

Opening Doors

*Nursing on the Front Lines
of Health Care Disparities*

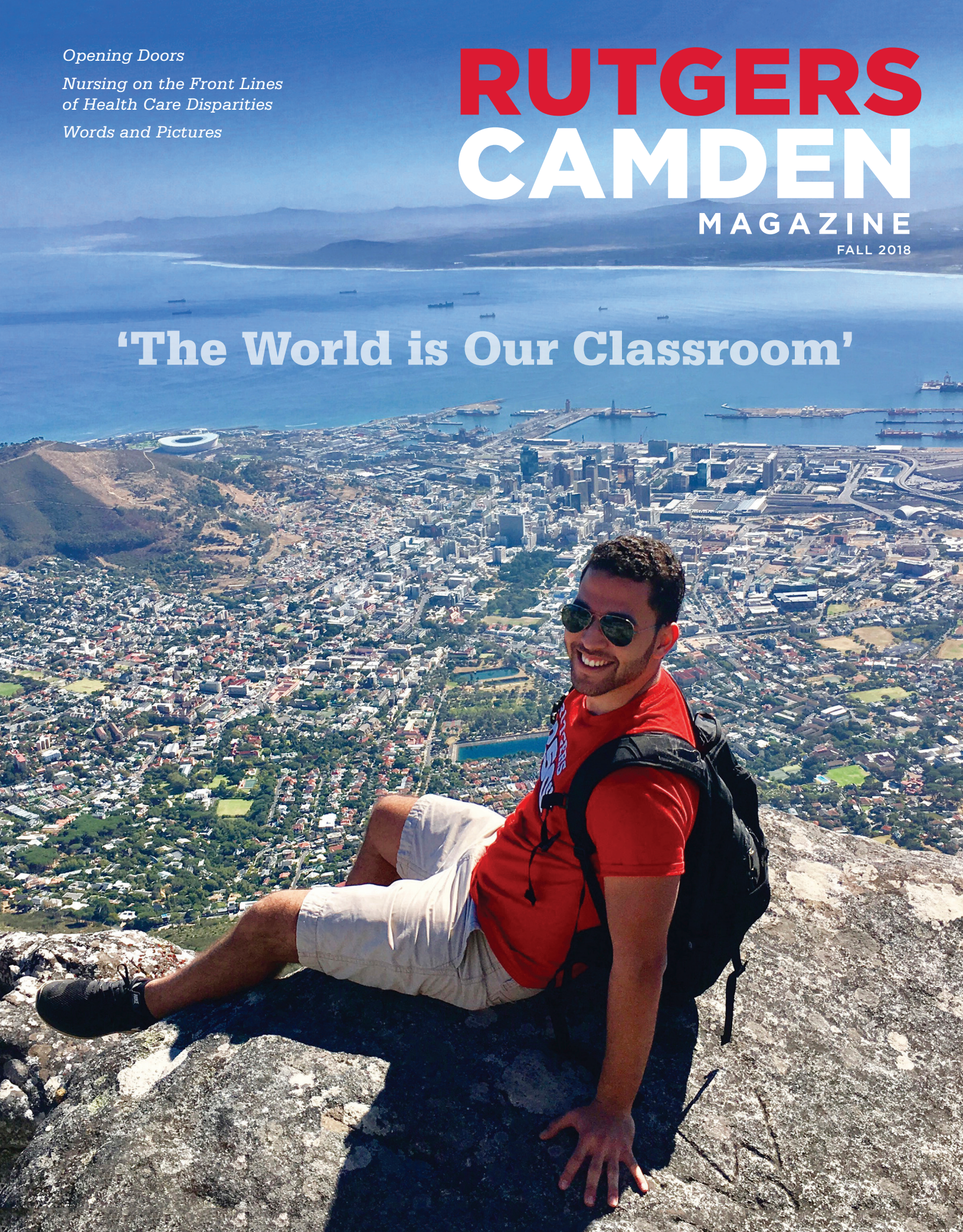
Words and Pictures

RUTGERS CAMDEN

MAGAZINE

FALL 2018

'The World is Our Classroom'



RUTGERS CAMDEN

Rutgers-Camden Magazine Vol. II, No. 1 Fall 2018





The Johnson Park Library Building at Rutgers University-Camden turned 100 this year. Now home to the Digital Commons—a new campus site for digital studies, writing, and design—the surrounding grounds host notable public artwork, including this rare bronze cast of a *Peter Pan* statue commissioned by the story's author, J.M. Barrie.



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We welcome your feedback on this issue of Rutgers–Camden Magazine. If you have questions or comments, please contact Sam Starnes at [sstarnes@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:ssarnes@camden.rutgers.edu) or 856-225-6857.

Rutgers–Camden Magazine

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Camden, NJ 08102-1519

CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

This fall, Rutgers University–Camden welcomed our largest-ever incoming undergraduate class to campus. The value of the Rutgers–Camden experience is being embraced by families across our state and nation more than ever before, in large part due to the engaging learning experiences that we offer our students. One way we help our students to succeed is by enriching their educations with a global experience. Through our Learning Abroad program, students enjoy an immersive global learning course over a 10-day period that does not require casting aside obligations for a full semester or a year. Our faculty often attend these programs and regularly travel worldwide to conduct research and teach. Increasingly, we also are enrolling international students and hosting visiting faculty from around the globe. As our cover story, “The World is Our Classroom,” demonstrates, Rutgers–Camden is an active participant in the global community.

Our commitment to learn from one another is a virtue that allows us to thrive here on campus and throughout our careers and our lives. Our hallmark combination of innovative and engaged faculty sharing creative insights with our students is a true strength of Rutgers–Camden. We pride ourselves in supporting an intellectual and social atmosphere that is enriched immensely by diverse perspectives from across our community. Our nearly 7,400 students, our faculty and staff, and more than 50,000 alumni reflect the cultural and social mosaic of New Jersey, our nation, and the world.

I'm happy to report that *Washington Monthly* magazine recently ranked Rutgers University–Camden fourth on its list of “Best Bang for the Buck” universities in the Northeast. This ranking that evaluates quality and affordability affirms our heritage as a place where a world-class Rutgers degree is readily accessible.



Phoebe A. Haddon

Phoebe A. Haddon, J.D., LL.M.
Chancellor

THE BIG NUMBERS

#4

“BEST BANG FOR
THE BUCK” UNIVERSITY
IN THE NORTHEAST
–*Washington Monthly*

7,350

STUDENTS
ENROLLED
FALL 2018

1,075

NEW
UNDERGRADUATES
FALL 2018

262

STUDENTS ON
LEARNING ABROAD
TRIPS IN 2018

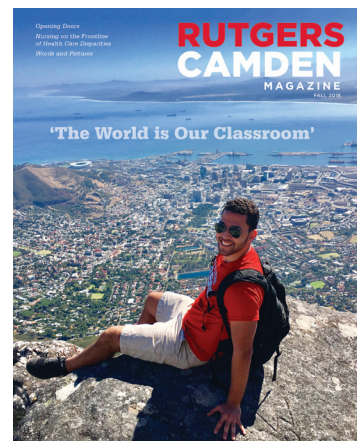
30+

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED BY
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

15

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS
ON FACULTY IN
PAST DECADE

ON THE COVER



Octavio Yamamoto SBC'17 atop Table Mountain, overlooking Cape Town, South Africa, during his junior year. He is one of many Rutgers–Camden past and current students who have benefited from scholarships that helped them to study in the university's Learning Abroad program.

A Half-Century of Supporting First-Year Students

Iraida Izaguirre, a junior majoring in childhood studies at Rutgers University–Camden, one day wants to work helping young people from families without higher education backgrounds attend college. She understands the challenges they face. “I’m the youngest of five siblings, and I’m the first one to go to college,” she said. “That was really important to my family.”

Izaguirre is one of thousands of first-generation college students at Rutgers–Camden who have been supported by the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund since it launched 50 years ago. More commonly known by its acronym, EOF, the Rutgers–Camden program started in 1968 with five students and increased to 55 students the following year. Today, it annually serves about 275 students from



PHOTO BY MARY ANDERSON

Iraida Izaguirre is one of thousands of Rutgers–Camden students supported by the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program since it started in 1968.

educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Students in the program benefit from one-on-one academic coaching, academic success and career-building workshops, experiential learning, summer programs, and tuition grants. “Our students are exceptional in every way,” said Marsha Besong, assistant chancellor for student success who directs the Rutgers–Camden EOF program. “We help them to meet their potential.”

To watch a video about the program, visit magazine.camden.rutgers.edu/EOF50.

FACULTY LEADER GIVES BACK

By Tom McLaughlin

Gloria Bonilla-Santiago, a Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers University–Camden, has committed a \$500,000 bequest intention to supplement the Rutgers University Alfredo Santiago Endowed Scholarship. Established in 1999 in memory of her late husband, a Rutgers–New Brunswick administrator who died in 1997, the scholarship will now carry both of their names. The scholarships are awarded to graduates of the LEAP (Leadership, Education, and Partnership) Academy University Charter School,

founded by Bonilla-Santiago in 1997, who enroll full time at Rutgers. More than 150 Camden youth have benefitted from the scholarship.


A child of migrant farm workers in Puerto Rico, Bonilla-Santiago defied expectations to reach the highest levels of academia and pursue her dream of transforming poor urban communities through education. “My beloved husband and I shared the vision and passion to reach into the Camden community and give people a chance to do better,” Bonilla-Santiago said. “Investing in our Rutgers students is a return investment in the future generations of our communities.”



PHOTO BY BILL CARDONI

Gloria Bonilla-Santiago, with students in the LEAP Academy University Charter School, is increasing her funding of scholarships for LEAP graduates who attend Rutgers–Camden.

