

1766

Alumni Magazine



The magazine published
by and for the
Rutgers Alumni Association
of New Brunswick

SUMMER 2014

Lieutenant General Charles Croom RC'73, ENG'73

The logo is on a white rectangular sign attached to a wooden podium. It features the word 'RUTGERS' in a large, purple, serif font. Below it, the words 'School of Engineering' are written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. The background of the sign has a faint, light blue map of New Jersey with green lines representing roads or rivers.

RUTGERS
School of Engineering

ALSO INSIDE:

- Big Changes to College Avenue Campus
- JFK and Rutgers Special Connection
- Rutgers Enters the Big 10 Conference
...and more!



Rutgers Alumni Association
183 Years of Service to Rutgers Alumni

Founded in 1831, the Rutgers Alumni Association (RAA) is a 501(c)3 service organization maintained by and for the graduates of Rutgers College, the School of Engineering, the former College of Agriculture, the former School of Education, the Mason Gross School of the Arts, School of Management and Labor Relations, the Graduate School – New Brunswick, and other interested alumni from Rutgers New Brunswick/Piscataway campus. Chartered in 2008 as the largest affinity organization of the new university-wide alumni association (RUAA), the RAA's purpose is to create a vital, beneficial, and continuing relationship between Rutgers and its alumni around the globe. It partners with the university on events such as Reunion Weekend. The RAA also independently publishes *1766* to inform members about issues that concern them, provides funding to support deserving student organizations, awards an annual scholarship to a deserving legacy student, develops career seminars for graduates, and offers opportunities for volunteer service in all aspects of university life — from participation in governance committees to mentoring undergraduates. As the fourth-oldest organized alumni association in America, the 180-year-old Rutgers Alumni Association is proudly supported by a volunteer army fueled by nearly 200,000 alumni constituents. We welcome your participation.

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1766

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We are no longer located in Winants Hall. Please note our new contact information:

Rutgers Alumni Association

P.O. Box 11320
New Brunswick, NJ 08906
Phone: 732-932-7474
Fax: 732-377-2099

www.RutgersAlumni.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ken Johnson ENG '66

What a year!

The Rutgers Alumni Association has enjoyed another fabulous season fulfilling its mission of **Engaging Alumni, Helping Students, and Celebrating Rutgers**. Now, my term as President is drawing to a close - where did it go? I'll share a few observations of our successes in this article:

- **Engaging Alumni:** The RAA conducted, or participated in 30+ major events this year, and in that effort, reached hundreds of alumni - in person. More than 3-dozen new "recruits" came out.
- **Helping Students:** The RAA contributed \$10,000 directly to support student activities as part of our Grants & Gifts program, and participated in Career Nights, Senior Celebrations, Networking events, and Career planning for students
- **Celebrating Rutgers:** The RAA supported and participated in 6 major University events on the New Brunswick & Piscataway campuses, including Alumni Volunteer days (collected 450+ coats for Jersey Cares), Run for RAH (we won, again, the honor of highest level of support), and all the signature RUAA events.

We even moved into our new, larger offices in Piscataway!

While we were busy doing all this, the University was going through some big changes too. Rutgers joined the Big-10 (B1G), the CIC (an academic Big-10), and integrated the former UMDNJ into Rutgers.

By any measure, it was a banner year, all due to the outstanding dedicated volunteers that support and lead our organization. Next year, we intend to continue this level of excellence, and get back on track to deliver 2 issues of *1766* as well. Want to help? We would love to hear from you. ✨



KEN JOHNSON

Connect with us!



Follow the RAA on the Web, Facebook, and Twitter, and receive daily updates about alumni and events taking place on and off campus. Post your own news, links, photos and video, and find other alums or former classmates!



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The RAA would like to thank the following people for their generous donations to help endow the Vince Kramer Scholarship:

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Ms. Natalie Trehubets Van Tyne
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Big Change Comes to Rutgers New Brunswick

by Greg Bender ENG '68



It's finally happening. The Big One is coming. In fact, it's really big and it's here now. The Rutgers College Avenue Redevelopment Initiative has started and it promises to remake the College Avenue campus, which has been essentially unchanged for approximately 50 years, into the centerpiece of an elite public research university. Alumni, who have lived on the College Avenue campus, may now have children attending classes and living in the very same buildings. Indeed, the unchanged nature of the campus, while it provides a multi-generational feeling of familiarity to alumni, really covers a growing deficiency in academic and residential facilities that needed to be addressed. As Rutgers undergoes this remarkable transformation, it's appropriate to step back and take a look at what's changing, how the university is evolving and to see why this familiar territory finally had to be replaced.

Interestingly, when you discuss the “transformation” of the College Avenue campus with the Alumni Old Guard members, they'll remind you that the first “transformation” of the campus occurred around the early 1960s when Rutgers had similar problems of inadequate classroom and residence hall space for a growing student enrollment. The river dorms, Clothier, Metlar, Tinsley, Brower and Scott Hall arrived as the solution to the problem, all designed in the “Bond Issue Modern” style of architecture that we have all grown to know so well. With similar problems, and more, “transformation II” is upon us, only a half century later. This time, it's bigger – and better.

Generations of alumni have memories of walking from the river dorms and Clothier to classes in Scott Hall and other building on Voorhees Mall, being pelted by rain or chilled by the cold northwest wind off the Raritan River. Cutting through “The Seminary” was always a way, although unwelcome, to get

some shelter. It seems like everyone had classes in Scott Hall, which has easy access to the Grease Trucks, located across College Ave, in parking lot 8. Fond memories of a well-worn campus, however, are not enough to help Rutgers grow and serve the needs of New Jersey. Imagine what the College Avenue campus looked like, over 50 years ago, without the river dorms, Clothier, Brower Commons and Scott Hall. Rutgers changed and expanded to accommodate a growth in students, and that initiative was the last for over a half century. In fact, Scott Hall, in 1961, was the last classroom building built on College Avenue, and it was hailed as “the solution to the shortage of classroom space on the College Avenue campus.”

Rutgers now enjoys membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU) and has also entered the Big Ten Conference, and has added a medical school. In fact, the medical school and health

sciences integration represent the largest higher education merger in US history. Yet, at the center of Rutgers' most historic campus, like the hole in a donut, is a parking lot occupied by food trucks. Further, the highest point on the campus, overlooking the Raritan River, is occupied by the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, which is not a part of Rutgers. No doubt, it was time for a change.

The College Avenue Redevelopment Initiative

To add the much-needed classroom and residential / retail space, while unifying the campus and upgrading the prime locations, the university attempted to purchase the New Brunswick Theological Seminary site. While previous initiatives in the past had failed, this time the Seminary was willing to sell part of its property – the George Street end of its campus, commonly called “Holey Hill” – to Rutgers as part of its desire to consolidate its facilities and build a state-of-the-art building on College Ave. In a complex arrangement with the New Brunswick Development Corporation (DEVCO), Rutgers was able to create a plan for relocating the Seminary and developing four locations that will transform the College Avenue campus.



GREG BENDER REVISITS HIS UNDERGRADUATE ROUTE THROUGH THE SEMINARY TO VIEW THE BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION.

In a complex arrangement with the New Brunswick Development Corporation (DEVCO), Rutgers was able to create a plan for relocating the Seminary and developing four locations that will transform the College Avenue campus.

Heading down George Street, you can still see the statue of James Suydam, sitting calmly watching the back of Willie the Silent. He appears oblivious to all the action around him. The transformation starts here:

The first of the four sites is the “**Seminary Site**” or the block bounded by Seminary Place, College Avenue, Bishop Place and George Street. Most of this site is currently owned by the Seminary, however Rutgers University and Rutgers Hillel each own smaller parcels located within this block. The most important part of the College Avenue Redevelopment Initiative, this area will include:

The **College Avenue Academic Building**, which will actually be located on Seminary Place, opposite Voorhees Mall. This 200,000 square foot building will include larger classrooms and lecture halls – sort of a second coming of Scott Hall – and will be

the “home” of School of Arts and Sciences. With lecture halls that can accommodate as many as 20,000 students daily, this building will be a focal point at the end of Voorhees Mall.

