

*Lessons in Leadership*

*Helping Kids Form  
Healthy Habits*

*A Camden Superhero*

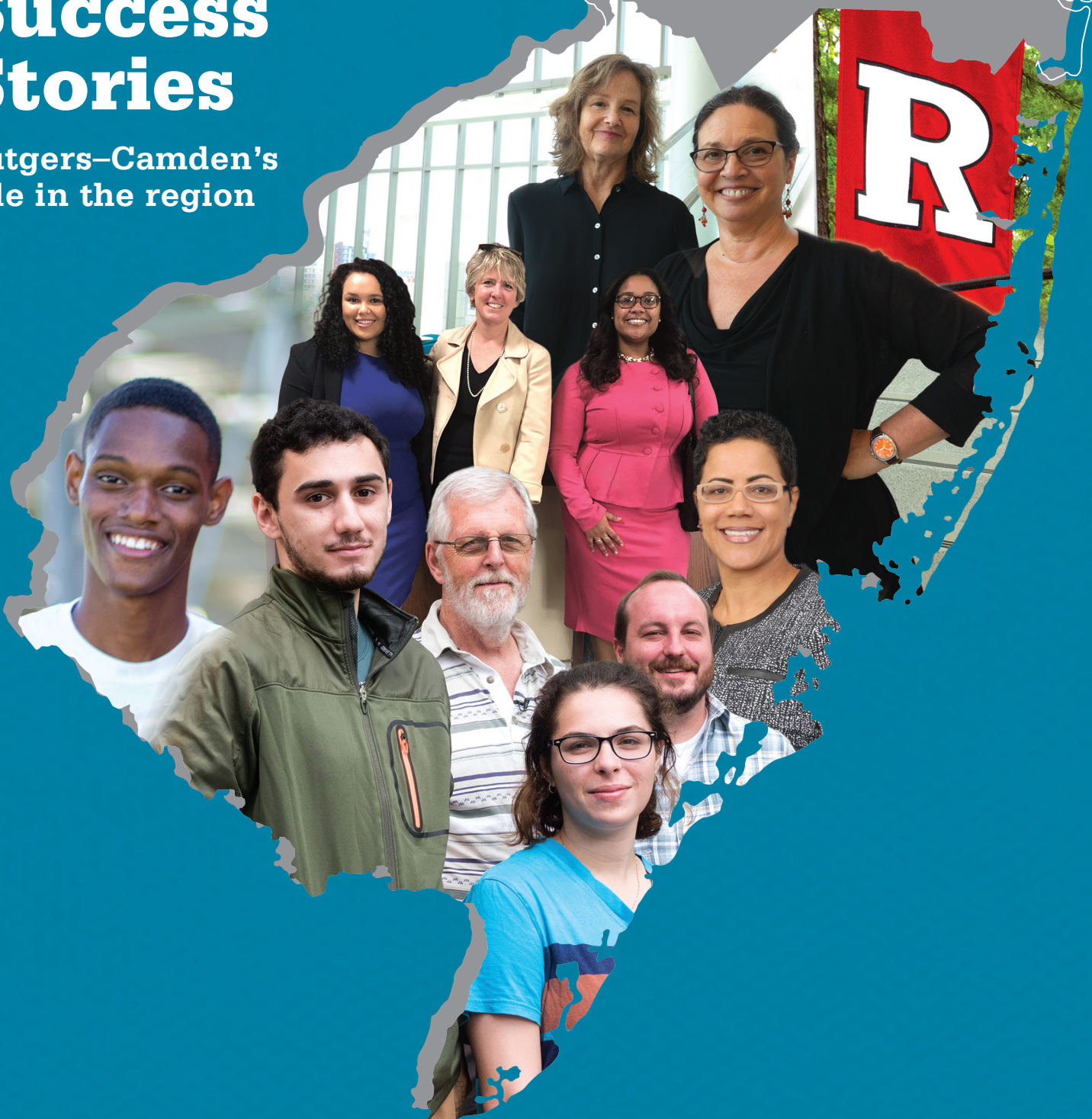
# RUTGERS CAMDEN

MAGAZINE

FALL 2019

## South Jersey Success Stories

Rutgers–Camden's  
role in the region





# RUTGERS CAMDEN

Rutgers-Camden Magazine Vol. III, No. 1 Fall 2019

## A Butterfly in Hand

Walt Whitman, who called Camden home for two decades, lives on at Rutgers University-Camden in this statue, *Whitman with Butterfly*, which was sculpted by John Giannotti, professor emeritus of art, and erected in front of the Campus Center in 2008. The yearlong celebration of Whitman's 200th birthday continues this fall with *Democratic Vistas: Whitman, Body and Soul*, an art exhibit that runs through December 7 in the university's Stedman Gallery. The Rutgers-Camden Writers House will host a poetry workshop inspired by Whitman's work on October 26-27. Visit [rcca.camden.rutgers.edu](http://rcca.camden.rutgers.edu) for more on the exhibit, and [writershouse.camden.rutgers.edu](http://writershouse.camden.rutgers.edu) for the poetry workshop. Both are free and open to the public.

PHOTO BY JONATHAN KOLBE







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**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

Michael Sepanic

**EDITOR**

Sam Starnes

**ART DIRECTION**

Karaamat Abdullah

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Mary Anderson  
Allison Casey GSC'19  
Dan Hanson  
Jeanne Leong  
Shelby Vittek GSC'16

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Mary Anderson  
Chris Hartlove  
Jonathan Kolbe

**EDITORIAL SUPPORT**

Mary Anderson  
Akua Asiamah Andrade  
Michael Ballard  
Kate Blair CCAS'11  
Kate Brennan CCAS'02  
Stefanie Charles  
Jane Hart  
Loree D. Jones  
Jeanne Leong  
Todd Lineburger  
Cal Maradonna SBC'74, GSBC'79  
Tom McLaughlin  
Scott D. Owens CCAS'04, GSC'10  
Julie Roncinske GSC'13  
Beatris Santos  
Julie Still  
Mary Clare Venuto CCAS'07, GSC'09  
Kristin Walker CCAS'88  
Patrick Wallace CCAS'02  
Nyeema C. Watson CCAS'00, GSC'15

*Rutgers-Camden Magazine*  
303 Cooper Street  
Camden, NJ 08102-1519

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*We welcome your feedback on this issue of Rutgers-Camden Magazine. If you have questions or comments regarding the content of the magazine, please contact Sam Starnes at [sstarnes@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:sstarnes@camden.rutgers.edu) or 856-225-6857. For alumni address changes, please visit [ralumni.com/mynews](http://ralumni.com/mynews) or call 848-932-7260.*



# CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

Rutgers University–Camden is recognized nationally for the effectiveness of our civic engagement partnerships in our host city. Our commitment to New Jersey—particularly the southern half of the Garden State—is no less transformative. The genesis of our dedication to teaching, research, and service in South Jersey dates back to 1862, when the Morrill Act established land-grant universities and built the foundation for comprehensive public institutions of higher education. Rutgers became New Jersey's land-grant university and earned the accompanying privilege to support the state's growth and quality of life. In 1950, when the College of South Jersey and the South Jersey Law School merged with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, the commitment to doing public service inherent in the land-grant charter expanded in the southern half of the state through the growth of Rutgers–Camden.