RESEARCH



The Chemistry of Winning Teams

PHOTO BY MARY ANDERSON

By Jeanne Leong

The Philadelphia Eagles' Super Bowl victory and improved Phillies and 76ers teams have given area sports fans hope. While the teams have many gifted players, a Rutgers School of Business–Camden professor who studies effective organizations says it takes more than talent to make a winning team. According to Chester Spell, a professor of management, team chemistry is what makes a good team a great team.

Spell, an avid sports fan who is associate editor of the academic journal *Personnel Review*, defines team chemistry as how well a group of people works productively together in a job. He and a research colleague, Katerina Bezrukova at the University at Buffalo, created an algorithm to quantify team chemistry that they published in the *Journal of*

Applied Psychology. Using social identity theory, they developed a measurement of factors such as backgrounds, culture, and age. Called “faultlines,” these factors divide a group into smaller subgroups of people who share things. “We found that people who were in a tight subgroup at their work were happier overall, across all sorts of jobs,” Spell said. “We know that it is easier to perform when you are happy, whether you are a chef, sales rep, or baseball player.”

Spell has watched the Phillies over the past several rebuilding seasons as they brought in younger players who found more success in 2018 than in previous years. “A big difference, honestly, is that they have a talented core of ‘homegrown’ talent, drafted from within the organization,” Spell said. “They share a common experience and that can help team chemistry.”

As for the Eagles, who hope to win another Super Bowl, Spell says the team used its underdog status in the 2017 season as a way to find commonality and create bonds. While losing several key players to season-ending injuries, the teammates supported one another—including a few players who wore dog masks to riff on their underdog status during the playoffs. “Everything became a rally of them being an ‘in-group,’ and everyone else is the ‘out-group,’” Spell said.

Spell thinks it will be a challenge for the Eagles to replicate last year’s success due to the high turnover of players in football that can alter team chemistry. “I would say for the Eagles to continue to be successful, they really have to continue with what they were doing and find the right pieces that fit in with the team,” he said.

THE ARTS

A Community of Writers

By Leah Falk

Before Candida Rodriguez discovered the community writing workshops at Rutgers University–Camden, her motivation to write, which once burned bright, had flickered out. “If it had not been for the workshops I attended at the Writers House, I would not have returned to writing,” said Rodriguez, a Camden resident who for several years has been a participant in writing workshops on campus that are open to the public.

Rodriguez, who works at a preschool, writes fiction and is working on a novel. She most recently took part in The Writing Sangha, a meditative workshop for women through the Cooper Street Workshops held in the Writers House. “I have made wonderful connections to a community of writers and poets in the

city which I had no knowledge existed, and which I longed for,” Rodriguez said.

Since the Writers House launched its first programs in 2016, it has been dedicated to fostering connections among writers—whether or not they’re affiliated with Rutgers–Camden. The beautifully restored Queen Anne Revival-style house, built in 1885 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed by celebrated architect Wilson Eyre and was home to Civil War surgeon Henry Genet Taylor. In classrooms that feature historic fireplaces, light fixtures, and woodwork, the campus community and public can experience an intimate audience—and, occasionally, a manuscript critique—with novelists and poets such as Okey Ndibe, Rick Moody, Jennifer Egan, and James McBride.

While the Writers in Camden reading series, which offers free workshops, predates the house’s restoration, other programs have grown out of conversations with students, faculty, and residents.

The Cooper Street Workshops series makes a range of writing courses accessible to the public, and offers significantly reduced rates for Camden residents. Latasha Perry, a Camden novelist who took Turning Life into Fiction, a workshop taught by Rutgers–Camden M.F.A. alumna Cherita Harrell GSC’16, was inspired by her experience. “I have been awakened in a way that has elevated my writing,” Perry said.



At left, Leah Falk, program coordinator for the Writers House, with Candida Rodriguez, a fiction writer and regular participant in writing workshops.



For more information about the Writers House programs, including the Cooper Street Workshops and the Writers in Camden series, visit writershouse.camden.rutgers.edu or call 856-668-4980.

ATHLETICS

FROM CAMDEN TO PEBBLE BEACH



Former Scarlet Raptors golf standout won his way into the U.S. Amateur tournament

By Sam Starnes

They called him “The Bot.”

Zach Arsenault, who played for Rutgers University–Camden’s conference-winning golf teams in 2015 and 2016, explains the nickname his Scarlet Raptors teammates gave him. “It’s short for ‘the robot,’ because of my compact, repetitive swing,” he said.

That skilled swing earned Arsenault a place in the prestigious U.S. Amateur, the storied tournament for the nation’s best players who have not turned professional. He won his entry by winning the qualifying tournament in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, shooting rounds of 68 and 69, five strokes below par. In August, he played the U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach Golf Links, the iconic course that hugs the rugged California coastline and has hosted the

U.S. Open. “Either you hit the ball in play, in North America, or you are in the water, in the Pacific,” Arsenault said.

Although he didn’t make the final rounds—shooting a 79 at Pebble Beach and an even par 72 at Spyglass, a neighboring course—playing the tournament “was a dream come true,” he said, adding that he did not hit a ball into the Pacific Ocean. “It was euphoria.”

Arsenault, a finance major from Medford, New Jersey, who transferred to Rutgers–Camden after playing two years at Alvernia College, credits longtime Scarlet Raptors golf coach Bob Cardea with taking his play to another level. “He enhanced my game like nobody has,” Arsenault said. “I attribute a majority of my success to him.”



Zach Arsenault teeing off on the final hole at Pebble Beach Golf Links in the U.S. Amateur, and with Jack Nicklaus, who won the U.S. Amateur in 1961.

Cardea has been a coach for Rutgers–Camden’s golf team since 1995, earning NEAC conference coach of the year honors five times and guiding teams to seven conference championships. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Don, who coached Rutgers–Camden’s team from 1983 to 1987. Other players of note to play for Cardea include Arsenault’s teammate, Kevin Sarlo SBC’18, who remains the only Scarlet Raptors player to qualify for the final rounds of the NCAA tournament, a feat he achieved in 2016.

Arsenault, who earlier this year started a business that focuses on developing residential real estate in Camden, said his recent success has changed his mind about future possibilities. “This summer changed my mindset on what I would like to do with golf,” he said. “I definitely wouldn’t rule out giving professional golf a chance. I would need a support system and the right backing. I’m working toward whether I want to chase the real estate dream or chase the professional golf dream—or do both.”

Opening Doors



Rutgers Law School initiatives strive to renew the futures of those starting over

From left, Wasim Kabir, a graduate of the Camden Federal Reentry Court program, with U.S. District Judge Noel L. Hillman, an adjunct professor at Rutgers Law School, and Steve Salinger RLAW'15, an attorney and volunteer in the program.

By Jason Nark CCAS'00

When Wasim Kabir was freed from federal prison, he made a vow to stay on the straight and narrow to avoid the pitfalls that once landed him as a defendant in courtrooms.

Like thousands released from correctional facilities annually, Kabir soon realized that the path was filled with obstacles, such as child support payments that had piled up and minor infractions in small municipalities that remained unresolved during his stint in prison. With no driver's license—another casualty of a long sentence—the road toward reintegration seemed even more daunting. “It was frustrating,” he said.

When a group of professors and students from Rutgers Law School in Camden, along with volunteer attorneys, federal prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, and judges offered to help clear the obstacles for Kabir, it came with a caveat that can make some in his situation wary.

They wanted him to come to the federal courthouse for a meeting.

Camden U.S. District Court Judge Noel L. Hillman, who helped to spearhead the collaborative reentry program, said such an invitation can cause concern. “For many, the last time they were in a courtroom, things didn't work out so well,” said Hillman, who also teaches as an adjunct professor at Rutgers Law School.

Kabir, however, had no qualms about returning to the site where he had once been sentenced. “I didn't have animosity toward the courts because everything that put me in that situation to begin with was my fault,” said Kabir, a resident of Camden. “It didn't take but a minute to see this would definitely be a benefit for me.”

The collaboration, known as Camden Federal Reentry Court, which partners the federal courts and the criminal justice system with Rutgers Law students and faculty, has proven to be a small-but-powerful team with successful impact in the Camden area. “When we meet, we have a focused discussion about what they've been able to achieve and what the challenges are and what problems they've faced in the last two weeks,” Hillman said. “We connect them with job resources, counseling, folks who get them clothing, housing, and transportation.”

For Kabir, the reentry program hammered home the importance of little things—such as the moment he had to take his driver's test over to get his license, which could be the difference between landing a job that pays \$10 an hour versus \$18 an hour. “It finally felt like my wallet was complete,” he said. “Though it seems silly, that was a great, great feeling.”

Overall, Kabir is very glad he participated in the reentry program. “It was hard to put all my problems out there in the open, but it turned out to be a real benefit to me,” he said.

Reducing Recidivism

The program is one of two initiatives in which Rutgers Law School plays a key role that aim to reduce prison recidivism, a major concern within the criminal justice system. In a nine-year study that tracked a sample of prisoners over 30 states, the Bureau of Justice found that 68 percent of released state prisoners were arrested again within three years. Camden County Police Chief Scott Thomson CCAS'94 said the value of intensive reentry programs makes them a critical investment “for every segment of society.” He said, “Simple logic dictates

that this recidivism equates to more crime and more victims and more stress on an already-taxed judicial system.”

In addition to the federal court program, Rutgers Law School also helps residents with low incomes from Camden and surrounding counties overcome criminal records in the Expungement Law Project. That initiative helps expunge past arrest and conviction records and pave the way to better jobs. “A lot of jobs today require a criminal background check—that wasn’t the case 20 or 30 years ago,” said Meredith Schalick RLAW’98, a clinical professor at Rutgers Law School in Camden.