At the George Street end of the Seminary property, the **Honors College Building** will provide a consolidated residential location for 550 Honors Program students. It will be specifically designed for intensive small group studies, specialized curriculum areas and faculty mentoring. The 170,000 square foot building will also house academic offices and faculty apartments, and since it will be sited atop “Holey Hill”, it will have a commanding view of the Raritan. Perhaps the location should be renamed “Academic Hill”? The state of the art Honors College will help Rutgers align its programs and offerings with others within the AAU and the Big Ten.

Continuing through Voorhees Mall to Scott Hall, you come to the second redevelopment area. The site, next to the university bus stop, is known as “**Lot 8**” – aka the “Grease Trucks Lot.” It’s located at the corner of College Avenue and Hamilton Street and is currently used as surface parking for the University. With the streets filled with students rushing to classes or waiting for their buses, the intersection feels like the center of Rutgers’ New Brunswick campus – and the empty “Lot 8” appears to resemble the hole in the donut. Looking past the demise of the grease trucks, which will be relocated to various parts of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



THE STATUE OF JAMES SUYDAM LOOKS OVER THE THE BEGINNING OF THE HONORS COLLEGE ON HOLEY HILL

Viewing the Locations

The overall project involves the redevelopment of approximately 10 acres existing on four main sites. The familiar walk from the river dorms is now a trip through a busy construction scene.

New Brunswick campuses, redevelopment of this location will add:

Student Apartment Building and Courtyard area. The apartment building will include the new look in Rutgers student apartment-style housing, which features single bedroom apartments for 500 students, extensive common areas, Wi-Fi, ground floor retail spaces and substantial green space. The courtyard area, dubbed by the university as the “Rutgers Living Room”, will feature a park-like setting, adjacent to the bus stop, that will include a large video screen that will broadcast Rutgers sporting events and movies.

The retail spaces will be designed to offer opportunities for the grease truck operators to operate a concession stand/food court configuration around the courtyard, preserving the tradition and spirit of the site.

The third site, also owned by Rutgers, is known as the “**Mine Street**” site, and is the former location of the Rutgers’ Catholic Center (which has since relocated from this site). As part of the redevelopment initiative agreement, this location will be rebuilt as housing for Seminarians who will attend the new Seminary located on College Ave.

Finally, walking back down Union Street leads to “**Lot 11**”, an existing Rutgers-owned surface parking lot located midway down the block. The lot will be reconfigured into a multi-



NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTI AND RUTGERS PRESIDENT ROBERT BARCHI TAKE PART IN THE COLLEGE AVENUE INITIATIVE GROUNDBREAKING

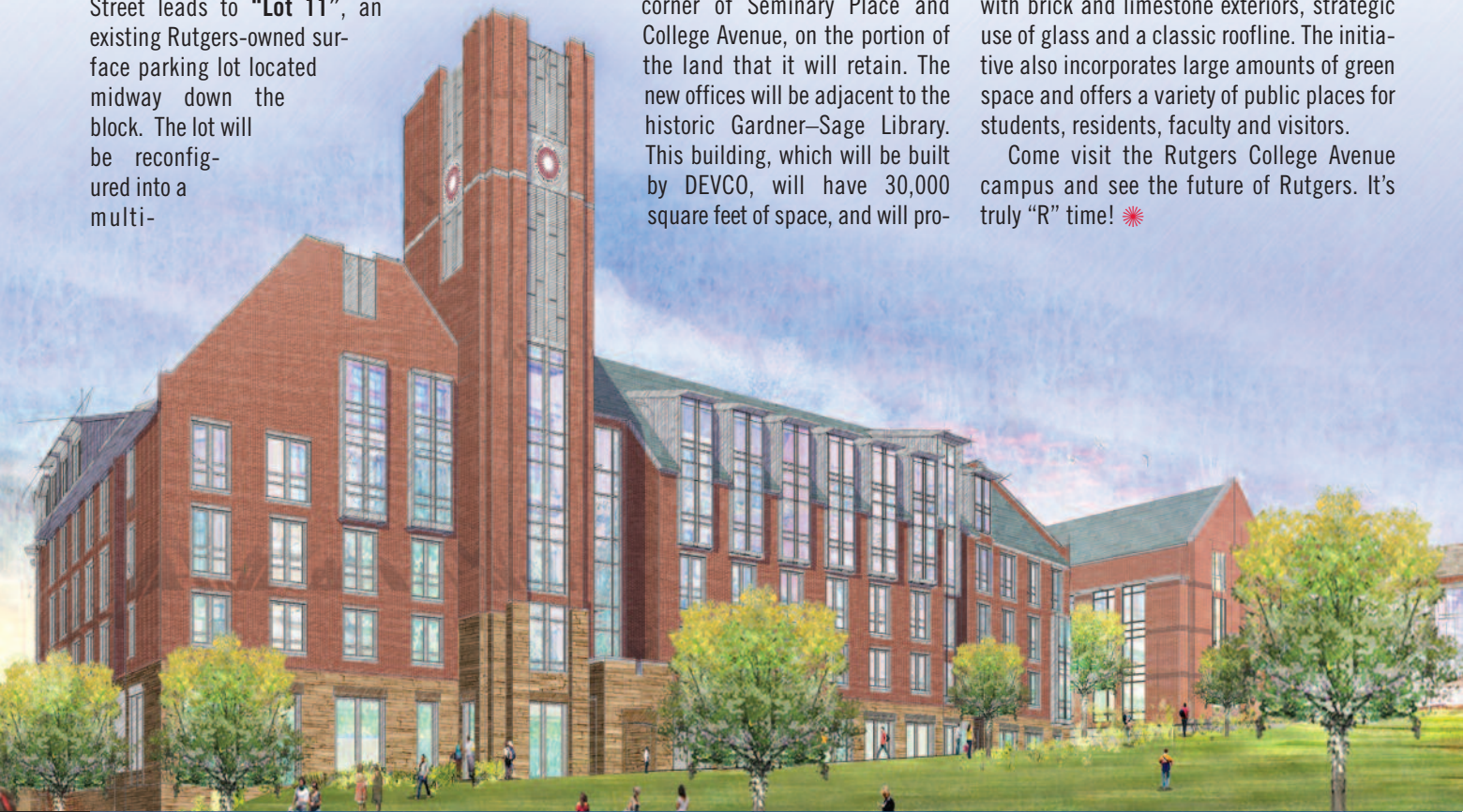
story parking structure, which will be quite a contrast from the traditional “Greek” roots of Union Street.

The College Avenue Redevelopment Initiative will also have some other non-Rutgers components that will be visible parts of the new look of College Avenue. The “new” New Brunswick Theological Seminary will relocate its operations to a new building at the corner of Seminary Place and College Avenue, on the portion of the land that it will retain. The new offices will be adjacent to the historic Gardner–Sage Library. This building, which will be built by DEVCO, will have 30,000 square feet of space, and will pro-

vide a distinct campus setting for the Seminary. Across College Avenue, the new location for Rutgers Hillel will be across from Ford Hall.

Unlike the first transformation of the College Avenue campus, the College Avenue Redevelopment Initiative has focused on an architectural style that is compatible with the character of Rutgers’ historic campus. The planned buildings are a traditional design, with brick and limestone exteriors, strategic use of glass and a classic roofline. The initiative also incorporates large amounts of green space and offers a variety of public places for students, residents, faculty and visitors.

Come visit the Rutgers College Avenue campus and see the future of Rutgers. It’s truly “R” time! ✨



Meet Lieutenant General Charles Croom RC'73, ENG'73

By Marisa Ann Dietrich

1864



From late-night forays for Grease Truck snacks to singing with the Glee Club behind the Iron Curtain, Rutgers provided some unique memories for Charlie Croom. Rutgers also gave him the education and training that led to a career serving the United States, first in the military, and now fighting cyber-terrorists.

Lieutenant General Charles “Charlie” Croom RC’73, ENG’73 retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2008 after a distinguished military career spanning 35 years, four commands, and multiple

global conflicts. He earned three stars and one of the top leadership positions in the military – that of director of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) for three years, as well as commander of the Joint Task Force for Global Network Operations. In both roles, he led a worldwide organization of more than 6,600 military and civilian personnel to serve the information technology and telecommunications needs of the President, Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, combatant commanders, and other Department of Defense stakeholders.