I am proud of the work that we do and the significance of our contributions to the continued growth of our region. You can read about examples of these varied efforts in our cover story, “South Jersey Success Stories: Rutgers–Camden’s Role in the Region.” It highlights programs helping families with small children find and pay for child care, advising small businesses and start-ups, studying the unique Pinelands environment, preserving historic architecture, reducing juvenile delinquency, and assisting with numerous health care issues. These initiatives are among the many ways that we strive every day as a public institution to fulfill our mission of enhancing the quality of life across South Jersey and preparing the next generation of civic leaders for our state and our nation.



*Phoebe A. Haddon*

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

## THE BIG NUMBERS

7,400

STUDENTS ENROLLED  
FALL 2019

12,319

CHILDREN SERVED BY THE  
RUTGERS SOUTHERN REGIONAL  
CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND  
REFERRAL AGENCY IN 2017-18

5,600+

BUSINESSES ASSISTED BY THE  
RUTGERS-CAMDEN SMALL  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER SINCE 1987

34

YEARS PINELANDS  
FIELD STATION HAS  
BEEN A RUTGERS SITE  
FOR RESEARCH

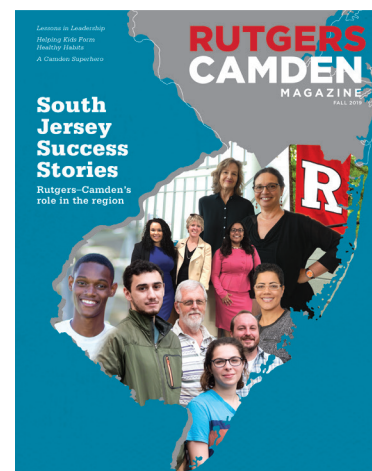
700+

JUVENILES REPRESENTED  
IN COURT BY THE RUTGERS  
LAW SCHOOL CHILDREN'S  
JUSTICE CLINIC SINCE 2007

45%

REDUCTION IN JUVENILE  
ARRESTS IN CUMBERLAND  
COUNTY'S CITIES FROM  
2012-18

## ON THE COVER



Many Rutgers–Camden students, faculty, and community partners are involved in successful initiatives across South Jersey. Read about the programs that are making a difference on pages 8 through 17.



## A Shared Space for Science



Joint Health Sciences Center

PHOTO BY JONATHAN KOLBE

A new facility in the growing “Eds and Meds” corridor that is expanding the footprint of Rutgers University–Camden’s campus opened this fall. The Joint Health Sciences Center, shared by Rutgers–Camden, Rowan University, and Camden County College, is a \$70 million, four-story building at the intersection of Broadway and Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard. It sits a block away from the Rutgers–Camden Nursing and Science Building that opened in 2017 across Federal Street from Camden City Hall.

The 100,000-square-foot new building includes laboratory space for Rutgers–Camden and Rowan University, simulation rooms for the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, instructional space and simulation labs for Camden County College, a first-floor

café, a rooftop terrace, and multipurpose spaces. “The nature of this building will promote meaningful collaborations among researchers and educators from Rutgers, Rowan, and Camden County College,” said Rutgers–Camden Chancellor Phoebe A. Haddon. “The Joint Health Sciences Center places New Jersey at the forefront of maximizing public investment in research, and Rutgers University–Camden is proud to play a leading role in this endeavor.”

Estimates are that the new building will generate an economic impact of approximately \$72 million in the city of Camden and \$122 million statewide. “The city of Camden will soon be synonymous with scientific and medical innovation,” said Dana Redd SBC’96, CEO of the Rowan University/Rutgers–

Camden Board of Governors. “We expect this to make Camden one of the most sought-after research destinations in the state of New Jersey and the Delaware Valley.”



**1. Joint Health Sciences Center**  
**2. Nursing and Science Building**



## RESEARCH

# ONE OF THE BEST IN BIOMIMETICS

**Chemistry professor awarded prestigious national honors for groundbreaking research**

**A** Rutgers University–Camden professor has been honored by both the White House and the U.S. Army for outstanding early career research.

Jinglin Fu, an associate professor of chemistry, received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor that a beginning scientist or engineer can receive in the United States, at a special ceremony during the summer in Washington, D.C.

Previously, he was awarded a \$1 million grant with the Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from the Army Research Office. That grant funds a graduate student and a postdoctoral student to do research in Fu's lab on the Rutgers–Camden campus, as well as paid summer research internships for Rutgers–Camden undergraduates. "This is an important award to support my lab's research of biomimetic systems, as well as exploring new directions in biomolecular assemblies and functions," Fu said.

Biomimetics is an interdisciplinary field that applies principles from engineering, chemistry, and biology to the synthesis of materials, synthetic systems, or machines that have functions that mimic biological processes.