Schalick guided law students in the project during the spring 2018 semester, screening 50 potential clients and appointing students to take on 10 cases in which law students worked with the clients to file expungement petitions in New Jersey Superior Court. Expungement in New Jersey, she said, is more difficult than most states and the legal assistance provided is invaluable to those who can’t afford an attorney and can’t manage the process on their own. “People just don’t know how to do it and they’re doing it wrong,” Schalick said. “It just takes up so much time.”

These assistance programs are examples of the Rutgers Law School’s array of pro bono and public interest initiatives, which provide students with meaningful opportunities that instill an ethic of service and provide community members with much-needed legal assistance. Rutgers Law School also hosts legal clinics in Camden where students supervised by full-time Rutgers Law faculty handle casework on issues such as domestic violence, immigration, mortgage foreclosure, and child advocacy. “It’s central to our mission to give back to the people in New Jersey whose critical legal needs are otherwise unmet,” said Jill Friedman, associate dean for pro bono and public interest programs at Rutgers

Law School in Camden and Newark. “It’s also the best way for our students to develop the skills and inclination to prioritize public service throughout their careers and build rewarding professional lives.”

A Successful Track Record

The joint effort in federal court, led by Hillman and U.S. Magistrate Court Judge Karen Williams, began nearly a decade ago, thanks in part to a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. District Court in Camden. Friedman said the reentry effort allows faculty, students, and others in the criminal justice system to work directly with the participants and help them address their individual issues. “We want to learn their needs and collaborate with them to help them succeed,” Friedman said.

The graduates of the yearlong program are mostly thriving, often with two or more jobs. It’s not an easy thing

to do. Hillman said sliding back into a criminal lifestyle is natural for many, even those who want to change their ways. He recalled the case of one he described as a “man without a country” when he was released from prison. “He came out with the shirt on his back and nothing else,” Hillman said. “He didn’t think we could do anything for him. Today, he’s one of our heroes. He’s been able to get back on track.”

Another participant, Zel Tisby of Camden, who spent 18 years in federal prison, said the reentry program built a strong foundation that propelled him forward and not back into prison—a path he has witnessed for others. “I’ve seen it myself,” said Tisby, who owns a business that rehabilitates homes. “It has been the ones who came home with no assistance, no help and no support—they go back to what they’re accustomed to, which is crime.”



A Real-World Experience for Law Students

A recent Rutgers Law graduate who worked in the reentry programs said the real-life, elbow-deep issues they dealt with outside of a classroom and textbook setting remain invaluable. “This is a very low-risk way of starting to develop trial advocacy skills that have a really huge impact on people’s lives,” said criminal defense attorney Steve Salinger RLAW’15, who worked in the reentry program when he was a student and continues to volunteer. “Not only are you developing skills that will pay huge dividends, but you also have a role in real change,” Salinger said. “This changes people’s lives.”

Jason Kanterman RLAW’16, said watching prosecutors, public defenders, and judges play different roles and sometimes take opposing viewpoints was eye-opening for a law student. “The

judges are not there to put people in prison, but help them get their life in order,” Kanterman said. “The prosecutor or assistant U.S. attorney is often going above and beyond to help them get a driver’s license, or a Social Security card, basically all the documents they need to establish themselves.”

Joseph A. DaGrossa, a federal probation officer in Camden who has worked closely with the reentry program since its inception, said Rutgers Law School in Camden has been vital. “I don’t know of any other reentry court that has a partnership with a local law school like the one we have with Rutgers–Camden,” said DaGrossa, who also teaches as an adjunct in the university’s criminal justice program. “It allows us to provide a very special service. I have guys who have been on probation or parole before and they’re not used to getting this kind of

help. We have this mechanism in place to help them succeed and Rutgers plays a huge part.” **R**

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Jason Nark, a staff writer for the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News, holds a bachelor’s degree in English with a minor in journalism and film studies from Rutgers–Camden.

How to Get Involved

The Camden Federal Reentry Court invites attorneys who can volunteer on a pro bono basis to contact Steve Salinger RLAW’15 at sl.salinger@gmail.com. Others interested in offering support, especially employers who can hire participants, are encouraged to contact U.S. Probation Officer Joseph A. DaGrossa at 856-924-1390 or joseph_dagrossa@njp.uscourts.gov.

From left, **Blair Gerold RLAW’18; Meredith Schalick RLAW’98, a clinical professor at Rutgers Law School in Camden; and Jill Friedman, associate dean for pro bono and public interest programs. Gerold, who is now working as a clerk for New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Jaynee LaVecchia, was a student in Schalick’s Expungement Law course in May 2018 that helped low-income residents with the legal procedures to remove past arrests and convictions records.**

A Study of the System



structure of probation and parole fees that often result in ex-offenders returning to jail. “What are the processes by which these fines and fees are assigned?” said Assistant Professor Nathan Link. “We want to get a feel for the entire landscape.” He said when released inmates attempt to integrate back into society, they typically need to fulfill an

While Rutgers Law School students and faculty work to help individuals released from prison deal with legal and other issues on the outside, a Rutgers–Camden criminal justice professor is researching the underlying

array of new financial obligations—monthly community supervision, electronic monitoring, and mandatory drug screening fees, among others—or risk being sent back to jail on technical violations. Link, who has published work in journals such as *Justice Quarterly*, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, and the *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, will join with fellow scholars to conduct intensive research through a multistate, multiyear study to examine how probation and parole fines and fees affect individuals’ prospects of success. “It’s easy to get tripped up and sent back to jail for these minor infractions,” said Link, who earned a master’s degree from the Rutgers School of Social Work in Camden in 2010. “How much good are we doing these individuals and how safe are we making our communities by sending them away for these petty violations?”



ALESSIA MATTIOLI, HEALTH AND HEALING IN GUATEMALA

“I conquered fears, touched more lives than I could have hoped for, and my own life was changed in so many positive ways ... A part of me will always be in Guatemala with those families.”

About the photos: Images accompanying this article were contributed by students and faculty.

Video: For a video by Mary Anderson about the Rutgers-Camden Learning Abroad program, please visit magazine.camden.rutgers.edu/world.



‘THE WORLD IS

By Sam Starnes

Alessia Mattioli had given up on her high school dreams of studying abroad.

A 24-year-old single mother earning a nursing degree while caring for a special-needs child and working at a hospital, she had almost no free time. But in her final year at Rutgers University-Camden, she received an email about a class called Health and Healing in Guatemala. The engaged civic-learning course would take place over spring break. It revived her dream. “I told myself, ‘It’s 10 days. I can do 10 days.’”

Mattioli’s parents supported her idea to go on the trip and would care for her son. She arranged for the time off from

work and dove headlong into the reading assignments and class meetings prior to the trip.

She was glad she did. Her experience in a jungle mountain village—conducting health screenings, training midwives on contraception methods, educating residents on diet, and building vented stoves for families to help them avoid smoke inhalation while cooking—resonated deeply. “I conquered fears, touched more lives than I could have hoped for, and my own life was changed in so many positive ways,” said Mattioli, a Glassboro, New Jersey, resident who earned her bachelor’s degree two months after the 2017 trip and now works as a nurse at Cooper University Hospital.

Mattioli and the other 15 students in the course connected with the Mayan villagers who lived with limited electricity and running water. On their final day, the residents held a closing ceremony in the students’ honor. “All of the women dressed us in their garments,” she said. “They also wrapped our hair, but they had run out of hair wraps. Without even thinking about it, they unwrapped their hair and then wrapped our hair with that same wrap they just removed. It was wonderful to make that connection with their culture.”

As the students and villagers hugged and said goodbyes, billowing white clouds descended into the mountains, encasing them all in a soft, white fog—



**ALEXIS WEAVER,
JOURNALISM IN INDIA
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Alexis Weaver, who earned an English degree in May, traveled to India for a journalism course and to South Africa for a civic engagement course. Although she said the trips were fun, including the time pictured at left when she took over from a tricycle driver in Delhi, India (Weaver is at left, and Jasmine Barber CCAS'17 is at right), she said she “really enjoyed the advance educational components. I learned so much and I felt so prepared when we arrived.”

OUR CLASSROOM'

a phenomenon the villagers call *neblina*. It's a moment Mattioli will never forget. “A part of me will always be in Guatemala with those families,” she said.

Educating Global Citizens

Assistant Nursing Professor Nancy Pontes, a native of Peru and nurse practitioner, led the trip and taught Mattioli's course. Pontes, who taught a course in Cuba in March, has presented research on the impact studying abroad has on students. “It can be a very transformative experience,” she said.

Learning Abroad courses require students to attend classes and complete reading and research assignments before traveling. To complete the class, students

must finish an assignment such as a paper or presentation. “Some people have the idea that it's a vacation for students, but it's really rather rigorous,” Pontes said.

Immersing students in another culture enhances the learning experience for students in a way that cannot be replicated in a classroom, said Natasha Fletcher, associate director of Rutgers-Camden's Center for Urban Research and Education, who has co-taught three Learning Abroad courses in Germany. “We find teaching opportunities on the go,” said Fletcher, a native of Germany who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Rutgers-Camden and her doctorate at Rutgers-New Brunswick. “When you stand in a park and discuss

an issue that is visible right in front of you, you can see the wheels spinning for students.”

The Learning Abroad courses are a key element of a multifaceted effort in all Rutgers-Camden programs to infuse students with an international perspective, said Michael Palis, the university's executive vice chancellor and provost. “We are global citizens,” Palis said. “We live in a global economy.”