These days, though, Croom is fighting a different kind of war. In his current role as vice president of Cyber Security Solutions at Lockheed Martin, he serves as a key liaison between Lockheed Martin, the U.S. Department of Defense, and other key federal agencies. In this capacity, Croom is working to protect the world’s largest defense contractor and its clients from the type of cyber risks that Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta recently warned could amount to a “cyber-Pearl Harbor” wrought by computer hackers targeting the nation’s industries, power grid, transportation system, financial networks, and government.

It’s the kind of threat that might keep a cyber security professional like Croom awake at night, and Croom is all too well aware of the risks. “We’re a high-threat target,” he says of Lockheed Martin, for whom 95 percent of the customer base comprises governmental entities. “We build classified weapons systems for the government. A lot of adversaries would like to have that information and disrupt that capability,” he says, adding confidently: “But we’re very good at what we do.”

While Croom owes his illustrious career to his military service, he is the first to admit that he more or less fell into the job when he received his draft notice in 1969. “I didn’t choose the military;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



it chose me,” he is fond of saying. To fulfill requirements of the draft, Croom elected to enroll in the Air Force Reserve Officers’ Training Corps’ (ROTC) program offered at Rutgers College, where he also completed studies in electrical engineering. Upon graduating from Rutgers College in 1973, he entered active military duty. He thought he’d devote the next four years to military service and then move on, but encouragement from his commanding officers to consider a career in the military persuaded him otherwise.

Looking back, Croom says he feels no misgivings about being drafted in 1969 and devoting the next three-plus decades to military service. “I was blessed,” he says. “It was an honor to serve our nation with men and women in the military who are passionate about what they do.”

When he joined the ROTC in 1969, however, Croom encountered passion of another kind. His years at Rutgers were years of turmoil on college campuses across the country, where student activists protested U.S. involvement in Vietnam, and Rutgers was no different, Croom recalls. During his time at Rutgers, the Army building was burned down and protests forced the university to close down twice. Wearing his ROTC dress uniform for parade formations, Croom and his comrades were often taunted by fellow students. They managed to shrug it off, he says, and he bears no ill-will against the youthful protestors who once shouted at his fellow ROTC members.

Rutgers College had the air of an Ivy League institution, he recalls.

On Saturdays during football season, Croom and his buddies would don their dinks, blazers and ties, and walk to the Rutgers College football field to watch the Rutgers College men vie against visiting athletes. Back then, most of the team’s competitors were from the Ivy Leagues, and there was a fierce, hundred-year rivalry with Princeton University.

When he wasn’t attending games or engaged in ROTC activities, Croom explored the many opportunities Rutgers has to offer, pursuing his diversified interests in music and art (a passion he pursues to this day—he’s presently studying violin). He also decided to take a second degree in economics. Croom, who describes his younger self as an “introvert,” says Rutgers helped him become the man he is today. With the ROTC, he was selected as commander of cadets, a position that he says first awakened him to the idea that he could lead others. He was a member of Scarlet Key, a group that gave campus tours. And—especially memorable to him after all these years—was his experience singing with the Rutgers Glee Club. As part of the Glee Club troupe, he got to travel to Europe twice and to the U.S. Virgin Islands to perform.

Decades later, he can still remember every word of the Rutgers College alma mater. And while his military career has brought him to every



performance in Hungary, while the country was still behind the Iron Curtain. He would next experience life behind the Iron Curtain following the fall of the Berlin Wall when he was stationed in Germany. The Germans were wonderful to Americans, he recalls, and it “felt like living under a Christmas tree—green, clean, and beautiful.” In 1989, Croom witnessed the wall coming down. While there, he worked with a team that helped negotiate a treaty and also to discuss communication procedures in times of crisis with the Russians. What he remembers most about that experience were the distinct differences between East and West Germany as East Germans fled in antique wooden cars and carrying anything they could into ultramodern West Germany.



In fact, Croom has nothing but good memories of Rutgers College, at the time all male with a culture dramatically different than today’s. Then, students wore suits and ties and a type of head-hugging cloth cap known as a “dink,” and

country of Europe — and many other countries no tourist heads to, like Somalia, Kosovo, and Bosnia — he has never forgotten his youthful experiences traveling abroad with the Glee Club.

Particularly memorable to Croom was his

“When I was going to school, there were a lot of kids who were smarter than I was,” he says. “One thing to leave with Rutgers students today is that there is power in persistence. Sometimes you can make up for a lot of things by being very persistent.”

—CHARLES E. CROOM RC '73, ENG '73

While at Rutgers Croom also engaged in a time-honored tradition—grabbing a meal at one of several forerunners to today’s famous grease trucks. At the time, he recalls, the trucks pulled

up between the Student Union and the Rutgers Food Hall. Each night at 11 p.m., like clockwork, students would line up to get their favorite greasy fare.

These days, Rutgers football games are played in a mammoth stadium on Busch Campus and can clog traffic for miles around, and the artery-clogging grease trucks that Croom remembers as a guilty pleasure are now darlings of cable television's Food Network. Other things have changed as well since Croom's time at Rutgers—some things for the better, such as most Americans' perceptions about those serving in the military, he says.

"Now people recognize that these young men and women are doing their nation's bidding and that they should be applauded for that, whether they like the war we're involved in or not," says Croom. "We're certainly better off today than we were during Vietnam, when American citizens did not hold their military members in esteem, even though they were just doing the mission that they were given."

Still, Croom, who has experienced fickle, shifting views about the military during his career, worries about the fate of those who are serving today ten, twenty years from now. "The question is whether people will still feel [supportive] of these veterans, who have lost legs, arms, or have suffered head injuries, and will need to be taken care of."

And while not everyone will share Croom's regard for military service, he does believe that most everyone – and especially today's Rutgers students – will benefit from the core values he acquired during his military service.

"The Air Force's core values were 'Integrity First. Service before Self. Excellence in All We Do.' It's a great way to live your life," says Croom, who has made his life's career doing just that.

Croom is also a believer in the power of persistence. Admittedly, he was not the top student in his class at Rutgers College, but he feels he succeeded in his college and later in his military career through his resolve to persist. That success was recently recognized with the awarding of the Medal of Excellence from Rutgers School of Engineering

"When I was going to school, there were a lot of kids who were smarter than I was," he says. "One thing to leave with Rutgers students today is that there is power in persistence. Sometimes you can make up for a lot of things by being very persistent." ✨



Charles E. Croom RC'73, ENG'73

Vice President of Cyber Security Solutions, Lockheed Martin

Charles "Charlie" Croom joined Lockheed Martin Information Systems & Global Services in 2008 as vice president of cyber security solutions where he is responsible for shaping cyber security following a more than 30-year career of distinguished service and technology experience with the U.S. Air Force. A graduate of Rutgers University's ROTC program, Croom entered the Air Force in 1973. His career spanned four commands that included: major command, numbered air force, Air Staff, defense agency, Joint Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and unified command levels. Croom retired in 2008 as a U.S. Air Force lieutenant general, director of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), and the commander of the Joint Task Force for Global Network Operations.





by Bill Huneke RC'76, NLAW'79

“From passion to unrelenting pride.”

Rutgers Athletic Director Julie Hermann expects that is the path that Rutgers alumni, students, and staff will follow as we enter the Big Ten. When Hermann spoke to the Loyal Sons/Loyal Daughters dinner on April 12, she spoke of the changes that await Rutgers athletics. But she also reminded everyone that academics are an equally important part of membership in the Big Ten.

Rutgers, along with the University of Maryland, accepted an invitation to join the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), the nation's premier higher education consortium of top-tier research institutions, as part of their move into the Big Ten.

The 15-member consortium is a group whose roots are found in the elite research universities of the Midwest, and includes the University of Chicago as well as Big Ten Conference members such as the University of Illinois, Northwestern, the University of Michigan, Penn State, Ohio State and Purdue. The provosts who govern the CIC voted unanimously to invite Rutgers to join the consortium.

“Most of the schools in the consortium are, like Rutgers, large state universities that serve a similar mission,” said Rutgers president Robert Barchi. “This is where Rutgers belongs. The CIC is committed to advance its members’ academic missions, leverage campus resources, share expertise, and expand academic and research opportunities for students and faculty.”

