating that the GABAA receptor has an important role in the regulation of sleep. In particular, his work helped to clarify the role of the GABAA receptor and the brain structures involved in the effects of hypnotic drugs.

Daniel Hart
Professor of Psychology
Daniel Hart is Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Children and Childhood Studies. Currently, he has two projects underway. The first uses national survey data to characterize the nature and development of civic competence. The second focuses on the effects of stress on personality regulation.

Dr. Hart is also active in translating research into practice. With Dr. Robert Atkins, Dr. Hart founded the STARR (Sports Teaching Adolescents Responsibility and Resiliency) Program. He also is co-founder of the Healthy Futures for Camden Youth Project, an initiative which seeks to increase enrollment among Camden’s families in New Jersey’s subsidized health insurance program for low-income families.

Photo by: Ken Yanoviak
Landmark work in childhood and state constitutional studies as well as an endowed regional center for the humanities lead the way

The Center for Children and Childhood Studies is fast becoming a national leader in the emerging field of childhood studies through its prominent research, teaching, and service activities.

The Center serves as the college's hub for interdisciplinary research in childhood studies, a field in which our faculty have significant strength. We have begun taking steps to bring this excellence in teaching and scholarship to the next level by developing BA, MA, and Ph.D. programs in Childhood Studies.

Childhood Studies as a field is new; our intent is to develop a scholarly agenda that focuses on childhood as a distinctive area of academic study in order to transform scholarly inquiry itself in a host of areas, from sociology, history, psychology, and religion, to business, medicine, and law.

In addition to the research activities of faculty associates, the five-year old Center, directed by Professor of Psychology Daniel Hart has an ongoing book series, a thriving seminar program that brings senior and junior scholars from along the New York-Washington metropolitan corridor together with our own scholars, and a successful minor in Childhood Studies.

The Center's signature outreach project, the Camden Campaign for Children's Literacy, has influenced the lives of more than 40,000 chil-

Faculty, staff and students associated with the Center for Children and Childhood Studies

TIMELINE

2004-2005

• Associate Professor of Biology Daniel Shain receives three-year, $425,773 National Science Foundation grant for his work with aquatic leech and their potential industrial and biomedical applications
• Professor of Spanish and Department Chair of Foreign Languages Jonathan Tittler receives second Fulbright Award for Ecological Criticism and Spanish American fiction in Columbia and is named editor of the Journal of Columbian Studies
• World-renowned early music soprano distinguished Professor of Music Julianne Baird records a one-act Gluck opera, Il Parnaso Confuso.
• Board of Governors Professor of History Philip Scranton spends the year as Charles A. Lindbergh Chair in Aeronautic and Aerospace History at the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC
children and adults in its four years of operation. Since 2001, the Center has placed hundreds of used books into the hands of eager young Camden learners. As a result of this initiative, the Camden public library system has realized a 38% increase in library card registration and a 26% increase in circulation.

The Honors College includes student and faculty scholars who participate in a challenging academic program that includes honors seminars, junior and senior year projects, and extracurricular activities. Rutgers-Camden Honors College students share similar traits: great minds, good hearts, and the leadership potential to change the world. The Honors College seeks such students from across the nation and around the globe; selection into the program is highly competitive.

The Honors College remains a point of pride, offering special opportunities for talented students. Nearly four hundred of our undergraduate students are enrolled in the Honors College. Students enjoy the intellectual stimulation provided by intensive classroom experiences, trips to cultural events in the region, and overseas travel through our International Studies program.

The Center for State Constitutional Studies, directed by distinguished Professor of Political Science Alan Tarr, continued its Ford Foundation-funded project on state constitutions for the twenty-first century, which is designed to chart directions for the reform of American state constitutions. SUNY Press is publishing three books emanating from the project in 2006. The Center served as a consultant to the Governor’s task force that explored holding a constitutional convention about property tax in New Jersey.

The Center also expanded its international activities, including its ongoing “Global Dialogue on Federalism.” With funding from the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, the Center hosted a conference on “Federalism and Subnational Constitutions” in Bellagio, Italy. The conference led to the formation of the International Association of Subnational Constitutional Law, organized by Professor Tarr.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH), directed by Professor Howard Gillette of the History Department, was recently endowed through a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, making it the first endowed research center on this campus. With funding from the Ford Foundation, MARCH also brought to the campus as its first regional fellow the highly acclaimed urban photographer Camilo Vergara. A MacArthur Fellow, Vergara has been photographing inner city areas, including Camden, for more than a quarter of a century.