All undergraduates are required to complete a Global Communities component in the curriculum expanding their understanding of the world, Palis said. About 15 percent of those students participate in Learning Abroad courses. *Continued on page 16*



SCOTLAND—Comparative Criminal Justice students at Edinburgh Castle



ENGLAND—Sheldon Morris at the Palace of Westminster in London



FRANCE—Psychology of Eating class at the Eiffel Tower in Paris



LEARNING ABROAD COURSES

These courses combine classroom study with travel and assignments that immerse students in other cultures. Learning Abroad courses offered by Rutgers-Camden faculty in recent years have included the following:

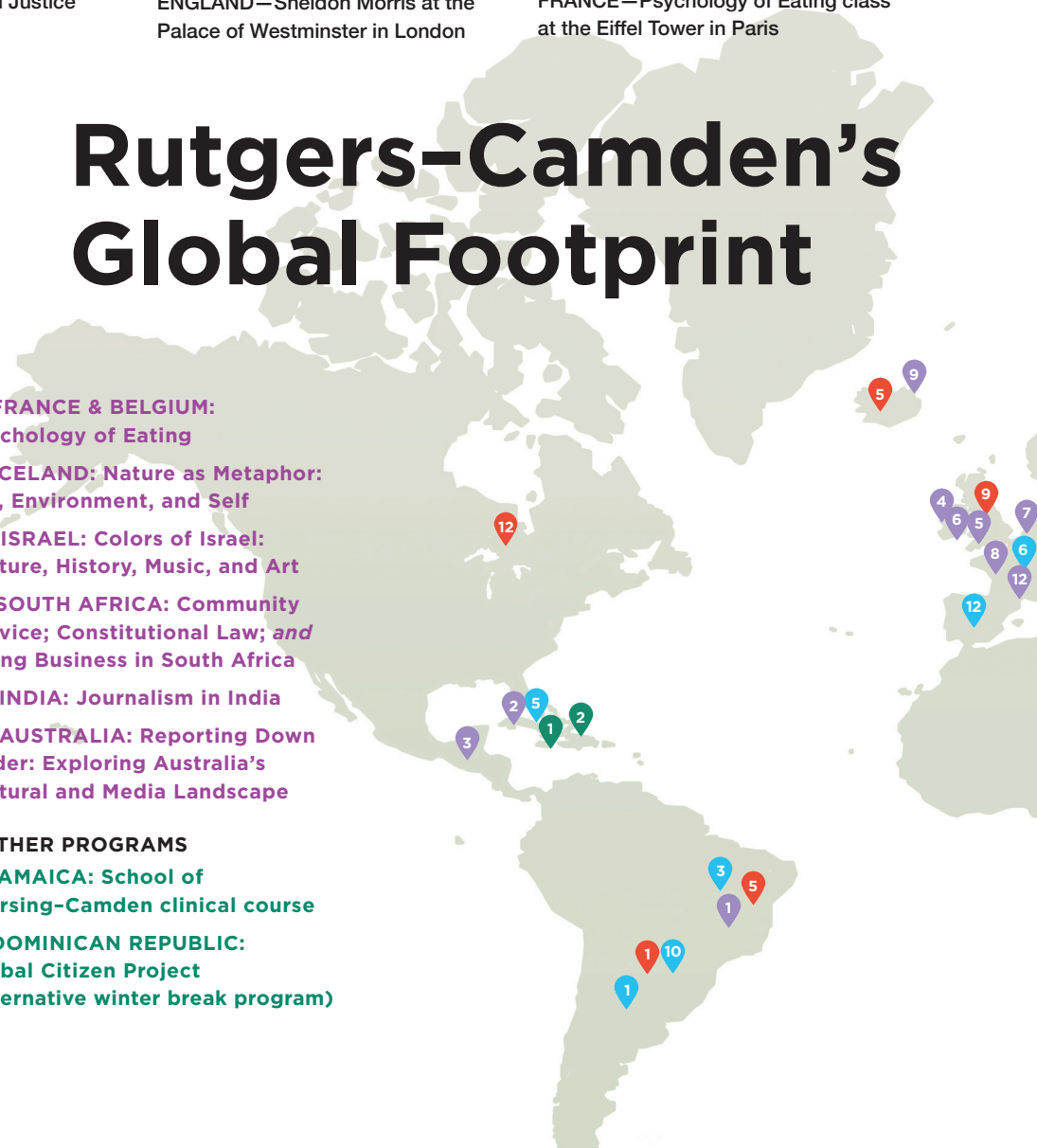
- 1. BRAZIL: International Study Marketing course on doing business in Brazil
- 2. CUBA: Population Health in Cuba Through Community Development *and* Cuba Libre: History, Society, and Culture of a Unique Island Nation
- 3. GUATEMALA: Health and Healing in Guatemala: A Service Learning Journey *and* Child Migration and U.S. Immigration Policy
- 4. ENGLAND & IRELAND: Comparative Criminal Justice *and* History of Notable Women in Health Care
- 5. ENGLAND: International Perspectives of Forensic Science
- 6. IRELAND: Literary Ireland *and* Travelogue, a documentary filmmaking course
- 7. GERMANY: Urban Navigation and Global Citizenship: Gentrification, Social Movements, and the Arts in Germany

- 8. FRANCE & BELGIUM: Psychology of Eating
- 9. ICELAND: Nature as Metaphor: Art, Environment, and Self
- 10. ISRAEL: Colors of Israel: Culture, History, Music, and Art
- 11. SOUTH AFRICA: Community Service; Constitutional Law; *and* Doing Business in South Africa
- 12. INDIA: Journalism in India
- 13. AUSTRALIA: Reporting Down Under: Exploring Australia’s Cultural and Media Landscape

OTHER PROGRAMS

- 1. JAMAICA: School of Nursing-Camden clinical course
- 2. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Global Citizen Project (alternative winter break program)

Rutgers-Camden’s Global Footprint



CUBA—Ashley Jaramillo in Havana



GUATEMALA—Students in the Fuentes Georginas hot springs in Guatemala’s Western Highlands



SOUTH AFRICA—Anna Huynh with a seal on the African coastline





IRELAND—Leigh Ann Vicoli at the Aran Islands in Galway Bay

GERMANY—Gentrification, Social Movements, and the Arts class at Brandenburg Gate in Berlin

ISRAEL—John Bran, left, and Giovanni Ruiz with faculty member Julia Zavadsky in Jerusalem



GLOBAL ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

Rutgers-Camden has 123 formal partnerships with universities that provide learning and research opportunities for students and faculty in the following countries: 1. Argentina 2. Austria 3. Brazil 4. China 5. Cuba 6. Hungary 7. India 8. Italy 9. Japan 10. Paraguay 11. South Korea 12. Spain 13. Sweden 14. Turkey.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is one of the most prestigious international exchange programs in the world. Rutgers-Camden current and emeritus faculty members have been named Fulbright Scholars 15 times in the past decade in the following countries:

1. PARAGUAY—Gloria Bonilla-Santiago, Public Policy and Administration

- 2. JORDAN—Marie O’Toole, Nursing
- 3. FINLAND—John Broussard, Finance
- 4. ITALY—Michael Livingston, Law
- 5. ICELAND AND BRAZIL—Daniel Shain, Biology
- 6. INDIA—Rajiv Gandhi, Computer Science
- 7. GERMANY—James Dunn, Political Science
- 8. PHILIPPINES—Patrick Rosal, English
- 9. UNITED KINGDOM—Richard Harris, Political Science, and Mark Zaki, Music
- 10. SOUTH KOREA—Sungsoo Kim, Accounting
- 11. HUNGARY—Jon Van Til, Sociology
- 12. CANADA AND MALAYSIA—Alan Tarr, Political Science

INDIA—Evonda Thomas across the Yamuna River from the Taj Mahal

AUSTRALIA—Students at Mrs. Macquarie’s Point in Sydney Harbor

AUSTRALIA—Ina San Buenaventura and koala bear in the Kuranda rainforest





**T'ENAYA DOW,
COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE IN ENGLAND,
SCOTLAND, AND WALES
AND PSYCHOLOGY OF
EATING IN BELGIUM AND
FRANCE**

The first time T'Enaya Dow ever set foot on an airplane was when she flew to London for a course comparing criminal justice systems in Great Britain with those in America. Dow, pictured at left with classmates at Buckingham Palace, said the trip “made me see the bigger picture. It inspired me to learn more about different cultures.” Dow, who earned a psychology degree in May, signed up for Psychology of Eating, which visited France and Belgium. “The first trip definitely made me want me to take more risks and jump outside of my comfort zone.”

In addition to educating American students, Palis said Rutgers–Camden is increasing its international recruitment and seeing a growth in students from other countries. Applications from international students have increased in recent years, as has enrollment. Students from more than 30 countries study at Rutgers–Camden, including significant populations from India and China.

Palis, who grew up in the Philippines and came to the United States to earn his doctorate, has experienced firsthand the path of a successful international student. He went on to found Rutgers–Camden’s Department of Computer Science in 1996 and became the university’s provost in 2015. “You can change somebody’s life

by giving them a perspective on what’s achievable,” he said.

Another aspect of Rutgers–Camden’s global footprint are 123 partnerships with international universities enabling student and faculty exchanges. In addition, Rutgers–Camden faculty members frequently win prestigious Fulbright scholarships that support overseas research. Palis said through this combination of robust global programs, exposure to other cultures is a cornerstone of a Rutgers–Camden education. “The world,” he said, “is our classroom.”

An Accessible Program

The experience of flying and leaving the country for the first time is common to many Rutgers–Camden students in the Learning Abroad programs, said Elizabeth

Atkins, associate dean of the Office of International Students and Global Programs. “A lot of our students have never had a passport,” Atkins said.

The trips that last for 10 days provide for an immersive opportunity that is manageable for students, many of whom are first-generation college students and transfer students who often work and have family commitments. “They aren’t able to go for more than a week or two,” Atkins said.

A total of 262 students went on 17 Learning Abroad trips in 2018, a record number of students and up 38 percent from the previous year. Students and faculty this year traveled to 10 countries, including new destinations in Belgium, Israel, and Australia. (See the map on pages 14-15 for more detail.)