For over half a century, CIC members have served the common good by sharing expertise, leveraging resources, and collaborating on innovative programs in such areas as course offerings, data storage, library assets, and more.

The CIC is a powerful collective force:

- CIC universities produce 15 percent of the Ph.D.'s awarded in the United States each year.
- CIC universities conduct \$8.4 billion in funded research each year.
- CIC libraries own 98 million library volumes, more than any other affiliated group of universities, including the Ivies and the California system.

“This opens a new realm of possibilities,” said Richard L. Edwards, executive vice president for academic affairs. “Our students will have access to new courses through distance learning technology, millions more library volumes and new study abroad programs.” The CIC’s Summer Research Opportunities Program for underrepresented students provides qualified undergraduates with intensive research experiences and has created a pipeline for future graduate students, faculty and professionals,” Edwards added.

Faculty and staff at CIC universities also have a wide range of opportunities to advance their research and scholarship and sharpen their professional skills. Through collaboration CIC members save money, share assets and increase teaching, learning and research opportunities. Founded in 1958, CIC members engage in voluntary, sustained partnerships such as library collections and access collaborations; technology collaborations to build capacity at reduced costs; purchasing and licensing collaborations through economies of scale; leadership and development programs for faculty and staff; programs that allow students to take courses at other institutions; and study-abroad collaborations. “Just the collaborative procurement aspect can save \$2 million” explained Hermann. “In these days, every dollar truly counts.”

“The Big Ten is where Rutgers belongs,” President Barchi said. “It is a good fit athletically and academically.”

And of course, athletically is where the Big Ten transition will be most visible. The new division alignments will feature Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State, Penn State and Rutgers in the East Division and Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Northwestern, Purdue and Wisconsin in the West Division.

“It’s a dream conference for Rutgers,” said Hermann. “This is a process that began when Robert Mulcahy worked to expand the stadium, hire an unrelenting coach in Greg Schiano, and put our “R” on the map. The nation is learning who we are. The intensity of the New York/New Jersey media market leaves no room for error. We are the only major col-

lege football program in the light of New York City.”

The vision is not of “just joining, but becoming a Big Ten force, both athletically and academically” explained Hermann. “It’s maintaining our academic integrity. We want to hire well and attract the best coaches we can. We will offer “R Care,” which is the finest medical care around a student athlete. We can look parents in the eye and tell them that we can do far more medically for their child than they can do at home. Our “Champions Fund” will invest in coaching talent. Ultimately, we’d like to build an Athletic District, sort of an Olympic Village on the Busch campus where our athletes can benefit from being close to other elite athletes.”

The vision also looks to the future, recognizing very few student-athletes can become professionals. “We will worry about placement rates as well as graduation rates,” said Hermann. “We will send them out the door with a Life Plan in place, where we hope that 95% of them will know what their portal to society is.”

For now, the most pressing need will be closing the budget gap that separates the Scarlet Knights from the top tier of the Big Ten. Hermann knows that fundraising has to increase in order for Rutgers to compete in the new league. “We can’t compete with toothpicks when the competition has swords.”

But in addition to money, she needs the help of all alumni. “Here’s what I need from all of you,” said Hermann to the Loyal Sons/Daughters dinner. “There is a message we need to send about Rutgers. We can’t rely on traditional media to necessarily send our message. We need all of you to not only put those “R” magnets on your cars, but also to join the Twitter conversations, do whatever you can in social media. You can help me change the narrative about Rutgers.”

“It’s going to be a ten-year, long, steep hill that moves us onto the national stage,” Hermann concluded. “But if we can handle that, we’ll go from passion to pride to unrelenting pride.” ✨

Shawn Tucker Leads Rutgers Athletes To Excellence In Sports And The Game Of Life

Any new student coming onto campus has the challenge of navigating a new environment: learning the ins and outs of Rutgers life while transitioning to a new academic culture. For athletes, you can add another layer of change, with the demands of excelling in class and at their sport. Most athletes also practice year-round, leaving even smaller amounts of time to prepare for life after their sport.

To fill that void, the Rutgers Leadership Academy was created to help student-athletes develop personally and professionally. “The Rutgers Leadership Academy helps student-athletes navigate decisions large and small, on and off-campus,” according to **Shawn Tucker RC '07**, a former Rutgers football team captain, who serves as an assistant athletic director for student-athlete development and manages the Rutgers Leadership Academy. “Through programming and counseling, the Leadership Academy helps fortify Rutgers student-athletes with information and tools to guide decision-making in critical life-shaping areas such as career choices, personal finance, leadership, civic involvement, and healthy lifestyle choices.”

Tucker was recruited by then-head coach Greg Schiano from Douglas High School, in Parkland, FL to play for the Scarlet Knight. He was named team captain as a senior and helped lead Rutgers to its first of four consecutive football bowl championships in 2006.

While a Rutgers undergraduate, Tucker served on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. He graduated with a double major in Geography and Labor Studies in May 2007 and began working for the university’s Office of Continuing Professional Education as a program coordinator for its Rutgers Transitional Education and Employment Management (T.E.E.M.) Gateway program, which provides support to at-risk and disconnected urban youth across the state of New Jersey.

Tucker also participated in the implementation of the YE2S Center, a partnership among Rutgers, Newark Public Schools, the City of Newark and Communities in Schools of New Jersey focusing on providing education and employment services for youth in Essex County. Tucker has also mentored youth in Newark through the Rutgers Green Rangers Mural program, which focused on the beautification and revitalization of Newark through the Arts, while also serving as a key collaborator in the New Jersey High School Dropout Prevention Campaign. These experiences were invaluable towards shaping Tucker’s interest in helping Rutgers athletes in preparing for life during and after college.

“Rutgers is unique in that it’s located in the middle of two major markets: New York City and Philadelphia. As a result, the students that apply to Rutgers – athletes and non-athletes – have so many opportunities and often a greater drive to be driver towards career objectives,” said Tucker. To

kick-start The Rutgers Leadership Academy freshmen partake in a five week training on leadership, core values, goal-setting and time management. “The first day that student-athletes attend the Leadership Academy, the first question we ask them is, ‘What legacy would you like to leave?’” said Tucker. “That gets students thinking off the bat about the importance of their time at Rutgers beyond their involvement in athletics.”



TUCKER AND SEAN CAMPBELL RC 11' (FORMER BASEBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE)

The Rutgers Leadership Academy is funded through private donations. When **David Bugen RC'70, RBS'72** and **Phil Scalo RC'75, NLA'78** learned about the program, they found it worthy of a generous donation. “We ask so much of the athletes,” Bugen says. “But, we also have to make an opportunity for them to develop skills so they can succeed in life.”

Tucker, along with volunteers and staff involved with the Leadership Academy, have already organized a leadership conference, attended by designated leaders of all Scarlet Knights teams, and Knight of Networking, an event for alumni to meet student-athletes to discuss job prospects in their fields. “There are so many Rutgers alumni,” says Scalo, the CEO of Jackson, New Jersey-based Bartley Healthcare, which owns and operates health care facilities for seniors. “The network to help people should be phenomenal.” Bugen, a founder of Regent Atlantic Capital, a wealth management firm in Morristown, New Jersey, would like to see more alumni mentors. “Sixty percent of corporate CEOs were athletes in college,” Bugen says. “It says something about leadership skills. Rutgers has such highly successful alumni. I’m not sure they all recognize the opportunity to give back to students.” ✨



TUCKER WITH ALLIE JONES RC 13' (FORMER VOLLEYBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE) & SHERYL SPAIN (PROGRAM COORDINATOR STUDENT-ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT)

A Cup of Ag Field Day History

by Bill Huneke RC'76, NLAW'79

The year was 1926, five years after the Miss America Pageant originated in Atlantic City. A group of females gathered at the College Farm area of Rutgers to be judged as well. There was no talent competition, no evening gowns, no swimsuits; rather, they were judged purely on physical characteristics.

Roaring 20s? Well, if the Jersey girl in question was a Jersey cow, competing with Holsteins, Guernseys, and other breeds in the Field Day Dairy Cattle Judging, it was a perfect fit.