The Regional Center works with humanities professionals to tap the power of the region’s expansive cultural heritage to enrich community life, inspire visitors, and revitalize the economy. Examples of understanding the past and enriching the present include exploring innovative methods to sustain long-term achievements at such sites as the Bethlehem Steel site in Pennsylvania and Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. The Center introduces graduate students to public history and offers workshops, institutes and video exchanges to prepare a wide range of constituents to take better advantage of existing regional cultural resources. As the sponsor of the annual Fredric Miller lecture in public history, MARCH serves further to bring best cultural practices to the attention of the general public.
Earning our place among the nation’s top-ranked small urban public research universities

Arts and Sciences has always offered an excellent education and we continue to commit ourselves to providing students with a comprehensive learning experience. In order to take the next step toward being ranked among the nation’s top small urban public research universities, we will need to increase our research, classroom, and recreation spaces. We will also need to expand the size of the faculty.

These five strategies will help us earn our place at the next level.

1. Attract high quality undergraduate students and provide additional opportunities for their intellectual growth by...
   - Formalizing and expanding opportunities for undergraduate research
   - Strengthening the Honors College
   - Engaging in a variety of recruiting initiatives

2. Expand opportunities for graduate education by...
   - Creating new Ph.D. programs
   - Continuing to expand master’s degree programs
   - Encouraging the development and expansion of dual and joint degree programs.

3. Increase opportunities for adult learners by...
   - Offering more flexible degree programs
   - Establishing non-degree and certificate programs
   - Developing offsite programs

4. Increase capacity by adding capital and human resources by...
   - Adding a new science building
   - Constructing a new classroom and office building for Arts and Sciences and renovating existing classroom and office space
   - Expanding the number of faculty

5. Engage supporters for the College by...
   - Building a sizable endowment for Arts and Sciences
   - Supporting students and faculty
   - Endowing the Honors College and centers of excellence.
LEADERSHIP

Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-Camden

Dean’s Office
Margaret Marsh, Ph.D.
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences/University College/The Graduate School
Marie Cornelia, Ph.D. (through June 2006)
Associate Dean, The Graduate School
Luis Garcia, Ph.D. (beginning July 2006)
Associate Dean, The Graduate School
Michael Palis, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
B. Christopher Dougherty, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, University College
Director, Educational Opportunity Fund Program
Nancy G. Rosoff, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Administration and Academic Program Development,
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Jonathan Boiskin, MA
Assistant Dean for Development, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Dean’s Leadership Council
Brian Baratz, CPA CCAS 1972
Principal
Baratz & Associates, P.A.
Co-Chair, Arts and Sciences Dean’s Leadership Council
Edward Kiesling, CPCU CCAS 1977
Senior Vice President
Commerce Insurance Services
Co-Chair, Arts and Sciences Dean’s Leadership Council
Richard Aregoop CCAS 1965
Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist
Anthony DePietris CCAS 1984
Director of Administrative and Personnel Services
LEAP University Charter School
Member, Rutgers University Board of Trustees
Paula Heichel CCAS 1971
First Vice President of Investments
Smith Barney
Stephen Hovnanian CCAS 1973
Principal
J. S. Hovnanian & Sons, Inc.
Daniel J. Hughes CCAS 1979
President
Metro Commercial
Patricia Egan Jones CCAS 1994
Surrogate
Camden County
Robert King UCC 1977
President and CEO
Sterling Bank
Dan Klepacki ENG 1972
Manager, Delivery Supply Chain Management
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Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-Camden is Committed to Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Service

We expect to be, and to be recognized as, one of the best small public urban research universities in the nation.

The College of Arts and Sciences, University College, and the Graduate School at Camden offer opportunities for learning in the liberal arts and sciences, for developing new knowledge through research and the creative arts, and for serving multiple constituencies through a wide variety of approaches.

Our vision leads us to serve the region, state, nation, and world by:
• Providing a rich and comprehensive source of excellent higher education, emphasizing academic programs at all levels;
• Developing new knowledge through research and creative achievement, which fundamentally advances scholarship and promotes the public good; and
• Engaging and serving the community by using knowledge-based responses to major issues.