**OCTAVIO YAMAMOTO,
DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH
AFRICA AND GENTRIFICA-
TION, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS,
AND THE ARTS IN GERMANY**

Octavio Yamamoto, a native of the Dominican Republic whose family emigrated to New Jersey when he was in high school, studied in South Africa and Germany. “I could not have gone on these trips without scholarships,” said Yamamoto, pictured at the Cape of Good Hope and the Reichstag, the seat of the German Parliament. Yamamoto, who earned accounting and finance degrees in 2017 and works for KPMG in Philadelphia, said his challenging hike to the top of Table Mountain, overlooking Cape Town, South Africa, “made me realize I have the potential to do more than I thought was possible.”



To offset expenses, Rutgers–Camden students who receive financial aid often can get increases in their financial aid packages. Also, more than a third of the students who traveled this year benefitted from several scholarships offered by the university. “Our goal is to make these programs as accessible and affordable as we can,” Atkins said.

One scholarship available for students traveling to take courses in nursing and health-related professions in Spanish-speaking countries is funded by a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s International and Foreign Language office that was awarded to the School of Nursing–Camden in 2016.

Alumni donors also have supported scholarships for students in Learning Abroad programs. Ed Kiessling CCAS’77 and his wife, Carolyn, established a fund in 2013 that supports international studies for students. “Being exposed to different cultures and countries abroad is one of the most formative educational experiences a young adult can have,” Ed Kiessling said. “In my time, I did not have the resources nor did the institution offer these opportunities to study abroad. I am delighted that is now possible at Rutgers–Camden, but I also recognize many students simply cannot afford this opportunity. We believe making this option financially manageable will have great benefits in creating well-rounded and educated individuals.” **R**

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To support Learning Abroad or other programs, contact Philip Ellmore, vice chancellor for institutional advancement, at 856-225-6957 or phillip.ellmore@rutgers.edu.

A South African Tradition

The South Africa trip, the oldest of the Learning Abroad programs, began in 1996. Founded and led by Cal Maradonna SBC’74, GSBC’79, it hosted more than 90 students, faculty, staff, and alumni in 2018. Space is available for alumni on the March 2019 trip. For information: learningabroad.camden.rutgers.edu.

NURSES ON THE FRONT LINES OF HEALTH CARE INEQUITIES

Nurses on the Front Lines of Health Care Inequities



By Sam Starnes

Bob Atkins knows firsthand the Monday morning rush that often confronts school nurses in vulnerable communities. “Everything that happened over the weekend that wasn’t seen by a primary care provider or an emergency department is coming to the school nurse’s office,” said Atkins, who worked for five years in the late ’90s as a school nurse in East Camden before joining the faculty of the Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden. “The school nurse’s office is part of an underground health care system. They are taking care of everything.”

Atkins, an associate professor of nursing and childhood studies who also serves as director of the New Jersey Health Initiative, the statewide grant-making program for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, recalls the litany of health concerns that came through his door. “I saw kids with fractures,” he said. “Kids that came in with ear infections and strep throat. All kinds of acute care and dental and vision issues. Being a school nurse is not just putting on Band-Aids and ice packs.”

This high level of need that confronts school nurses in disadvantaged school districts with large populations of minority students is just one indicator of the many inequities of the quality of health care received across diverse populations in America, said School of Nursing–Camden Dean Donna Nickitas.

Nickitas, who became dean in July, emphasizes that nurses must address issues of disparity and discrimination in health care, particularly regarding African Americans and Latinos. She cites

From left, Bob Atkins, associate professor of nursing and childhood studies; Sherolde Hackett, program services manager for the Camden Healthy Start program; and School of Nursing–Camden Dean Donna Nickitas are committed to overcoming the daunting challenges of discrimination and disparity in health care.



From left, Terry DeMarco, a nursing instructor; student Amanda Sobotka; and Associate Professor Bob Atkins analyze data in a laboratory in the Nursing and Science Building in downtown Camden.

a 2018 survey conducted by Harvard, NPR, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that explored discrimination as an indicator of health status. “That survey revealed that every demographic group surveyed felt discriminated against their race or ethnic group,” she said.

She also cites statistics showing that middle-aged African-American males have death rates nearly twice as high as white counterparts, and that the mortality and morbidity rates of black mothers and children have worsened over the past 20 years. This data, she said, pulls the United States’ health ranking down well below other countries. “As one of the wealthiest nations in the world, why are we ranked 32 in the world in health care?” she said. “Our numbers are deplorable.”

Nurses, Nickitas said, can have an impact in helping to rectify this situation. Through the education of nurses at the Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden, she wants graduates to go out into the world as

leaders with a focus on preventative care and community engagement. “We have a moral imperative to make sure that nurses understand that we do public good,” she said. “We serve all of society and we don’t get to choose between socioeconomic needs or class. We see the whole person. I want to make sure all individuals have access to health care. We have made public education a right. I believe health care should be a right for everyone.”

Nickitas and Atkins, while acknowledging the issues in health care in America are daunting, cited a number of initiatives underway at the School of Nursing–Camden that address health-care inequities: partnering with community organizations that have shared goals; educating school nurses; diversifying the nursing workforce; and preparing all nurses to be leaders on health care issues.

Community Partners

School of Nursing–Camden faculty, students, and staff partner with many organizations on initiatives, such as the

Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative, a private nonprofit cooperative working in seven counties to improve maternal and child health care. This summer, the agency was awarded \$1.1 million from the state to create community-based programs and services that address perinatal and maternal health care for black mothers and babies.

Judy Donlen, the agency's executive director who also chairs the New Jersey State Health Planning Board, echoed Nickitas's comments on the role discrimination plays in health care. "Race is undeniably a factor that functions as an intractable barrier for minorities seeing access to quality care," Donlen said. A doctor of nursing who earned a juris doctorate from Rutgers Law School



"In the 21st century, fewer nurses will be delivering care at the bedside. Nurses are going to be in the community. We want to make sure our students are ready to be leaders in population health."

-Bob Atkins, associate professor of nursing and childhood studies and director of the New Jersey Health Initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

in Camden in 1998, she said the new grant will help make great strides in an area of serious inequity. "I am very glad for the attention and associated resources being directed toward reducing New Jersey's black infant mortality rate," she said.

The Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative is one of more than 120 partners where Rutgers-Camden students work in clinical settings to aid health care organizations while learning. In addition, Patricia Suplee, an associate professor of nursing, serves on the organization's board. Sherolde Hackett, program services manager for the Camden Healthy Start program, a federal initiative administered by the agency, said that the partnership helps both the school and her program work toward shared goals. "We welcome the opportunity to provide nursing students with real-life



"Lessons learned about diverse populations and health equity serve not only the individual student, but also the greater good of all New Jersey communities."

-Sherolde Hackett, program services manager for the Camden Healthy Start program

learning experiences that yield valuable insights for their future professional practices," Hackett said. "Lessons learned about diverse populations and health equity serve not only the individual student, but also the greater good of all New Jersey communities. We also appreciate the exceptional research being done by Rutgers faculty that informs and guides our work."

School Nurse Education

Another avenue for improving health outcomes in children is thoroughly preparing school nurses to be community health leaders. The School of Nursing-Camden received a \$200,000 grant from the New Jersey Nursing Initiative of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in 2016 that enabled the program to expand the scope of topics for school nurses and prepare them to address the wide range of issues that confront them, such as adverse childhood experiences, health



"I want to make sure all individuals have access to health care. We have made public education a right. I believe health care should be a right for everyone."

-School of Nursing-Camden Dean
Donna Nickitas

equity, and behavioral health.

Tiffany Nelson, who has worked as school nurse for the Burlington County Special Services School District since January, this fall will finish the two-semester certification program at Rutgers–Camden and plans to continue on to earn a master of science in school health services, a new program for school nurses. Nelson said she has been inspired by the program to make a difference by practicing preventative health in the school. “We can do great things in the public health arena by getting out of the hospital and to where the people are,” said Nelson, who lives in Willingboro and has worked as a nurse in a hospital for four years. “If you can educate children and get them started with health habits, you can help them have better, healthier lives.”

Atkins said the school nurse specialty program is one of the only programs of its kind in the state. “Rutgers–Camden is a leader in this space,” he said. “It will serve as a model for other programs, and



“We can do great things in the public health arena by getting out of the hospital and to where the people are.”

-Tiffany Nelson, a school nurse for the Burlington County Special Services School District

through our scholarship, we can show that school nurses are a great investment because they ensure students are healthy and ready to learn.”

Diversifying Nursing

Yet another way the School of Nursing–Camden is working to assuage health-care inequities is through programs focused on diversifying the nursing workforce. “It’s still predominantly a white female profession,” Nickitas said.

A program started in 2014 with a grant is enabling frontline medical workers—many of whom are minorities—to earn nursing degrees. The Rutgers–Camden/Cooper Collaborative for Upward Mobility in Nursing allows assistive health care personnel working full time at Cooper University Health Care to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the



“If there are more African-American nurses and Hispanic nurses, it will be a good thing for health care. You will get a better outcome if patients can see themselves in the nurses treating them.”

-Shantá Rembert, an EMT working on a nursing degree at Rutgers–Camden

Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden.


Shantá Rembert, who has been working 10 years as an EMT in the ER at Cooper University Hospital, enrolled in the program in 2015 and plans to earn her nursing degree this academic year. “I thought I would never be able to go back to school,” said Rembert, a resident of Haddon Township, New Jersey, who is married and has four children. “I still have to work full time. It has always been a goal of mine, but I thought there was no way I could finish before I was 75.”

She said while working in health care for a decade in Camden, she has seen firsthand the benefits diversifying the nursing workforce will bring. “If there are more African-American nurses and Hispanic nurses, it will be a good thing for health care,” Rembert said. “You will get a better outcome if patients can see themselves in the nurses treating them.”