We know that Margaret Gorman won the first Miss America Pageant (although it wasn't called that in the early days). We don't know who won the Dairy Cattle Judging at Field Day in 1926, but we know that she was from Monmouth County, thanks to the trophy that is the subject of this story.

Although we now know the event as "Ag Field Day," in 1926 it was still known by its original name of "Field Day," as reflected on the trophy. In 1906, the State Board of Agriculture decided there was a need for New Jersey farmers to become better acquainted with the experiments taking place at the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, known to farmers as the NJAES. So on August 17, 1906, the first Field Day was held at the College Farm, although the event was run by the State Department of Agriculture.

About 800 people attended, and all indications were that the event was an unqualified success. It was such a hit, in fact, that Field Day became an annual affair. By 1917, Rutgers and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station assumed full responsibility for the event. Field Day was expanded to include lectures, demonstrations, and tours that attracted more people of varied backgrounds and interests. By the late 1920s, the annual Field Day was drawing 3,000 to 4,000 people, including increasing numbers of urban and suburban residents.

After years as Ag Field Day, running in conjunction with the New Jersey Folk Festival, the event is now part of the New Brunswick-wide "Rutgers Day" held the last Saturday of April. For decades, Ag Field Day has been an opportunity for members of the public to learn about and participate in our programs. Rutgers Day built on that tradition and invited the community to learn more about Rutgers University through tours, performances, hands-on activities, demonstrations, exhibits, and lectures across the G. H. Cook/Douglass, Busch, Livingston, and College Avenue Campuses.

The trophy was something this writer discovered browsing a flea market many years ago. It's only about 8 inches tall, dark, but in pretty good shape for

something nearly 90 years old. I bought it mainly because the inscription referred to "Field Day," which even before the days of Google searches was something I guessed was the predecessor to Ag Field Day (good call!)

In 1906, the State Board of Agriculture decided there was a need for New Jersey farmers to become better acquainted with the experiments taking place at the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

The full inscription reads "DAIRY EXTENSION CUP - Awarded yearly on Field Day at the New Jersey Agricultural College to the County winning the contest in Dairy Cattle judging. This Cup will be the permanent possession of the County winning it three times. Won by Monmouth County, June 16th, 1926." I have no idea how and when it moved from somewhere in Monmouth County to a flea market, but it will soon be back at Rutgers and part of the University Library's Special Collections Department.

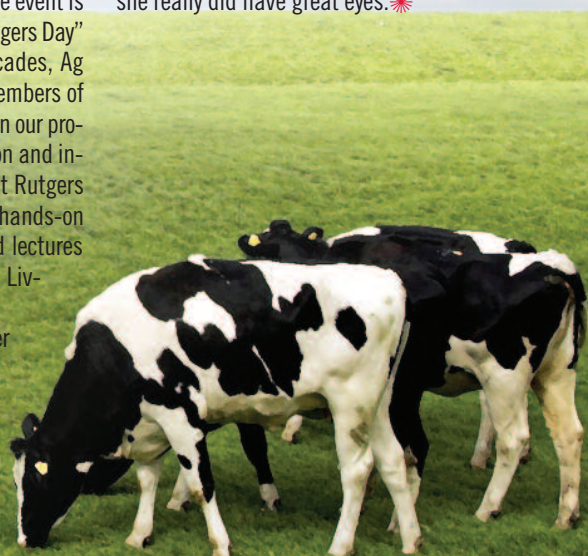
Although the Miss America Pageant returned to its roots in New Jersey this year, Field Day trophies for the 1,000 pound "Jersey girls" are now a thing of the past. We don't know who earned that trophy for Monmouth County in 1926...but I bet she really did have great eyes. ✨



On what traits were these Jersey girls of 1926 being judged? For starters, the head was to be "exhibiting overall style and balance...feminine, proportionate to stature, showing refinement and well-chiseled bone structure...face slightly dished with dark eyes that are well set." The neck was to be "long, lean, and blending smoothly into the shoulders." The back should be "straight and strong." Ribs were to be "wide, flat, deep, expressing fulness." Thighs were to be "lean and incurving." The legs were to be "straight, wide apart, with feet squarely placed," and the feet should have a "steep angle and deep heel, with short, well-rounded closed toes." And overall, the ideal Jersey girl of 1926 should project an image of "sharpness and strength indicating productive efficiency."

Rather strict standards for a purely physical assessment, and, quite frankly, rather politically incorrect by standards in the 21st century at a far more modern Rutgers. Oh, yes, and there was one more judging standard: the successful contestant "should weigh at least 1,000 pounds."

What female in her right mind would enter that kind of contest, even back in the middle of the



JFK and Rutgers Special Connection

by Bill Huneke RC'76, NLAW'79

Friday, November 22, 1963. It started out as a totally normal Friday at Rutgers, classes scheduled (yes, students actually attended Friday classes in 1963), a concert planned for that evening, a football game with Columbia scheduled that weekend.

Of course, ask anyone born before 1955 or so where they were on November 22, 1963, and they know. It's like asking later generations where they were on September 11, 2001...they know. There were no more profound days than those two in the memories of many Rutgers alumni. But beyond that, how did it actually affect them and life on campus?

Rutgers and John F. Kennedy had a special connection. In June, 1961, Rutgers was visited by Kennedy's brother-in-law, R. Sargent Shriver, who had been named the first Director of the Peace Corps. Coming only a few months after his inauguration, the Peace Corps was one of Kennedy's first notable initiatives. Shriver spoke with the very first set of Peace Corps volunteers, 62 students who became "Colombia 1." They lived in Hegeman Hall during that training, Rutgers having been chosen as one of the four original training sites. It was the start of Kennedy's "New Frontier"...but it all changed on November 22, 1963.

Several members of the Rutgers Class of '66 recalled their memories of that November weekend. For all, it was shocking. Some debated how it could happen and what would happen next; some debated scientific issues, others wondered if classes would be held as scheduled. Events such as concerts and football games had to be considered. It was a time unlike any other.

Hal Shill

Hal Shill, the Class of 1966 Historian, recalls a sense that something wasn't just right en route to a class. "I first became aware that something was wrong while walking to my French class in the Scott classroom building," remembers Shill, a sophomore at the time. "A number of students and RU staff were huddled beside a nearby building window listening to something on the radio. This was unusual, so I thought something important must be going on. I walked over the building, listened to the radio for a few minutes, and learned that President Kennedy had been shot. I didn't know the severity of his wounds at that time, so I continued on to my class."

That reaction was not unusual, as the early reports were just that three shots were fired at the

motorcade, and details were sketchy. Remember, this was long before the days of the internet, smartphones, or any other better source of news than transistor radios, and people didn't carry them around like cellphones today.

"I don't remember whether the class actually met or not, but my mind was elsewhere," recalled Shill. "I went back to my dorm room in Hardenbergh later on and learned that JFK had been killed. Rumors became rampant. Had LBJ also been killed? If so, would the doddering Speaker of the House, John McCormack, become President? How vulnerable would that leave the U.S. in the Cold War?

Several members of the Rutgers College Class of 1966 recall their memories of that November weekend in 1963.

What would become of domestic policy initiatives, including civil rights? I looked out the dorm window and saw some guys playing touch football. How could they be doing this when the leadership and direction of the U.S. were in peril, I wondered."

"The next few days were a blur. I remember the memorial service in Kirkpatrick Chapel. I remember the initial shock and uncertainty gradually being supplanted by a sense that the country would survive, albeit without a leader whose rhetoric had inspired many of us and whose calm deliberation had led us through the Cuban Missile Crisis without a nuclear war."

Ray Kaden

While Shill was en route to a French class at Scott Hall, **Ray Kaden**, '66, was just leaving one. "Were all classes in Scott Hall or did it just seem that way?" Kaden muses today. "I was exiting a French Class from Scott Hall when I saw groups of students standing around talking excitedly near the benches that were just outside the Hall. I couldn't believe the news they were talking about - that President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas. This was a Friday and my last class was over, so I remember going back to Livingston, packing a bag, walking down to the train station and getting the next train back home to Elizabeth."



Even back home, Kaden was focused on the events. "It seemed like our TV was on all weekend watching the events unfold, including the capture and later assassination of Lee Harvey Oswald on live television while he was being transferred by federal marshalls in an underground garage. I kept thinking how can this be happening? What kind of security do they have in Texas?"