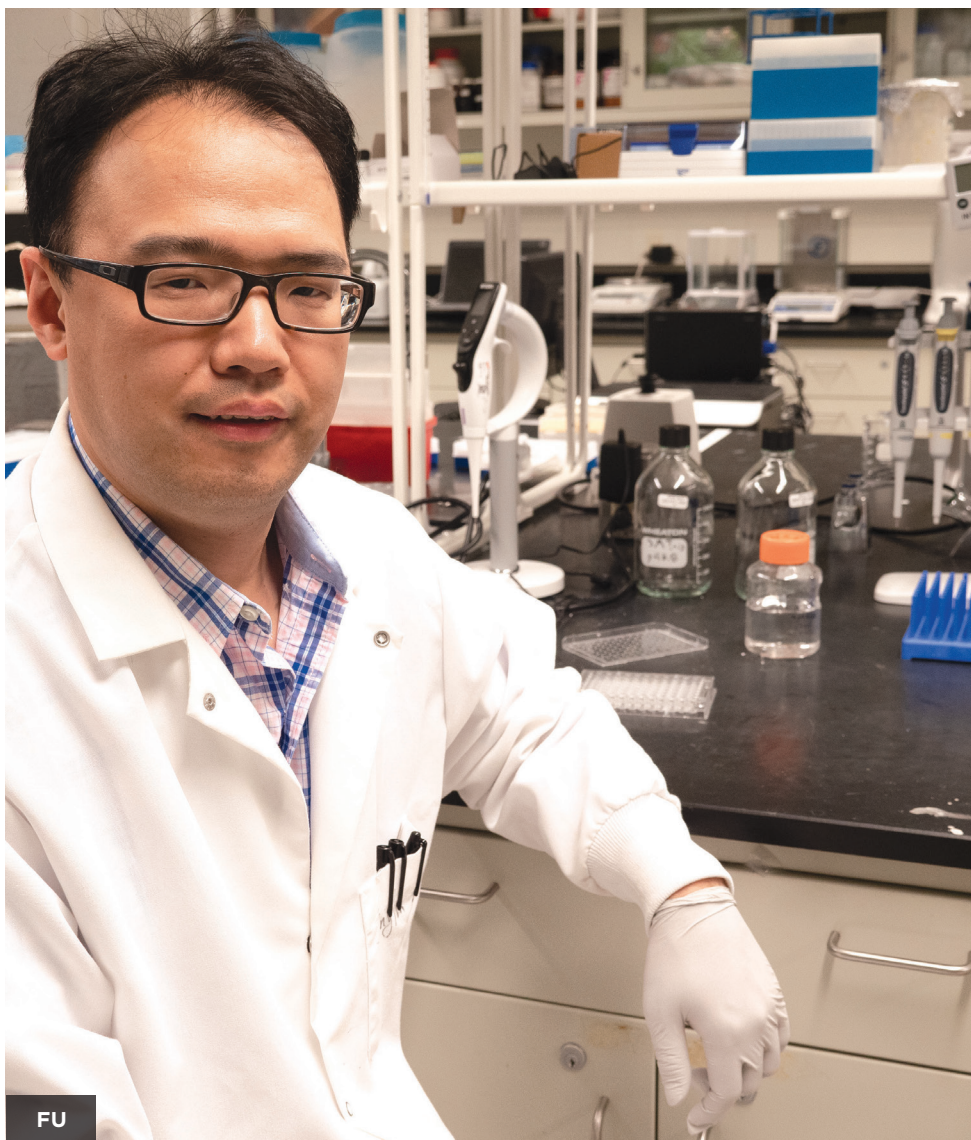


PHOTO BY MARY ANDERSON

Fu, a member of the Rutgers–Camden Center for Computational and Integrative Biology, joined the university faculty in 2013. He earned his doctorate in chemistry at Arizona State University and master's and undergraduate degrees in chemistry at Zhejiang University in China. His work in biomimetics strives to design solutions to human challenges, ranging from diagnostics and drug delivery to the production of high-value

chemicals and smart materials that can improve efficiency and save resources.

One of the potential applications of Fu's research is to develop smart biosensors for diagnosing and monitoring disease, detecting risk, and deciding which therapies will work best for individual patients. "There is tremendous potential in biomimetic research to change the world for the better in many ways," Fu said.



THE ARTS

# The Play's the Thing

**Rutgers-Camden theater program productions run the gamut from Shakespeare to contemporary, from musicals to one-act plays**

By Sam Starnes

To be, or not to be?

That is just one of the questions that plays produced by Rutgers University-Camden's theater program will raise in its upcoming 2019-20 season, which includes Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Three plays each academic year are directed by faculty and performed in the Walter K. Gordon Theater, the university's 650-seat theater with a proscenium arch and a stage as large as a Broadway house. "We have a very high standard for production," said Ken Elliott, an associate professor of theater and chair of the Department of Visual, Media, and Performing Arts, who has directed more than 20 Off-Broadway plays in New York. "Our seasons are every bit as strong as the seasons of many professional regional theaters around the country."

The fall season features *Top Girls*, an avant-garde play set in 1980s London, opening on October 30, and a December performance of student-directed one-act plays held in the Black Box Studio in the Fine Arts Building. In the spring semester, *Hamlet* will be staged in February and Cole Porter's musical *Anything Goes* in April, both in the Gordon Theater. "We strive to have a balanced season so our audiences get a variety of theatrical experiences throughout the year," Elliott said.

There are more than 50 Rutgers-Camden students majoring in theater. While many of the casts and crews in each play are theater majors, the productions welcome students from other disciplines who audition and



The Rutgers-Camden theater program staged *Romeo and Juliet* in spring 2016.

volunteer. Students and faculty from the Rutgers-Camden music program also participate, particularly in the annual musical, which highlights students in the musical theater program, a concentration of the theater major.

Many of the Rutgers-Camden students involved in campus productions go on to work in professional theater. Hunter Smith, a senior theater major from Medford who plans to graduate early after the fall semester, has worked backstage in more than 20 theatrical productions, including 13 productions on campus. He also has worked in a variety of professional theaters, including an internship at the Wilma Theater in Philadelphia and most recently serving as the production stage manager at the Woodstock Playhouse in New York. He is fielding offers for full-time backstage work after he graduates, and he credits the Rutgers-Camden program for helping him to live his dream of

working in theater. "I wouldn't trade my experience here for the world," he said.

.....  
*Alumni can buy discounted tickets to the plays for \$10 each. To purchase, call 856-225-6211, visit the IMPACT Booth in the Campus Center, or stop by the box office, which opens two hours before each performance. For more information, visit [rutgerscamdentheater.com](http://rutgerscamdentheater.com).*



Hunter Smith, who has held many backstage roles, performed in the spring 2018 production of *Avenue Q*.

PHOTOS BY KAMILE KUNTZ

## ATHLETICS

# A Man of Many Talents

PHOTO BY CURT HUDSON



**Rutgers-Camden international student is a standout on court, on screen, and in the classroom**



**Adney Cardoza has starred on the Scarlet Raptors tennis team and in TV advertisements and productions in India, including this ad for a laundry detergent.**

By Sam Starnes

Adney Cardoza played competitive junior tennis in India, but when he transferred from a college in Mumbai to Rutgers University–Camden in the spring 2019 semester, he focused on his studies in computer science and adapting to life a long way from his home.