Nurses as Leaders

An important thread that runs through the School of Nursing–Camden curriculum is preparing nurses to provide care across the continuum—from acute to primary care. “In the 21st century, nurses are probably not going to be bedside,” Atkins said. “Nurses are going to have a role in the community. We want to make sure nurses are leaders.”

Nurses can be leaders through their everyday interactions with patients, Nickitas said. “A significant and growing body of research shows how day-to-day experiences of nurses, specifically advanced practice registered nurses, have contributed to alleviating the shortcomings of quality, access, and cost-effective, patient-centered care.”

Another way nurses can be leaders is by joining together in addressing health care issues, said Wanda Williams, an assistant professor and nurse practitioner in the School of Nursing–Camden. “Nurses make up the majority of individuals working in health care,” Williams said. “We have to have a voice.” 

WORDS AND PICTURES



Silvia Espinal loves her school’s art classes, but she never thought artwork she produced would hang in a large format for everyone to see.

But drawings and paintings by Espinal, an eighth grader at Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy in Camden, are now on prominent display as part of a 685-foot-long, eight-foot-high mural draped on construction fencing along the Delaware River on the Camden waterfront. “It makes me feel happy that my work is up there,” Espinal said. “I’ve never had it somewhere public like that.”

Espinal is one of more than 300 students from four Camden schools who contributed artwork to the mural that debuted in May. The mural, created under the guidance of the Rutgers–Camden Center for the Arts (RCCA) in partnership with Liberty Property Trust, will be on display along the waterfront walkway bordering the construction site south of the Ben Franklin Bridge until 2020. In 2019, RCCA plans to exhibit sections of the mural alongside the student artwork on campus.

The project began in fall 2017 when RCCA brought together visiting professional teaching artists with teachers and students at Espinal’s school, as well as Dr. Charles E. Brimm Medical Arts High School, Thomas H. Dudley Family School, and Holy Name School. The RCCA arranged for the students to participate in its museum education

From left: Camden eighth-grader Silvia Espinal; Carmen Pendleton, community and artist programs manager for the Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts; and Brian McAndrews CCAS’14, an art teacher at Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy in Camden, view original artwork that became part of the mural. At right: details of student work.



ARTWORK FOR ALL TO SEE

program using the Stedman Gallery exhibition, *Picturing Camden*, as inspiration. When it came time to draw and paint, students were asked to consider “How do you envision Camden’s past, present, and future?”

In early 2018, the visiting artists—Donna Backues from Philadelphia, Cesar Viveros from Mexico, and Doris Nogueira-Rogers from Brazil—used the students’ artwork to design the separate mural panels. “This was an extremely rewarding project because it allowed us to bring more arts into Camden classrooms,” said Carmen Pendleton, community and artist programs manager for RCCA. “The participating students had the opportunity to work with renowned artists and experiment with painting and drawing techniques using new art materials.”

Espinal certainly enjoyed it, especially seeing what the artists did with her work and that of her classmates. “It was cool how they enlarged it and made it bigger,” she said.

Brian McAndrews CCAS’14, Espinal’s art teacher at Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy, said the mural project had great impact on his students. “Seeing how different artists work was great for the kids, and working with professional artists was good exposure,” said McAndrews, who earned a bachelor of fine arts and his teaching certificate from Rutgers–Camden. “They were really proud to see their work up there.”

McAndrews, who also teaches art in the summer in the Rutgers–Camden Future Scholars program, a pre-scholarship program that annually serves 250 academically promising students from the Camden City School District, said the mural project was a perfect blend combining art, civic engagement, and the university. “It’s just another example of how Rutgers–Camden has affected my life and my students in a really positive way,” he said.

To view the mural, visit the walkway on the Camden Waterfront between Penn and Pearl streets.

For information about the mural exhibit on campus scheduled from February 25 through April 19, visit rcca.camden.rutgers.edu.



By Catherine Buck GSC'18

As an incoming student to the master of fine arts in creative writing program in fall 2016, I was thrilled at the idea of spending time in the new Writers House, which truly functions as a home for so many writers at Rutgers University–Camden. Several fellow graduate students had started programs for different populations on campus, but it also felt necessary to expand our work beyond the school grounds, to share what we were learning with kids in nearby neighborhoods.

During my first semester I approached Leah Falk, program coordinator for the Writers House, with the idea for an after-school program. By the spring, we'd launched a pilot in collaboration with Camden Ignite, a Rutgers–Camden civic engagement effort which runs regular after-school programming in schools in North Camden. We focused on creating a place where writing was fun, where we emphasized exciting and diverse model texts, where nurturing their unique ideas took prominence over perfect spelling and penmanship.

During the 2017–18 school year, we successfully expanded our programming to work regularly with middle school students at Cooper's Poynt Family School and Thomas H. Dudley Family School. "Many of our students need more support in reading and writing," said P.J. Craig, Rutgers–Camden's assistant director for



GROWING GREAT WRITERS

K–12 partnerships. "The creative writing club was able to bring that extra support in a fun way that felt different from school and gave our students voice."

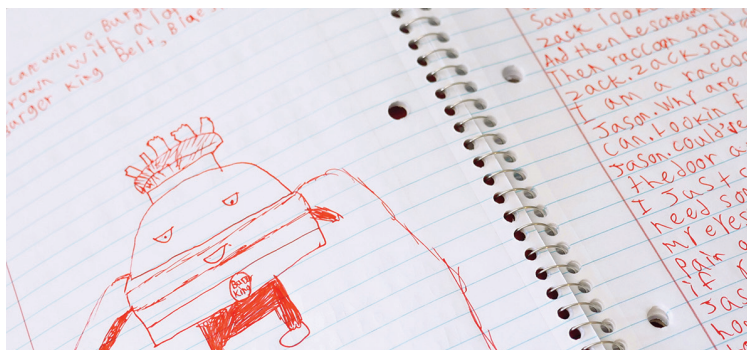
One of our primary goals is to help students express the ideas and stories they already carry within them, such as writing about Camden for an evening celebrating the many wonderful parts of their home city. While we have structured writing and storytelling activities each session, several students have latched on to an idea and run with it over the course of our weekly meetings. Students have created a serial adventure story featuring a wizard and Evil Starfish, a new superhero modeled after a life-sized hamburger, and lots of bilingual poetry. Because many of our students come from primarily Spanish-speaking households,

it is important for us to support these young people in expressing themselves creatively in the way that feels most natural for them.

While our programming takes place in their schools, it's not "homework time." We've worked hard to build a space where regular participants can feel safe taking risks with their writing, creating broadly in a way that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to do. "So many of the kids are eager to write stories," said Judson Packard, a student in the M.F.A. program who will be leading the program during the 2018–2019 year. "Giving them the chance to do just that with no grades or expectations can be so important to a writer's development."

Students, alumni, faculty, and staff in the M.F.A. program are excited for the growth and expansion of activities we can offer to young writers in Camden. We hope to provide students with the support necessary to find joy and confidence in their ability to express their ideas, dreams, and creativity of all types through the written word. With a great group of incoming graduate students on campus this fall, we are thrilled to be able to continue serving Camden kids for years to come.

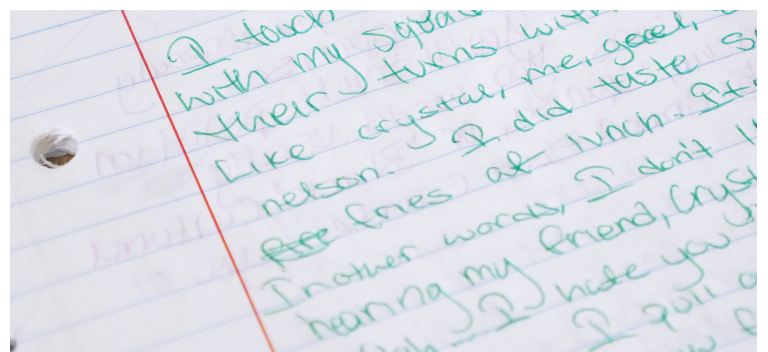
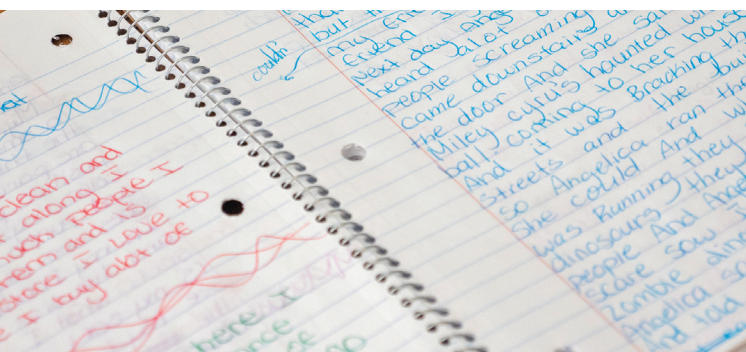
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For more information about Growing Great Writers, visit writershouse.camden.rutgers.edu.



Above: Catherine Buck received her M.F.A. in fiction from Rutgers–Camden in 2018, and continues to teach as an adjunct faculty member. She is working on a novel about teens on the U.S.–Mexico border. *Photo by Mary Anderson.*

Above, right: Rutgers–Camden M.F.A. student Alex Luke, center, and Nicholas Silcox GSC'18, a M.A. in English graduate, leading a writing workshop with students at Cooper's Poynt Family School in Camden. *Photo by Kate Blair.*

Bottom: Writing by Camden students from the workshops. *Photos by Mary Anderson.*



SCARLET PROFILES

A Governor's Life in Politics Took Root in Camden

By Sam Starnes



James J. Florio, who served as the governor of New Jersey from 1990 through 1994, as well as a member of the U.S. Congress and the New Jersey General Assembly, is a native of

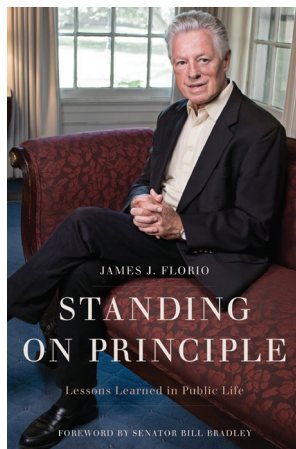
Brooklyn, but Rutgers University and Camden have played key roles in his life. In his new political memoir, *Standing on Principle: Lessons Learned in Public Life*, published by Rutgers University Press in May, he tells the story of his life in and out of politics.