Kaden, who was studying accounting, was deeply moved by the assassination. "He may not have been President that long - just over 1,030 days, but I was crushed. I had stayed up until 3 am on election night while the votes were counted (Being a future accountant, I kept the tally on a large pad of paper, marking each state as the election results became final. Where did all those extra votes from Cook County come from ?) He seemed to bring a new spirit of optimism to Washington, a feeling that wouldn't return for 45 years."

John Whelihan

One might expect Political Science majors to be even more focused on Kennedy, and that was true for John Whelihan, '66, who had another personal connection to the fateful date. "JFK was killed on my 20th birthday," said Whelihan. "I had just bought myself a few records in town and had just gotten back to my dorm, where the gloom was palpable. I turned the radio on and it was shocking. I was a poli-sci major and had probably become politically aware during the 1960 convention. I remember rooting for JFK during the 1960 race, which was a nail biter. Of course I was unable to vote in that election but would have voted for Kennedy. As he was killed on a Friday, the campus was in the process of emptying out for the weekend. I was one of the 10% of out of state students

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

on campus and it was, indeed, a lonely place that weekend. I don't think that I played my records for at least the next week." Indeed, in 1963, college students did not yet have the right to vote if they were under 21; popular campaign buttons in 1960 said "If I were 21, I'd vote for Kennedy."

Larry Benjamin

Another student taking political science classes was **Larry Benjamin, '66**, and an ironic topic in class still stays in his memory. "I had a political science class that Friday morning. If memory serves, among the topics we discussed that week, and maybe even that day, was presidential succession. After that class, I took the bus home from downtown New Brunswick to Perth Amboy. I had to get our car and pick up my date that Saturday for the Homecoming Weekend football game against Columbia.

"I was driving to pick up some groceries for my mother when I heard the news on the car radio. The rest of the weekend and beyond was spent glued to the television (in black and white, of course). Everything was cancelled that weekend. Back then, football on college campuses and in pro stadiums couldn't compete with the horrible news. Images of the Dallas scene, the Oswald shooting and the funeral procession still resonate. I can't recall when Rutgers re-entered my life. It was the event that helped define our generation. Our belief in "Camelot" was shattered. The hope that it inspired was gone. Vietnam and the drug culture, Watergate and gasoline lines were about to come."

Bill Roberts

Ironically, the Federal Government had an event on campus that day, as recalled by **Bill Roberts, '66**. "I was walking down College Ave heading for my Psych 101 class in the General Classroom Building when I heard someone yell from the porch of one of the frat houses that Kennedy had been shot," remembers Roberts. "When I got to class, the professor came in crying and announced that class was canceled. The Federal Government was having a job fair that same day, in Voorhees Hall if I remember correctly. The psych class would have been my last class for the day, so I walked over there, and everyone was gathered around the FCC exhibit, as they had their radios set to receive the government communications from Dallas."

Roberts, a commuter student, went home for the weekend, and remembers the family wondering how to act appropriately. "On Sunday, the 24th, my family was having a family picnic in which several of my aunts and uncles were coming. One of them made the comment to me that "It doesn't seem right that we should be doing this when the President has just been shot." My reply was that can-

celing it would not change anything or bring him back. Another uncle arrived a few minutes later with the news that Lee Harvey Oswald had just been shot in Dallas. He had heard it on the car radio. Everyone went straight to the TV and saw the news."

John Greene

With central New Jersey having been the setting of one of the great radio hoaxes ever, that thought crossed **John Greene's** mind when he first heard the news, also by radio. "I was in a Surveying field class, outside on a farm next to the Heights Campus in Piscataway. We would not have known but for a small transistor radio that one of the guys had brought along. At first we thought that it was a sick joke, you know like Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds," but we started switching stations and found that it was the same report on all stations. None of us could believe that this could happen. We packed up our things and walked the mile back to the Civil Engineering Building where by now the TV's were all on and everyone was numb with depression."

Greene, '66, remained on campus as the weekend continued on. "I don't think that I went home but stayed on campus. I know that I was at a pizza parlor on Easton Ave. a few days later when Jack Ruby shot Oswald. I remembered thinking that he got what was coming his way. Things changed after Kennedy was killed. A candle was blown out."

Michael Perlin

For **Michael Perlin, '66**, it was a reporter's instincts kicking in to do something other than just being a stunned observer. "I was in the bookstore, am 99% sure Scott Muni was on WABC when I first heard it. I was dazed, and my response was, "Do something." So, I went to the Targum office (I was a staff reporter at the time), and tried to make myself useful. I had worked that summer for Ed Patten (the Congressman who represented the 15th District, where Rutgers was), and I called his office for a statement. That led me to call some other NJ Representatives (can't recall if I spoke to anyone in Case's or Williams's offices in the Senate), and we wound up putting together a special edition. That took a few hours. I needed to "do more." I walked down the street to WRSU (I had been on staff there a little bit freshman year and that was all), and offered to do the same. I recall calling Patten and his tapping an interview on the phone that was run later."

Walter Orth

Although Fraternities were often the center of parties and fun on weekends, that all changed that November weekend. "I remember that day very

well," said **Walter Orth, '66**. "My roommate and I were working thru the Student Aid Office cleaning windows at a big house up at the Heights - was a sunny fall day - and we were listening to the radio. We heard the assassination news and were dumbstruck. Our fraternity was in turmoil all weekend with TV's running 24/7 and many Zetes were in tears. A contingent went to Washington to observe the funeral procession. It took a while for the shock to pass, a sad time."

Charles Repka

Not all faculty or teaching assistants were the pinnacle of sensitivity, according to **Charles Repka, '66**. "On that day, I was in a help session with the TA for one of my EE classes when someone burst through the door and told us "some nut down in Dallas has just shot the President," Repka remembers. "The rest of the weekend was spent watching the news, watching the RU Choir sing the Brahms Requiem on TV with the Philadelphia orchestra and being generally depressed. The same day as the funeral the TA had scheduled a test. I called him and asked if the test was still being held. He said, yes, of course, and seemed puzzled why I was even asking. Who studied? Needless to say, it was the only test I ever failed while at RU."

John Bravo

While the Political Science majors and journalists had their take on the shooting and the effect it would have on society, leave it to the Engineers to take a totally different view of the events. **John Bravo, '66**, remembers that "I was in Physics Lab that day and we were busy at a project when the TA came over to us and said, "Well, you might have noticed that there's a lot of commotion around so I think I ought to tell you that Kennedy has been shot in the neck. I didn't want to tell you right away because I wanted you to finish the lab." Wow. So being engineers, we then started discussing whether a shot to the neck would be fatal or just disabling, and what caliber gun was used."

It's doubtful many social science majors were having similar debates, but in Bravo's case, "In the middle of our discussion a guy appeared at the doorway with a transistor radio at his ear and, with a dramatic flair switched off the radio and said, "That's it.... President Kennedy has been assassinated!" The word assassinated seemed so foreign. Then we tried to figure out how many years it's been since an American president had been assassinated, and how many and why. And then the TA said, "Well, I guess we can't finish the lab now so you guys might as well go home if you want to." I went back to the Fraternity House and there was a lot of commotion there too, a lot of guys upset and a lot of discussion of who and why and what's

going to happen next and if classes would be cancelled. A day or so later when Oswald was being taken to jail I was in the hallway of the Fraternity house and I heard a huge yelling from the TV room. We rushed over to see what was going on, and they said, "Some guy shot Oswald!! Right in front of the TV cameras!!!! It was quite a week."

The Football Game

As noted above, Larry Benjamin went home to pick up his date for the Rutgers-Columbia football game. Many believe that all college football games were cancelled that weekend. Although a vast majority were, the NCAA did not issue a mandate, especially since it was the last game of the season for many teams. The NFL was in the middle of its schedule, and Commissioner Pete Rozelle decided to go ahead with the games as scheduled on Sunday (a decision he later said he regretted.) Fortunately, the Cowboys were not at home in Dallas, but rather in Cleveland to play the Browns. On the order of Browns owner Art Modell, the PA announcer never referred to their opponents as "Dallas"...only as the Cowboys.