One February afternoon in the campus Athletic and Fitness Center, he became curious about the university's squash court. He happened upon Rutgers–Camden tennis coach Matthew Geiser, who was packing up some equipment, and asked if he could borrow a squash racquet. They struck up a conversation, and Geiser asked him if he played tennis. The encounter led to Cardoza making the Scarlet Raptors men's tennis team for the spring season.

The sophomore went on to win five singles and four doubles matches and, based on good grades, earn a spot on the Great Northeast Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference Team. "If Coach Matthew hadn't asked me that question, I probably wouldn't have been playing tennis here," said Cardoza, adding that Geiser has been very supportive in helping him adjust to life on campus. "Playing tennis for a team was a first-time experience for me. It gave me immense joy."

Cardoza's talents aren't limited to the tennis court. He began acting after he moved back to Mumbai, where he was born, from Lagos, Nigeria, where he lived until he was 8. Since then, he has appeared in more than 100 TV advertisements in India, anchored a series for Nickelodeon India, played a part in a Bollywood film,

and starred in *Mission Sunday*, a short film played at international film festivals. He still does some acting, but only if he has time. "Right now my entire focus is on the educational zone of my career, and acting is more of a stress-buster which I enjoy from time to time," he said.

As for his major, computer science is a "favorite and intriguing subject for me," Cardoza said. "I was introduced to coding in the eighth grade. I love the problem-solving aspect of computer science and how one can write code to get things done or automate tasks."

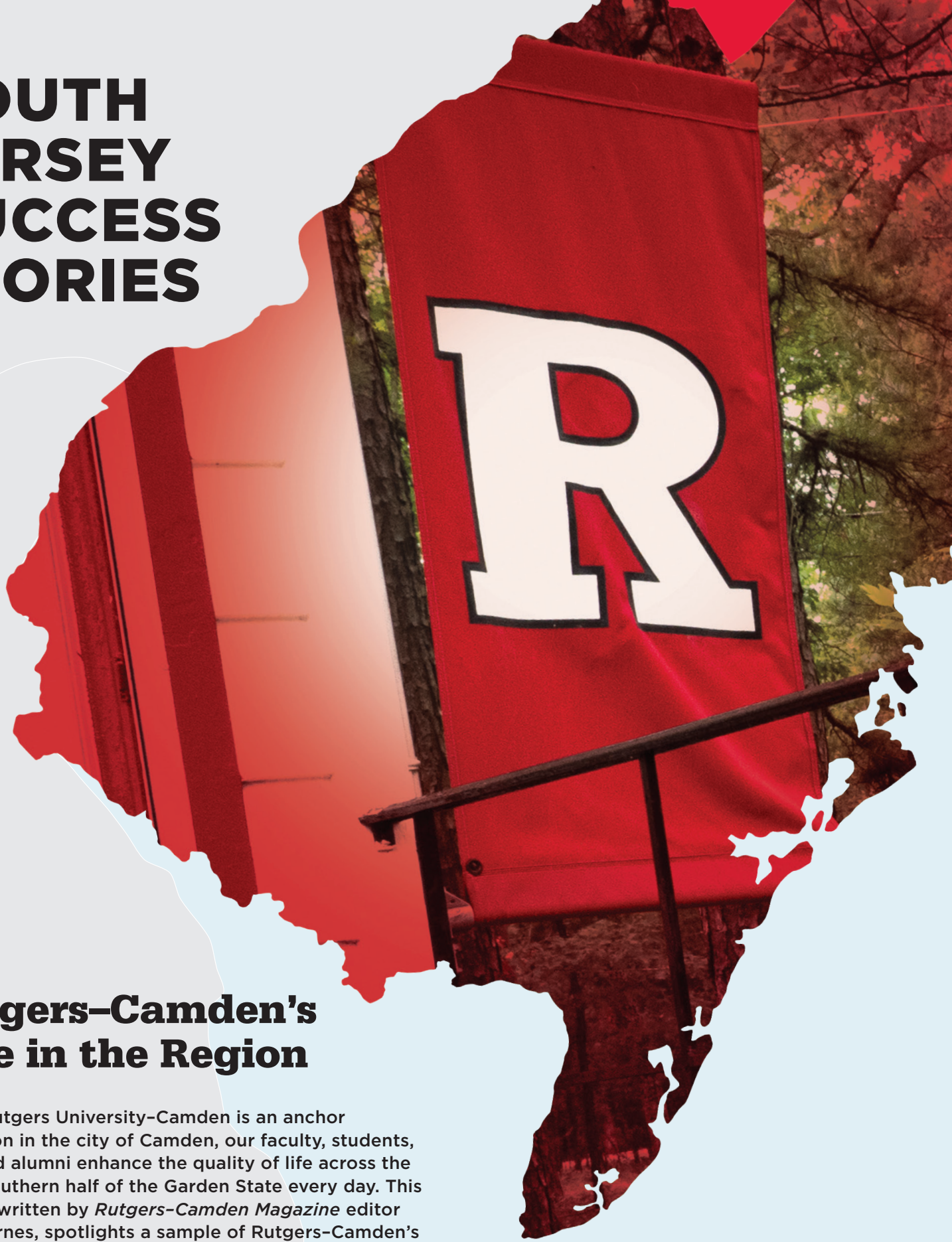
What are his long-term plans after an anticipated graduation in 2021? "I am leaning toward a Ph.D. after my undergraduate degree," he said. "I am doing my best to work toward that goal."

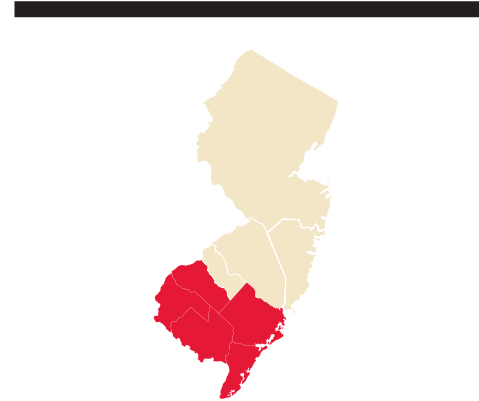


# SOUTH JERSEY SUCCESS STORIES

## Rutgers-Camden's Role in the Region

While Rutgers University-Camden is an anchor institution in the city of Camden, our faculty, students, staff, and alumni enhance the quality of life across the entire southern half of the Garden State every day. This feature, written by *Rutgers-Camden Magazine* editor Sam Starnes, spotlights a sample of Rutgers-Camden's southern New Jersey success stories.