Florio arrived in Camden in the early 1960s where he attended Rutgers Law School, the same time he ventured into politics, serving as chair of the Camden County Young Democrats during his second year as a law student. He earned his law degree in 1967 and later represented the area in the New Jersey General Assembly from 1970 until 1975 and Congress from 1975 until 1990. Florio was instrumental in supporting Camden projects, such as construction of the aquarium and the amphitheater on the Camden waterfront. He now lives in Moorestown, New Jersey, and works out of his law office in Cherry Hill, but he keeps a close eye on the growth in the city. “The things that are happening in Camden are phenomenal,” he said. “Rutgers is playing a big part of it.”

Florio, who taught at Rutgers Law in Camden and later at the Eagleton

Institute of Politics and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers–New Brunswick, shares details in his book on his key initiatives, including the state’s assault weapons ban and groundbreaking environmental protection laws that benefitted the Jersey Shore and Pinelands.

A story of particular interest to the Rutgers–Camden community is the time Florio, a Democrat, met with William Thomas Cahill, a Republican, and the only other New Jersey governor to hold a degree from Rutgers Law School in Camden. Cahill, who earned his law degree from the South Jersey Law School—as Rutgers Law School in Camden was known in 1937—served as governor from 1970 to 1974.



The following excerpt from *Standing on Principle* tells the story of when Florio was a new state legislator in Trenton.

Bill Cahill and I did not exactly get off on the right foot. As a young Democratic assemblyman, I wrote a letter to the editor of one of the papers, I think it was the

Philadelphia Inquirer, criticizing Cahill’s tax proposal as unfair to the City of Camden. (The irony of this position on taxes, one of my earliest as a fledgling legislator, was not lost on me, nor was it ignored by my political opponents, a couple of decades later.) I got a call the next day from the governor’s office, asking me to meet with Cahill the following Monday, when the assembly would be in session.

No sooner had I walked in Cahill’s office than he was waving the newspaper clipping at me and demanding, “Why did



GOVERNOR CAHILL

you write that letter? What, do you want to start fights?” I said, “No, no, these are just my thoughts.” He started to get all red in the face and yelled, “Are you an agitator or are you just somebody that wants to pick

political fights all the time?” I replied, “No, no, no.” I was really taken aback, but he kept going on and on. “Governor, don’t be paranoid,” I finally said. He went ballistic.

Years later, when I was a congressman and he was a former governor, we actually became very friendly. When I ran for governor, Cahill, along with many of the people who had been involved in his administration, most of them Republicans, supported me. After I was elected governor, I appointed his son Bill Jr. to a seat on the State Commission of Investigation, and our relationship grew stronger. Like the so-called Presidents Club about which so much has been written, current and former governors of New Jersey usually share a bond, regardless of party, that is forged by our common experience.

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Excerpt reprinted with permission from Rutgers University Press.

James J. Florio's political memoir tells of a memorable meeting with the only other Rutgers Law School in Camden alumnus to serve as governor



Global Health Leader Started with Science



By Sam Starnes

Soon after Tej Nuthulaganti, the global director of the Health Workforce division for the Clinton Health Access Initiative, arrived in Liberia on the West Coast of Africa in 2014, the Ebola virus was

discovered. “It was a very trying time,” said Nuthulaganti CCAS’07, GCS’08, who holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in biology from Rutgers University–Camden. “It started with one suspected case. Quickly a few more cases came up with the same signs and symptoms and the patients had died. The results came back from international lab tests to confirm that it was Ebola. By that time, there were more than 50 cases. It was

clear it was an epidemic and it was spreading everywhere. There was a lot of panic in the country.”

Nuthulaganti said the global response to the epidemic was slow and many international aid workers fled the country, but the Clinton Health Access Initiative

stayed. “We continued our planning work to scale up the health workforce in Liberia and the local Clinton Health Access Initiative office transitioned to Ebola response,” he said.

The outbreak lasted more than a year and killed thousands. Nuthulaganti worked in Liberia for more than three years on workforce development and served as a strategic adviser to then-Liberian Health Minister Bernice Dahn. In 2018 he moved back to Boston, where he continues his global health work overseeing programs in six countries.

Nuthulaganti credits his career to the education he received at Rutgers–Camden, where he worked as a research assistant in university laboratories, as well as leadership experience he gained volunteering for Rutgers University’s chapter of the American Medical Student Association. He later oversaw all of the association’s undergraduate chapters nationally as an elected leader. “Those formative experiences at Rutgers–Camden have really shaped who I am today professionally,” Nuthulaganti said. “I’m

An Immigrant Alumna Gives Back



By Shelby Vittek GSC’16

When she was 5 years old, Carolina Cabrera DiGiorgio moved from Honduras to New Jersey with her parents and siblings. Today, 33 years later, DiGiorgio CCAS’02, RLAW’05 is the president and CEO of Congreso de Latinos Unidos, one of the largest Latino social service agencies in Philadelphia.

The daughter of an engineer and an attorney, DiGiorgio grew up in Gloucester County, where she attended Clearview Regional High School in Mullica Hill. “Our family was very academic and focused on education,” she said. Her sister pursued medicine, her brother pursued engineering, and she pursued law.

DiGiorgio credits Rutgers University–Camden for helping to pave the way to her success. As an honors student who

majoring in political science with minors in psychology and Spanish, she was encouraged to embrace a more holistic approach to issues in politics. “Not only was I learning about government and the role it plays in helping the community,” she said, “but I was learning how to understand people and the decisions that they make, and why they make them.” DiGiorgio stayed at Rutgers–Camden for law school, a decision of which she said she’s proud.

After finishing her law degree, DiGiorgio joined Stradley Ronon, a law firm in Philadelphia, where she practiced corporate law for 10 years. In early 2017, she was named president and CEO of Congreso de Latinos Unidos, where she works to build relationships with outside funders and ensures the nonprofit orga-

trying to interlink the ideas of how science, education, and policy can really impact people's lives and how we as citizens of a resource-rich country have a moral imperative to act and contribute what we can to health equity and justice."

After finishing his degrees at Rutgers--Camden, the Philadelphia native who attended high school in southern New Jersey earned a master's degree in public health at Harvard University. He later served as a teaching fellow and worked closely with Paul Farmer, a global humanitarian, physician, and Harvard professor, at Partners in Health.

Nuthulaganti worked for two years with the Clinton Health Access Initiative in South Africa where he supported malaria elimination and HIV testing and treatment. In 2012, he relocated to Rwanda for two years where his work focused on supporting the government to ease the national shortage of health care workers. Other efforts included trying to improve health delivery systems, getting medical equipment into facilities, and building new infrastructure such as national teaching hospitals.

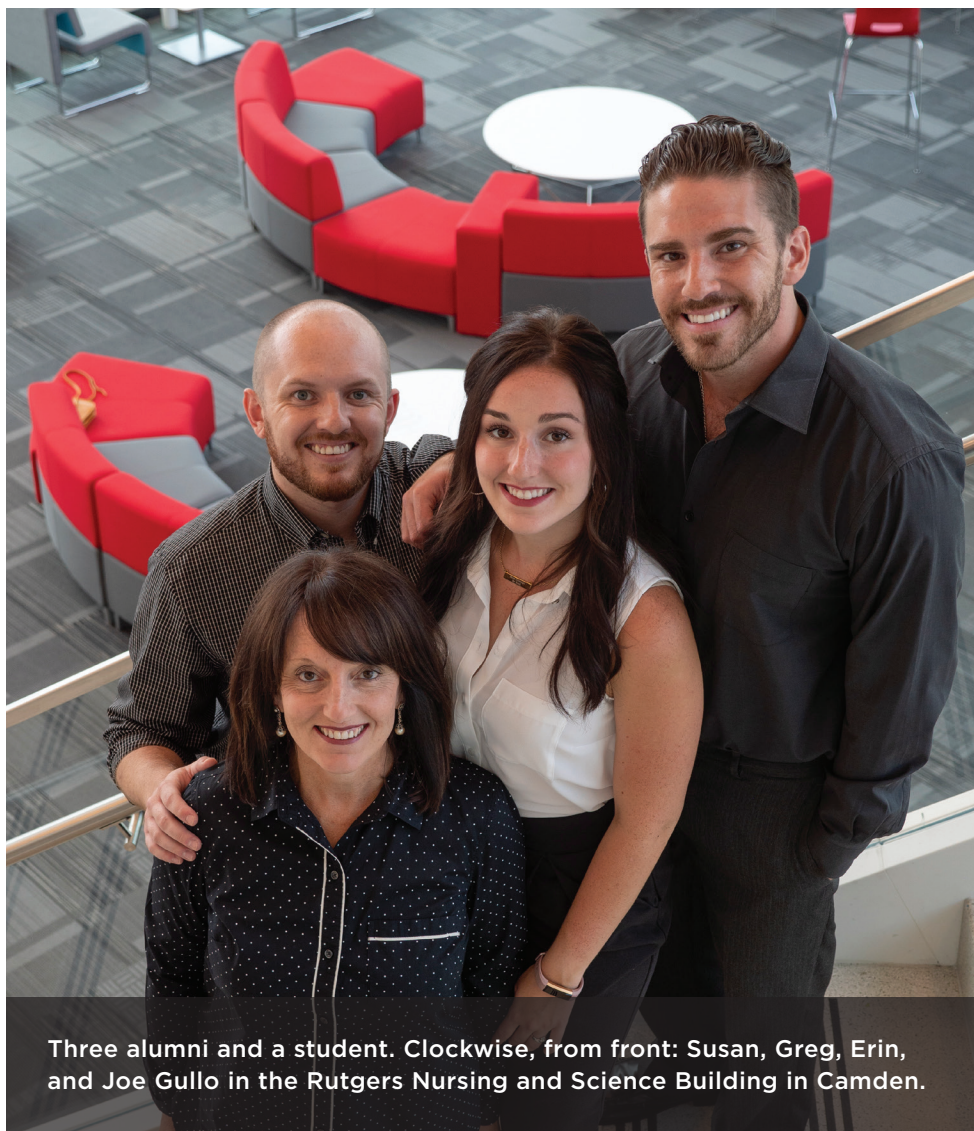
nization continues to deliver essential services to clients. She has guided Congreso into new projects, and in February, the organization shifted its mission in an effort to target a younger population, from birth to age 30. She said she looks forward to working with Congreso staff and the community to achieve the initiative, including building new programs in youth development and parenting.