As to the college games, left in the hands of the individual athletic directors, 44 games were cancelled, 17 were not. In the East, only two games were played. Maryland took on Virginia...and Rutgers played Columbia. Rutgers capped off a 3-6 season with a loss to Columbia, 35-28. Rarely did the outcome of a game matter less to either team.

The Concert

Adrian Schreiber, RC '65, GSLIS '76, like Charles Repka, well recalls the concert scheduled that very night. "In those days the University sponsored a concert series, with four or five performances a year. The venue was the College Avenue Gym, which had surprisingly good acoustics. One of the staples of that series was the annual performance of the Philadelphia Orchestra, led by Eugene Ormandy. It so happened that that evening, the Orchestra was scheduled to perform the Brahms *Requiem*."

"All day long we kept asking if the performance was going to proceed. Finally, about two hours before, it was announced that it would take place. As we entered the gym the playbills had an insert requesting that there be no applause at the end. The performance was magnificent. When it ended, the gym was completely silent. As we exited onto College Avenue, there was still complete silence. It was the most deafening silence I have ever experienced. All we did was hug and cry, in complete silence." ❀



Rutgers Alumni-Students Career Speed Networking



ABOUT 350 STUDENTS AND 310 RUTGERS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS REGISTERED FOR THIS EVENT. A VERY INTENSE, EXCITING AND WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 04 EVENING EVENT AT RSC, WHERE ALUMNI PROVIDED NETWORKING TIPS TO RUTGERS STUDENTS.

Imagine that you and a Rutgers student stepped into an elevator together. You, of course, are a wise and worldly graduate, the student looking for a job after graduation. Would the two of you just stare at the floor buttons or mumble something about the weather, or might that student advance his or her cause with a knockout two-minute "Elevator Speech" to you?

Learning that skill was one of the things covered as nearly 500 alumni volunteers and students took part in the 8th annual RAA "Speed Networking" event at the Rutgers Student Center on December 4, 2013. One of the largest turnouts in the history of the event filled the Multi-Purpose Room as students and alumni sat shoulder-to-shoulder talking about job, career, and interviewing skills.

The Alumni volunteers had an hour to do some networking of their own while the students also had an hour of preparation. The students then came in to fill up rows of chairs facing rows of Alumni, chatting for 2 minutes until a bell rang signaling the students to move down a spot to talk to a different alum. Random seating meant that students had to interact with graduates not necessarily in their field, forcing them out of their comfort zone as part of their learning experience.

Some brought resumes, some exchanged business cards, some asked if there were job opportunities, and some clearly needed some work on their social and interviewing skills. An informal mixer, fueled by ice cream, after the 2-minute sessions allowed more networking opportunities and follow-up conversations.

To volunteer for future Networking sessions, check the RAA website for pre-registration. You will leave feeling like you really made a difference...and got free ice cream!

2014 Loyal Sons & Daughters



Front row, left to right: Ruth Ann Burns DC '67, GSNB '75; Robert I. Kanarick RC '63; Evelyn Sermons Field DC '49, GSE '65, SCI '75; James C. Van Vliet Eng '53; René Robbins Lawless DC '81, GSE '03. Back row, left to right: Joseph A. Carlani III RC '84; Margaret O'Donnell CC '93; Jason E. Goldstein LC '02, RBS '05; Christine Tiritilli DC '92; Brian L. Kelley Pharm '94.



Megan Elizabeth Prince

Those who drive by the intersection of Routes 287 and 78 in Somerset County see a sign that it is the “Vincent R. Kramer” interchange. Col. Vince Kramer was honored by New Jersey for his distinguished military career. A winner of the Navy Cross during the Korean War for leading amphibious assaults behind enemy lines, Vince also served in the Marines in World War II, and again saw service in Vietnam.

Before enlisting in the Marines, Vince graduated from Rutgers in 1941. After he retired from the military in 1964, Vince returned to Rutgers, where he served the RAA as its executive secretary through 1987. Vince was a proud Loyal Son and mentored many of us into the RAA.

As our special way of honoring Vince, The RAA Vincent R. Kramer scholarship is awarded to children and grandchildren of Rutgers Alumni Association members. These upcoming freshmen must demonstrate outstanding academic achievements as well as leadership qualities in the community. The scholarship is an award of \$1,766 and is renewable for four years, contingent upon maintaining a GPA of at least 3.0 while enrolled at Rutgers.

This year’s Vincent R Kramer Merit Scholarship has been awarded to **Megan Elizabeth Prince** of Hillsborough, New Jersey.

In her high school years, Megan attended Hillsborough High School and focused her time and efforts on a plethora of activities. She was a board member on both the Hillsborough High School Project Green Team, as well as a junior member of the district wide “Green” initiative focused on bringing in more environmentally friendly policies to Hillsborough. Among her other accomplishments, Megan was a member of the high school soccer team for 3 years, an active member of the school’s chemistry team, and was also accepted into the prestigious “J&J TAP” program operating as a joint effort between the Hillsborough School System and Johnson & Johnson. She also participated in the Junior and Senior Spirit Dance, loving the feeling of pumping up her classmates on the most exciting night of the year. Megan also prides herself in being amongst the youngest CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) teachers at



St Joseph’s Parish, teaching at the 1st grade level for four years.

Though activities outside her studies were important, Megan made sure to make school a priority. She maintained a high enough GPA to be accepted in both the German Honor Society and the National Honor Society, as well as earned the title of “Advanced Placement Scholar of Distinction” through her accomplishments in AP courses. Megan found that by challenging herself in school with difficult classes, she would challenge herself outside the classroom, as well.

More recently, Megan was notified that she would receive her Gold Award at the spring high school awards dinner, and that motivated her to keep up her activities in college. She is running for a position on the Executive Board of Lippincott Hall on the Douglass Campus, is captain of her intramural soccer team “The Lippincott Lions”, and is planning to participate in numerous volunteer opportunities on campus, including the Rutgers Dance Marathon.

Megan plans on using her studies in Psychology and Neuroscience to research numerous disorders and diseases that affect the brain, hopefully improving the lives of others through her research.

Being a 3rd generation Rutgers student, Megan’s father, Roger Prince, was immensely proud she chose Rutgers. Having graduated from the School of Engineering in 1985, Roger has found that supporting the Rutgers family as a part of the RAA to be a very important part of his adult life. The family goes with friends to at least one Rutgers sporting event each year, and Roger wears his Rutgers gear with pride.

When heard she was awarded the Vincent R Kramer Merit Scholarship, her parents were so proud and excited but Megan felt a “bubble of awe.” Her family has had a long legacy of being Scarlet Knights, and continuing that legacy meant everything to her. The scholarship not only lightened the financial burden on her family, but gave Megan a sense of pride on being honored by the RAA through the Vincent R Kramer Merit Scholarship. Megan hopes she can use her years at Rutgers to become firmly implanted in the University’s community as well as further her career goals.

Megan is immensely thankful to the RAA for awarding her this prestigious mantle. “I hope that I can repay them by making the most out of my Rutgers experience.” That’s the kind of Rutgers spirit that would have made Vince Kramer very proud. ✨

Are You Ready for Some Eddie?

by Bill Huneke RC'76, NLAW'79

Paint chips falling from the ceiling like autumn leaves. The deafening sound of students cheering and stomping in a small venue that magnified the sound all the more. Watching Phil Sellers carry on before the referees in performances that were Oscar-worthy. Watching the Rutgers basketball team turn into one of the true Cinderella stories, going undefeated in the regular season.

Ah, the memories.

As a member of the Rutgers College Class of 1976, I was lucky enough to witness a good number of the home basketball games that year.

Most nights I was
l u c k y

enough to just get a ticket. One night late in the season I was working a foot patrol as one of the University Police Department's new "Student Marshals." Knowing it was one of the last big games, my partner and I decided that the safety of the students at the game required us to flash our badges and check out the end of the game. Hey, it worked.

It was a magical season, with Rutgers getting national attention, winning some incredible games that literally went to the buzzer, going 31-0 before going to the Final Four. **Phil Sellers, Eddie Jordan, James Bailey, Mike Dabney**, classmates and legends at the same time, many of them destined to head to the pros.

