



FRANK TALK



I greet you in Rutgers spirit!

Welcome to the new year of the Rutgers Alumni Association. You will notice some exciting changes and challenges as we get underway with the 2008-09 year. First, you probably have noticed that you have not been solicited for membership dues for the current year. As of July 1, 2008, in cooperation with the university, the Rutgers Alumni Association is no longer charging dues for membership. Be assured, however, that you will still receive all of the privileges that you enjoyed as a dues paying member of the Rutgers Alumni Association. In addition, as the school launches the new Rutgers University Alumni Association (RUAA), encompassing all campuses including Camden and Newark, there will be no charge for membership in that association as well. You now automatically belong to both.

Sound confusing? You are not alone. After all, we now have a 177-year-old Rutgers Alumni Association existing side-by-side with a brand new Rutgers University Alumni Association. What's the difference? Well, first of all, the Rutgers Alumni Association is a New Brunswick-based association, representing more than 50 percent of New Brunswick/Piscataway graduates. It remains the fourth oldest alumni association in America, founded in 1831, an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing service, social, and volunteer opportunities for more than 10,000 active members. While the Rutgers Alumni Association began with Rutgers College back in 1831, throughout our history we've grown to incorporate graduates from the School of Engineering, Mason Gross School of the Arts, the School of Management and Labor Relations, the Graduate School-New Brunswick, School of Education, and the (former) School of Agriculture. In addition, we have collaborated on our programs with alumni from Livingston College, Cook/CAES, and University College, New Brunswick.

The RUAA, by contrast, was set up by the university with a goal of unifying alumni from all campuses and schools, including our sister campuses in Newark and Camden, and incorporating regional clubs globally. While I strongly believe in the long-term promise of the new unifying association, current volunteer opportunities largely remain within the associations already in existence, of which the Rutgers Alumni Association is the largest.

Over the course of the next year, my executive committee will be working hard to make a seamless integration of the (New Brunswick-based) Rutgers Alumni Association with the RUAA. It will also work to ensure the continued long-term operation and success of our programs and committees, and expanded opportunities for alumni who love Rutgers. In addition to my role with the Rutgers Alumni Association, I sit on the inaugural board of the Rutgers University Alumni Association at President McCormick's request, and will be working hard to ensure its success. While there are sure to be challenges with this integration, I am confident in the leadership of the Rutgers Alumni Association, the Rutgers University Alumni Association, and our friends in the university's Alumni Relations Department.

In the interim, if your schedule allows, I encourage you to attend a Rutgers Alumni Association board meeting and become involved. You can contact me directly at frank.hundley@alumni.rutgers.edu, or visit our website at www.rutgersalumni.org for a list of activities and committees. Our first board meeting of the year is on Wednesday, September 24 in the Faculty Dining Room at Brower Commons on the College Avenue Campus. Simply go to our web site to register.

I look forward to seeing you. And thanks for your commitment to Rutgers.

Frank Hundley RC '86
President, Rutgers Alumni Association