DiGiorgio and her husband, Valentino F. DiGiorgio III, an attorney at Stradley Ronon who chairs the Pennsylvania Republican Party, live in Chester County, Pennsylvania, with their children. "I'm thankful to be living in a country where I've had so many opportunities to excel," DiGiorgio said. "To give back to a community that needs those opportunities, especially as an immigrant, is really fulfilling."

A Nursing Family

Susan Gullo takes credit for her family's affinity for the Rutgers School of Nursing--Camden. "I'm the one who started it all," she said, noting that she earned her bachelor's degree in nursing in 2002. (It was her second degree from Rutgers, her first being a 1990 psychology degree from Rutgers--New Brunswick.) Next up was her son, Greg, the oldest of her three children who all remember their mother working on her nursing degree. He completed his undergrad nursing degree in 2013. "I felt a very deep connection to this school," Greg said. "I never even considered another college." Daughter

Erin followed, earning her bachelor's degree in May of this year, but there is one more: Joe, Susan Gullo's youngest son, is on track to earn a Rutgers--Camden nursing degree in 2019. Susan, Greg, and Erin all now work full time as nurses at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia, while Joe works at Virtua Medical Center in Marlton. "I'm proud beyond belief," Susan said about her children who grew up in Marlton, New Jersey, where she and her husband, Greg Gullo Sr., still live. "They had options. They could have gone to many other schools but they made the best choice in Rutgers--Camden."



Three alumni and a student. Clockwise, from front: Susan, Greg, Erin, and Joe Gullo in the Rutgers Nursing and Science Building in Camden.

ONCE MENTORED, NOW A MENTOR



Doug Coleman with his wife, Nikki, a Rutgers-Camden alumna, and their daughter, Aseeli, a senior at Rutgers-Camden.

PHOTO BY MARY ANDERSON

By Shelby Vittek GSC'16

Douglas Coleman believes that mentorship is vital to success. “I tell people all the time that you’re not going to be successful in financial services, or any career field, if you don’t have mentors,” said Coleman SBC’03, executive vice president of the Borden Perlman Insurance Agency in Ewing, New Jersey.

Coleman, who earned a degree in accounting, speaks from experience. “I was fortunate enough throughout my

entire career to have people who took me under their wing and watched out for me—starting at Rutgers-Camden,” Coleman said.

Coleman, who joined the School of Business Dean’s Leadership Council in January, is watching out for others. Through the school’s Business Leader Development Program, he has mentored several students. He said he was like many at Rutgers-Camden who worked while taking classes and he recognizes

motivation in the students he encounters. “The work ethic exhibited by the Rutgers-Camden students is second-to-none,” he said. “There is something about that initiative—working to put yourself through school, taking the nontraditional path—that really creates somebody special.”

And speaking of mentors, Coleman said he is very appreciative of the support he received at Rutgers-Camden from John H. Overpeck Jr. SBC’81; Ron Wilson RC’71; Larry Gaines SBC’76, senior vice

chancellor of administration and finance, and former associate dean of the School of Business-Camden; and Kristin Walker CCAS’89, director of campus events.

Coleman has worked in financial services for various companies, including PricewaterhouseCoopers, The Graham Company, and Marsh & McLennan Agency, before joining Borden Perlman in 2017. He grew up in the Bronx and attended Rutgers-Camden as an adult student when he was already married with children. He and his wife, Nikki, a Rutgers-Camden 2002 sociology graduate who is an elementary school teacher for the Willingboro School District, live in Cherry Hill. They have three children, including their oldest, Aseeli, a senior at Rutgers-Camden majoring in studio art and graphic design.

In addition to mentoring, one of Coleman’s greatest passions is working on diversity initiatives. In both his workplace and in his involvement with Rutgers-Camden, Coleman advocates for addressing issues of race, gender, and sexual identity and looking at the ways they impact school and work environments. “It’s something that’s really important to me, being a minority myself,” he said. “It’s a sensitive dialogue, but if we don’t talk about that stuff and put it on the table, we’re not going to change.”

WHY I GAVE

Tom McMorrow was one of 230 students from the Class of 2018 who contributed to the senior gift that raised \$6,386. He graduated *summa cum laude* from the Rutgers School of Business-Camden in May with a finance degree.

By Tom McMorrow SBC'18

My motivation for giving to Rutgers-Camden was simple: I wanted to give back to a university that gave so much to me. I had an exceptionally unconventional path to get my degree. Simply put, without Rutgers-Camden I wouldn't have my college education. I wouldn't be able to pursue my dreams.

As someone who majored in finance, I was taught that “pennies add up to dollars, dollars add up to thousands, and thousands plus time equals financial independence.” I knew that any gift of any size would be deeply valued by the university. My gift was small, but it came with a large amount of heart. The sense of close-knit community that Rutgers-Camden fosters deserves to be recognized, and I was happy to do so with my donation.

I am eternally grateful to say that my education—from my first steps on campus until I was walking at commencement—was graciously funded through financial support. I knew I wanted to do my part to ensure the next generation of Rutgers-Camden students have the same opportunities I did. A combination of scholarships and grants paid not only for all of my education, but a scholarship also covered the entirety of my South Africa Learning Abroad trip. With so much financial generosity lovingly shown to me, I felt it only right to pay that forward.

I have no doubt every graduate has memories that are worth the equivalent of two movie tickets a year. I urge all of you to make a donation, however small, to the university that I'm sure did as much for you as it did for me. I'd hate for another bright young mind to miss out on pursuing their dreams like I almost did.

PHOTO BY MARY ANDERSON

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS!

For information on the Rutgers University-Camden Alumni Association (RUCAA) and other charter groups, visit Ralumni.com, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 856-225-6028, or email alumni@camden.rutgers.edu. To send a class note to *Rutgers Magazine*, visit Ralumni.com/mynews.

R
CAMDEN

THE BACK PAGE

Famous Faces at Rutgers–Camden

The names read like a who's who of popular musicians—Duke Ellington, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, Simon and Garfunkel, Patti LaBelle, Warren Zevon, Billy Joel, Kool and the Gang, Sister Souljah, and Jon Bon Jovi—just to name a few. Many big names have performed for Rutgers–Camden students over the years.

Beyond music, there's a full slate of comedians: Jay Leno, Dick Gregory, Lily Tomlin, John Belushi and, later, his brother Jim, as well as Bill Maher and Zach Galifianakis.

And actors, too, including Jane Fonda and Leonard Nimoy (of *Star Trek* fame), both of whom spoke, and legendary thespians Sir Michael Redgrave and Vincent Price, both of whom performed on campus.

Writers, poets, and filmmakers who've visited include Isaac Asimov, Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Nikki Giovanni, James Dickey, Joyce Carroll Oates, Spike Lee, and Margot Lee Shetterly, author of *Hidden Figures*, who visited last year. Recently, Colson Whitehead, author of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning novel *The Underground Railroad*, appeared on campus in September.

This list could go on, if not for the lack of space. Is there a visit by a well-known figure to campus that you remember? If yes, please share your memories on the Rutgers–Camden Alumni Facebook page at [facebook.com/RutgersCamdenAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/RutgersCamdenAlumni).



ELLINGTON



ZEVON

Duke Ellington and his band played a 1962 Kappa Sigma Upsilon fraternity party (pictured above with Joseph Soldo CCAS'63); Warren Zevon performed in the gym in 1980; Jon Bon Jovi sang during his 2015 commencement address.



BON JOVI



MARTHA AND THE VANDELLAS



BELUSHI



LABELLE



LEE



JOEL



TOMLIN

CONNECT WITH YOUR RUTGERS- CAMDEN FAMILY

Participate in a Charter Group!

The moment you graduated, you became a member of the Rutgers University Alumni Association (RUAA), a worldwide community of more than 500,000 Rutgers alumni. Here at Rutgers-Camden, we have numerous chartered groups that are run by dedicated alumni volunteers. These groups serve your interests and offer opportunities to do philanthropic

work, network with like-minded professionals, and build Scarlet pride.

The Rutgers-Camden-based charter organizations listed below engage alumni through communications, events, and volunteer opportunities. Please feel free to reach out to the contact person listed to learn more about the group.

To receive news from RUAA, including announcements of exciting events, update your email address at RAlumni.com/CamdenUpdate.

For assistance from the Office of Alumni Relations, please don't hesitate to contact us at alumni@camden.rutgers.edu or 856-225-6028.

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