It's no secret that things haven't gone as well since then. No more trips to the Final Four, the move to the more sterile environment of the RAC, losing seasons, and the men's program often overshadowed by the women's. So when Eddie Jordan was announced as the new coach for this season, there was hope that the good old days could somehow return to the Banks.

It just so happened that a meeting of the Rutgers Alumni Association was taking place after the press conference introducing Jordan as the new basketball head coach. Since the public was allowed in, I didn't have to resort to the old "flashing the badge" trick, but fans cheering, Phil Sellers, and others of his old teammates there to support Jordan brought back a lot of great memories.

The Barn was the perfect place for the conference. This is where the glory began. This is where the Scarlet Knights' 1975-76 team finished 26-0 in the regular season. This is where Jordan won all but six home games in four years as the team's point guard. This is the gym where teams sat with their backs to a wall that separated them from the swimming pool, and fans crowded in so closely that their feet sometimes touched the edge of the court.

This is where the Knights' run to the 1976 Final Four began when they scored 100 points on Bentley in the season opener....and they scored 100 points 10 more times that year.



This is where Sellers, Bruce Scherer, Mark Conlin, Mike Dabney and Mike Palko helped turn the tiny gym along College Avenue into one of the most magical basketball courts in the country that season, and all of them were back to cheer on Jordan's homecoming.

Rutgers is hoping the man with seven years of NBA playing experience, 600 games as an NBA head coach and three stints at the school—as player, as assistant coach, and now as head coach—will bring back the glory of 1976.

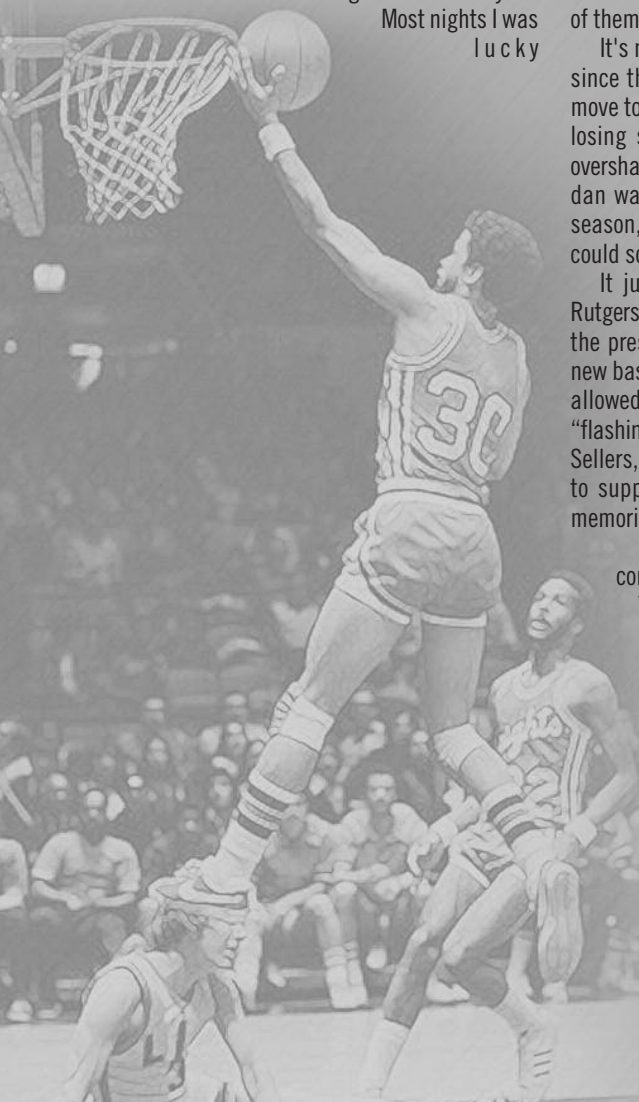
"The house has been burned down," Sellers remarked. "Now we gotta rebuild it."

Speaking of houses, Jordan had kept his New Jersey home, despite a career that has crossed the country. When his son, Ed, played football for Rutgers a decade ago, Jordan would sometimes bring a recliner and watch practice.

Once Jordan came to Rutgers in 1973, joining players such as Sellers and Mike Dabney, the program took off — never winning less than 18 games in any of Jordan's four years. Quiet and low-key, he and Sellers roomed together in Quad 3 on the Livingston campus — where the RAC now stands. Out of season, they played in heated pickup games against members of the football team.

Even early in his NBA career, Jordan made a homecoming of sorts to Rutgers. Midway through his first season he was traded to the Nets, who then played their home games at the RAC. He played there for three years. After Jordan's NBA career ended, Tom Young, his head coach during his playing days, brought him back for a stint as an assistant coach.

During their senior year at Rutgers, Jordan shared a room with Mark Conlin when the team was on the road. After practice and dinner, they would return to the room and Jordan would set up a projector and crank 8mm game film onto the wall until they fell asleep, showing signs even



then that he was coaching material. "He was a real student of the game," Conlin said.

So now Jordan returns as the teacher, not the student. "It's pretty much the same thing," said Jordan of teaching the game to college students now, rather than the pros he coached in recent years. "Fundamentals will never fail you on any level. Same concepts, same methods, same sort of drills. In the NBA, each day you move from one thing to something else. Each level below that, you spend a little more time on things. This group is a new team, they all haven't played together. Chemistry is based on trust and repetition, and being familiar. It takes time. We're working on getting the best players, but we were behind and had to revise the roster. But at the same time, I just want to win, and I think we can win with the type of gritty guys we have."

When the conference in April was over, Jordan and his former teammates stayed around at The Barn, reliving old memories with each other, former coaches, the media, and some just plain fans like me.

"It hasn't changed," Palko said, looking up at water stains in the ceiling and paint chips still settling on some of the pipes. "It doesn't seem that long ago, and I think the program is finally coming full circle."

"We would come up from the locker room," Scherer said, nodding toward a corner door, "hearing the band and the crowd, and it was exciting. There was an energy in the building, and you couldn't match it. It might have been small but it sounded big. And we played big in it."

Sellers has mellowed from his playing days, and greeted me like an old friend (who knows, maybe he saw me flash that badge that night.) Even Jordan acknowledged that Sellers was the leader of the pack in those days. "We were determined to be good, and we had a great player in Phil," said Jordan, as his former teammates and current players sat in front of him. "The rest of us were good players; we were talented. We used what was good for us — our speed; we used our quickness, we used our harmony. We knew how to get the ball up the floor, we knew how to press and play off each other. And those are qualities of a good team."

Where Jordan can take a program that hasn't had a winning season since 2005-6 remains to be seen, but he is excited about the challenge. "It is really exciting," he said. "It's a great challenge. I didn't do this to get another job. I'm doing this to be the best I can at it." Having been up to the pros, Jordan has little left to prove. "Obviously, I'm not looking for any other job," he said. "For me, this is it."

Wouldn't it be great if Jordan succeeds so well, that the cheering of the crowd brought some paint chips down from the ceiling of the RAC? Now that would be bringing things full circle. ✨

RAA Happenings

BED RACES



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RAA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2014

6/21 **Edison National Historic Park Tour**
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. / 2:00 p.m. Dr. Paul Israel Lecture
Visit www.RutgersAlumni.org to register

JULY 2014

7/12 **Annual Trenton Thunder Baseball Outing**
7:05 p.m., Arm & Hammer Park, Trenton, NJ
Visit www.RutgersAlumni.org to purchase tickets

AUGUST 2014

8/17 **Bus Tour of Lower Manhattan and 9/11 Memorial**
9:00 a.m. departure from New Brunswick,
6:00 p.m. return — \$30 per person
Visit www.RutgersAlumni.org to purchase tickets

NOVEMBER 2014

11/1 **HOMECOMING! Football – Rutgers vs. Wisconsin**
12:00 p.m. Kickoff

To register, or for more
information about
these events, call the RAA
at 732-932-7474
or visit our website at:
www.RutgersAlumni.org



PURCHASE TICKETS NOW!

Annual Trenton Thunder Baseball Outing

Saturday, July 12, 2014

7:05 p.m.,
Arm & Hammer Park, Trenton, NJ

See the N.Y. Yankee double AA affiliate
play the Akron Aeros and stay after
the game for spectacular fireworks!

Parking is \$3.00 and tickets are still just \$8.00.
Go to the RAA website for tickets.