**The Rutgers Southern Regional Child Care Resource and Referral Agency served 12,319 children in 2017-18.**



This day care in Sewell, at left, is one of many assisted by the agency. Lisa Cossabone, with daughter and nephew, above, benefited from support to help pay for child care.

## Caring for Kids in Five Counties

Lisa Cossabone wasn't sure where to turn. A single mother with a young child, she needed to work to support herself and her daughter, but she needed day care in order to work. "Being a single parent can be very stressful," said Cossabone, a resident of Folsom in Atlantic County who works as a physical therapist aide. "You have to work in order to provide."

Fortunately, she was directed to the Rutgers Southern Regional Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, which helps families with small children find and pay for child care and early education opportunities in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties. The agency, administered by Rutgers University–Camden and funded by a state contract to help working parents and their children, helped Cossabone find child care for her daughter, who is now 11, and provided financial assistance that covered part of her costs. More recently, the agency

helped her find and pay for child care for her 4-year-old nephew, whom she is adopting. "Their help has been the missing piece I needed," Cossabone said, adding that the agency has been very responsive to her requests for guidance. "They are always there for you."

Audrey Murray, a single mother in Cape May County, said the subsidy the agency provided helped her to pay for day care for her 4-year-old and allowed her to keep working. "Without it, my whole paycheck would have gone to day care," said Murray, who works as a teacher's aide. "It helps to put my mind at ease."

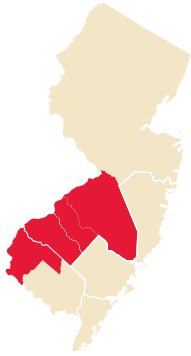
Murray's and Cossabone's children are among thousands the agency helps each year. In the 12-month period from October 2017 through September 2018, the agency served a total of 12,319 children and disbursed more than \$34 million in subsidies to pay for child care. The funds that help working parents pay for day care come from a grant from

the federal Administration for Children and Families that is funneled through the New Jersey Department of Human Services to the agency.

The agency, which has more than 60 employees and an office in each of its five counties, also provides support, professional development training, and technical assistance to programs that care for children. Marianna Finamore, director of the agency, said the agency's mission to support families and the child care providers is a critical one in the lives of young children. "It is proven that a child who receives quality, early childhood education grows to be a much more successful individual than a child who is not in a quality program," Finamore said.

For more about the Rutgers Southern Regional Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, visit [rusouthernccrr.org](http://rusouthernccrr.org). For more about the statewide program and where to find child care, go to [childcarenj.gov](http://childcarenj.gov).





**The Rutgers-Camden Small Business Development Center provides free counseling to more than 400 businesses annually in four South Jersey counties**



Jim and Yvonne Grant opened this inn on the site of an abandoned country club.

# BUILDING DREAMS INTO

Jim Grant told his wife, Yvonne, at breakfast on his 62nd birthday about a dream he'd had overnight: He wanted to buy the abandoned Salem Country Club and fix up the century-old waterfront clubhouse at the confluence of the Delaware and Salem rivers. At first, she thought he was fantasizing, but

before long, it became reality. In 2011, they bought the overgrown 110-acre golf course and vacant clubhouse in Elsinboro, a small town in Salem County in the southwestern corner of New Jersey. They sold the 90-acre golf course to the state under the Green Acres program that established it as a public-access wildlife

preservation area, but kept the clubhouse and 18 acres. They had hoped to renovate the dilapidated clubhouse, but structural damage was so extensive that they razed it and constructed a new building with space for special events and guest rooms. In 2017, after six years of preparation, including numerous consultations with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the Rutgers School of Business-Camden, they opened the Inn at Salem Country Club, an event space with three bed and breakfast-style rooms overlooking a narrow beach and the river. "It was scary in the first year, but now it is going very well," said Yvonne, adding that they host more than 90 events each year, including 29 weddings this year.

Jim, who does everything from construction to bartending to bookkeeping, said the Rutgers-Camden SBDC assistance proved invaluable in







Cassie Aran and Brandon Lucante launched the first Cookie Munchers in Glassboro.

# BUSINESSES

their start-up phase. “The SBDC helps the dreamers reach the stars, and fills in the gaps with practical advice and assessment,” he said. He advises others with dreams of owning their own businesses to reach out to the Rutgers-Camden center. “Don’t let your dream die on the vine because you lacked a few practical skills like marketing, PR, bookkeeping, and managing cash flow. The SBDC will give you the practical tools and training or point you in the right direction.”

The Grants’ business is just one of 5,600 small businesses the Rutgers-Camden SBDC has assisted since it opened in 1987, said Robert Palumbo SBC’79, director of the center. The center provides small business consulting in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem counties at no charge, and business training courses are available for free or nominal charges. “Our clients

are small businesses all across the board,” Palumbo said, adding that requests from business and would-be business owners encompass “everything from ‘I’ve got an idea’ to ‘I’ve been in business for 20 years and I need help.’”

Patricia Claybrook, owner, president, and CEO of Jidan Cleaning—a cleaning service with offices in Medford, New Jersey; Philadelphia; and Baltimore—worked with Palumbo, who was then a SBDC consultant, when she began planning for her business in 2005. “He was very instrumental in the beginning years of my business,” said Claybrook, who lives in Medford. She said that Palumbo advised her on developing a marketing plan, establishing pay rates for employees, building equity, and buying insurance, among other things. “All the things you need to start a business, he played a part in it.”



Patricia Claybrook’s cleaning business has grown to employ more than 130 people.

Since opening 14 years ago, Jidan Cleaning has grown to employ more than 130 people and win a number of business awards, including being named Supplier of the Year by the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Delaware Minority Supplier Development Council in 2013 and recognized by the Philly 100 in 2014 for being among the fastest-growing businesses in the region. Claybrook said she advises anyone wanting to start a business to seek out the free consultations from the SBDC. “It is a big asset,” she said.

Another business the Rutgers-Camden SBDC assisted in the start-up phase is Cookie Munchers, a cookie bakery that delivers until the wee hours on the Rowan University campus in Glassboro. “When we were opening our first location, we were told we needed a business plan to be considered for the location we wanted,” said Cassie Aran, who cofounded the business in 2016 with Brandon Lucante (both recent graduates of Rowan). “We had no clue how to put together a solid business plan and project our financials.”

They worked with the Rutgers-Camden SBDC, which helped them land their first location. Since then, they have opened another Cookie Muncher location in Tampa, Florida, serving primarily University of South Florida students. “The SBDC is a huge help, and they are very open to answering any questions along the journey,” Aran said.

For more information about the Rutgers-Camden SBDC, visit [rsbdc.org](http://rsbdc.org).



PHOTO BY GARY COLYER JR.



**Rutgers-Camden students, faculty, and partners continue a long tradition of conducting research in the Pine Barrens at the Rutgers Pinelands Field Station**

# Studying South Jersey’s Epic Forest

When Rutgers–Camden biology major Julia DeFeo researches how forest fires impact fragile woodland ecosystems, she doesn’t do it in Camden—she studies the insects and trees and soil and other elements of nature at the Rutgers Pinelands Field Station more than 30 miles east of campus. “Being in the field



From left, Katie Malcolm CCAS’10 (also pictured above in the Pinelands forest); Evan Rosenheim CCAS’19; John Dighton, professor and director of the station; Julia DeFeo CCAS’21; and Steven Schulze GSC’20.

and connecting to where our samples are coming from is a great opportunity,” said DeFeo, a junior from Haddonfield, New Jersey, who is involved in four different research projects in the Pinelands. “Many other students don’t get that experience.”

The station, started by the U.S. Forest Service in 1933, was established as a Rutgers site in 1985. Since then, scores of Rutgers–Camden undergraduate and graduate students and faculty have conducted studies in the forest and used on-site labs at the station in New Lisbon in Burlington County. The station also hosts many visiting researchers, including high numbers of students from other schools.

Studying the Pinelands, which cover about a third of New Jersey, is important for myriad reasons, said John Dighton, director of the field station and a professor with a joint appointment in the Rutgers–Camden biology department and at Rutgers–New Brunswick. Dighton, who specializes in soils and fungi and has authored numerous academic papers and

books—including three books published in the past four years—said one key reason the Pinelands is important to New Jersey is that it sits above major freshwater aquifers that supply drinking water to many. Another is that the forest is home to numerous rare and endangered species and plant life, such as snakes, orchids, and sedges, many of which exist only in the Pine Barrens. “It’s a resilient, yet fragile, environment,” he said.

DeFeo, who is considering a career as an environmental attorney or a scientific researcher, said she enjoys her work that deals with how ecosystems are affected by fires. Wildfires, she said, will be more common as climate change continues to warm the earth, making the study of these fires relevant for the future. “The research we are doing here in that way is really important,” she said.

For more information about the Pinelands Field Station, visit [pinelands.camden.rutgers.edu](http://pinelands.camden.rutgers.edu).



# Hallowed History

**Research and photography by Rutgers University-Camden students leads to a historic designation for a 145-year-old Camden County mansion**

Seventeen years before Abraham Lincoln moved into the White House, Ephraim Tomlinson and his wife, Sarah, built a three-story Greek Revival brick mansion with a cupola that offered an expansive view of their farm, a saw mill, and a grist mill in what is now the Borough of Stratford in Camden County. The grand edifice with a Greek portico and Ionic columns preceded railroad service in South Jersey and would go on, once it was wired for electricity and no longer used as a residence, to house a maternity hospital, a military academy, a YWCA, and, most recently, a private Christian school. “It has had quite a history,” said Lucy Davis, a Rutgers-Camden history graduate student from Hammonton whose research led to the Tomlinson mansion being placed on the state and federal registers of historic places.

In 2018, three years after the private school closed and the abandoned mansion’s future was uncertain, a request for help in listing the house



Lucy Davis, right, a graduate student in history, and undergraduate Jacob Lechner collaborated on listing the 145-year-old Tomlinson mansion in Stratford, pictured below, on the National Register of Historic Places.

on state and federal registers received by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH) at Rutgers University-Camden became an independent study assignment for Davis, who earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Rutgers-Camden in 2014. A year later, after Davis did exhaustive research and wrote a 55-page, single-spaced report about the house as part of the application for historic designation, it was approved and officially listed on both the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places, which the U.S. Department of Interior describes as a registry of “resources significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture.”

Charlene Mires, a professor of history and director of MARCH, assigned the project to Davis and oversaw her work. “Nominating a property for the state and national registers of historic places requires the highest level of scholarship, based upon extensive research and deep knowledge of architectural history,” Mires said. “This is a rare achievement for a graduate student, so we

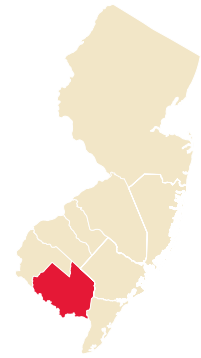
are very proud of Lucy Davis’s work to document such an important property.”

Davis was assisted by Jacob Lechner, a studio arts major with a concentration in photography, who took photographs of the house that Davis used in the application. “It was great to use my photography for something good and to help try to preserve a place,” said Lechner, a senior from Medford who will graduate after the fall semester.

Although the house now has status as a historic place, it is not fully protected from the possibility that it could be demolished. The state and national registers offer some financial benefits, such as tax credits, to the owners and the house has a “degree of review and protection” from destruction by public agencies. As of September, the vacant house was privately owned and listed for sale. John Gentless, a former mayor of Stratford and an advocate for saving the house, fears that a developer will not save it. “That would be a shame,” said Gentless, a podiatrist who is a 1979 graduate of Rutgers-Camden. “It is one of Stratford’s oldest buildings.”

For more information about MARCH and historic preservation programs, visit [march.rutgers.edu](http://march.rutgers.edu).





## Rutgers University-Camden's Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs uses data to improve the quality of life in South Jersey

A collaborative effort in Cumberland County has brought together many to reduce juvenile arrests. From left, Darrell Anderson, a mentor in the Millville Police Athletic League; Millville Police Sgt. Richard Kott; and Tracy Swan-Grova GSC'05, '09, a Rand Institute senior project administrator.

# Plugging the School-to-Prison Pipeline

When the high number of juvenile arrests in Vineland, New Jersey, were mapped out, a glaring hotspot came into view—the high school and a convenience store across the street.

This analysis of data, a collaboration of police and the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers University-Camden, showed that many teens were arrested for incidents at school and the nearby convenience store. The findings prompted the police and school officials to collaborate to reduce the number of arrests by working together to introduce interventions that dealt with the problems but did not bring

criminal charges, such as disorderly conduct, for minor infractions. “That simple adjustment reduced juvenile arrests,” said Darren Spielman, executive director of the Rand Institute. “That might sound like a small thing, but once you get arrested, and you get stuck in the juvenile justice system, your probabilities of having good outcomes tank. All of a sudden you are stigmatized and you have this juvenile record. Reducing juvenile arrests is very important for the future of young people.”

Tracy Swan-Grova, a senior project administrator for the Rand Institute who has directed the efforts to reduce juvenile

delinquency in Cumberland County, said the analysis of arrest data was an effective way to help plug the school-to-prison pipeline. “Data we gather plays a key role in helping organizations understand the issues in their community,” said Swan-Grova, who holds master’s degrees in public administration and criminal justice from Rutgers-Camden.

The Rand Institute’s project to reduce juvenile arrests in Cumberland County, a county with some of the state’s highest crime and poverty rates, has been a resounding, long-term success. Over a six-year period from 2012 through 2018, juvenile arrests were cut almost

in half, with a reduction of 45 percent in Vineland, Millville, and Bridgeton. The collaboration to reduce arrests in and around the high school was just one of many ideas implemented by the Cumberland County Positive Youth Development Coalition, a countywide juvenile delinquency prevention effort that brings in representatives from 75 varied government and nonprofit organizations. The coalition, which is funded by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and Cumberland County, is administered by the Rand Institute. It began in Vineland in 2009 and expanded to the cities of Millville and Bridgeton in 2013—making it the first countywide effort of its kind in the state. The success of the Cumberland County program led to the establishment of a similar program in three cities in Burlington County—Burlington City, Pemberton Township, and Willingboro—which the Rand Institute advises.

Projects developed in Cumberland County, many of which also have been adopted in Burlington County, include emphasizing a station house adjustment program with police that avoids charging youth who commit minor offenses, such as shoplifting, by diverting them into a system that administers justice without creating a criminal record. Other programs include the establishment of summer food-service sites that fill the gaps for teens who do not benefit from school breakfasts and lunches in the summertime, and block party-like events known as “play streets” that give teens activities in the summer and help them connect with resources.

The coalition also helped to revive Police Athletic Leagues (PAL) in Millville and Bridgeton, so now the three largest cities in Cumberland County each have several hundred kids participating. Darrell Anderson, a 20-year-old mentor and basketball coach in the Millville program who participated when he was a high school student, said PAL has tremendous benefits. “It was a great thing

for everybody to get off the street and do something positive,” said Anderson. “I’ve seen some troubled kids join PAL and it really changed them. It took them off the street and kept them from running with a bad crowd.”

Millville Police Sgt. Richard Kott, a member of the coalition who heads the Millville PAL, credits the Rand Institute at Rutgers–Camden with spearheading the collaborative effort. “Without the Rand Institute’s administration, a lot of these things wouldn’t have happened,” Kott said. “They have done an excellent job over the years. You can’t put a price tag on it.”

Rutgers–Camden students and alumni also have been key players in the coalition. Sarah Filippi-Field, a 2019 honors graduate in urban studies from Vineland, began volunteering as a student representative when she was in high school. That participation contributed to her decision to attend Rutgers–Camden, where she worked with the Rand Institute. The many projects she worked on with the coalition include helping to develop an anti-shoplifting campaign and also establishing a program educating youth about proper uses of technology to avoid the dangers inherent in social media, such as cyber bullying. Filippi-Field said she is thrilled to see the statistics that show a precipitous drop in juvenile arrests in her home county. “It is great seeing the direct correlation to what we have been doing in those results,” she said.

Cumberland County Prosecutor Jennifer Webb-McRae, a 1994 Rutgers Law School graduate and a native of Vineland, has been a leader on the coalition. She applauds the Rand Institute’s guidance as a technical adviser, and credits the coalition’s and Rand’s efforts in helping Cumberland County win a \$737,000 grant from the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to combat gang and gun violence.



**Two Rutgers–Camden alumni from Vineland have been instrumental in the project. Sarah Filippi-Field CCAS’19, above, and Cumberland County Prosecutor Jennifer Webb-McRae RLAW’94.**

Webb-McRae said in addition to the benefits to youth who avoid the criminal justice system, the efforts save taxpayers money. One clear example is that the drop in juvenile arrests contributed to the closing of the Cumberland County youth detention center, a move that saved \$1.5 million annually.

While the primary role of her job is to keep citizens safe by prosecuting crime, she is excited by the crime prevention work that she and others have been able to achieve through the coalition. “We cannot arrest our way out of many of the social ills that have found their way into the criminal justice system,” Webb-McRae said. “I’m happy to be a part of some of these social justice changes, as well as some of the smart fiscal taxpayer changes we’ve made.”

For more information about the Cumberland County Positive Youth Development Coalition, visit [ccpydc.com](http://ccpydc.com).



# Seeking Justice for South Jersey Juveniles

More than 700 juveniles charged with crimes in South Jersey over the past 12 years have been represented in court at no charge by students and faculty from the Children’s Justice Clinic at Rutgers Law School in Camden. “Doing service for the community is really important to us,” said Sandra Simkins, a distinguished clinical professor and director of the clinic who cofounded it in 2007.

Each semester, eight law students receive certification from the New Jersey Supreme Court to represent between 20 and 30 juveniles—most are between the ages of 13 and 17—on a variety of criminal charges. The representation, which takes place under Simkins’ supervision, is often extended to teens whose family incomes are slightly above the minimum to qualify for a public defender but can’t afford to pay for an attorney. “We fill that gap,” Simkins said. Other clients handled by the Children’s Justice Clinic include those who pose a conflict for public defenders or are referred from a variety of sources. The clinic handles many cases in Camden

County, but also has represented juveniles in Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties, and will take on any case in South Jersey. Cases range from minor offenses to more serious charges such as aggravated assault, weapons, and drug charges.

Recent graduate Carmen Day participated in the Children’s Justice Clinic in her final year, handling two cases from beginning to end—corresponding with opposing counsel, drafting motions, picking up discovery, and representing the juveniles in court. “It gave me hands-on, real-life lawyering experience,” she said.

Representation for teens by the clinic goes beyond simply handling legal matters. Law students follow up with clients after they have received their disposition (or sentence) and until they are fully released from the charges. Students also work to reveal and correct challenges, such as educational difficulties or a lack of housing. “We try to address all issues that could impact the client’s success,” Simkins said.



**Law Professor Sandra Simkins, director and cofounder of the Rutgers Law School Children’s Justice Clinic, center, with students who handled juvenile cases: Briana Ramos RLAW’20, at left, and Carmen Day RLAW’19.**

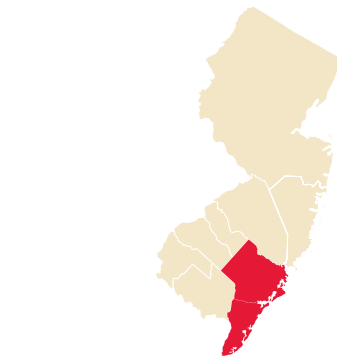
Simkins and other faculty also have been advocates for changes in the New Jersey juvenile justice system, most notably pushing for ending punitive solitary confinement of incarcerated juveniles in 2015. “I’m always looking at each individual case through a systemic lens,” Simkins said. “Is there a bigger issue? Is there a way the New Jersey juvenile justice system can improve?”

## Senator’s Legacy of Service Inspires South Jersey Projects

From providing breast cancer screening to women with severe mental illness, to opioid treatment and prevention in Ocean and Camden counties, to assessing health needs and advocating for affordable housing across the region, to many more projects, the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers–Camden is driving progress in many South Jersey communities.

Founded in 2000 and named for

New Jersey State Senator Walter Rand, an influential legislator from Camden who served in Trenton from 1975 until his death in 1995, the institute takes on projects in three primary focus areas: community and organizational development, criminal justice and public safety, and population health and wellness. Staff and faculty supported by the Rand Institute research, collect, and analyze data and translate the findings for



**Rutgers School of Nursing-Camden faculty are partnering with a South Jersey agency to increase early diagnosis of breast cancer for those with severe mental illnesses**

Nursing professors Bonnie Jerome-D'Emilia, left, and Sheila Linz

## A Project of Prevention

People suffering from serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder struggle to access health care and often die young. This problem is particularly acute for women with serious mental illnesses who often are diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer. Despite this, only one organization in New Jersey—Jewish Family Services of Atlantic and Cape May Counties, which is based in Margate—has a program specifically focusing on mammogram screening for this population.

Rutgers-Camden faculty members

Sheila Linz, an assistant professor of nursing, and Bonnie Jerome-D'Emilia, an associate professor of nursing, are working with the agency and community members to evaluate their program and look for ways to improve and expand it. “We are trying to make a change in the health care system that will accommodate this population of women,” Jerome-D'Emilia said.

The project is one of 14 funded by a grant from the Community Design for Health and Wellness Interdisciplinary Research Group, a universitywide effort

co-directed by Sarah Allred, faculty director of the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers-Camden. Through evaluation and study with community partners, Linz and Jerome-D'Emilia and graduate students are researching the issue of mammogram screening in this population and working to educate providers throughout the state. “We would like it to be a model for the rest of the New Jersey health care community,” Linz said. “The ultimate goal is that we are trying to save people’s lives through early detection.”

a broad range of stakeholders. “We think of fulfilling our core mission as a land-grant university by getting data into the hands of people who need it and helping them use it,” said Sarah Allred, an associate professor of psychology who is faculty director for the Rand Institute.

For more information about the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, visit [rand.camden.rutgers.edu](http://rand.camden.rutgers.edu).



State Senator Walter Rand



Darren Spielman and Sarah Allred of the Rand Institute for Public Affairs.



# Lessons in Leadership

By Jeanne Leong

**K**ristie Tyler credits a Rutgers School of Business–Camden Executive Education leadership program for helping to advance her career on an upward trajectory.

Tyler, now vice president of sales at Camden-based NFI Industries, a supply-chain solutions provider which has more than 11,000 employees in North America, was the company’s senior director of sales in 2016 when she and 15 other employees participated in the Accelerated Leadership Development Program, which was designed by NFI and the School of Business–Camden. The noncredit professional development program taught by Rutgers–Camden facilitators included several in-class sessions in Camden along with weekly webinars that allowed participants to join from other locations.

The opportunity gave Tyler a new perspective. “Going through the program makes you look at things differently,” Tyler said. “I’m leading an integrated team of sales folks, so I work to bring additional revenue into the organization, but I’m also tasked with making sure others are successful. Attending the program gave me this visibility to how successful people in the organization spend their time.”

Tyler’s positive experience with the program is just one example of how industry leaders benefit from specialized business training developed by Rutgers–Camden. The school offers a variety of online and classroom training solutions to companies and individuals around the

globe. “Our flexible Executive Education programs strive to educate and enable both individuals and corporate teams to succeed and become leaders in business,” said Sungsoo Kim, interim dean of the School of Business–Camden. “We are committed to sharing the quality education we provide not just to students, but to the business world as well.”

Karen McCaffrey, assistant director for Executive Education at the Rutgers–Camden business school, worked with NFI to develop the company’s custom training. “The Accelerated Leadership Development Program challenges participants to refine, rethink, and challenge common practices, both individual and organizational, in order to change the status quo and help NFI achieve their company mission and goals,” McCaffrey said.

NFI, whose services include warehousing and transporting products, transportation management, and real estate services, partnered with the Rutgers–Camden business school’s Executive Education division in 2011 to develop the leadership program. It has been conducted for NFI employees several times since. During the six-month program, students take leadership seminars and participate in a business plan competition to find a solution for a current challenge that the company is facing. Each of the groups presented their plans to NFI’s senior executive team.

Tyler’s team in 2016 won the competition by designing an initiative to keep employees safe in the workplace. The group conducted research by going out into the field to observe employees operating equipment, reviewed safety





## From corporate training to individual programs, the Rutgers School of Business-Camden helps those in business



Veronica Hawkins, NFI Industries' vice president for talent strategies and solutions, at left, and Bob Knowles, president of NFI's dedicated transportation division, at right, collaborate with Karen McCaffrey, assistant director for Executive Education at the Rutgers School of Business-Camden.



reports, and spoke with workers. The group's winning project led NFI to create a new position—vice president of behavior-based safety—to help ensure a safe work environment for everyone from employees operating fork lifts to truck drivers on the road. “We have 50 million square feet of warehouse space,” Tyler said. “If you think about the number of employees we have out in a warehouse location, as well as the drivers we have on the road, safety is really vital for us.”

Because NFI is vast and has numerous locations throughout the United States and Canada, many of its employees have never interacted or met face-to-face. Working together through this program enabled participants to forge bonds with their colleagues that reaped benefits for everyone involved. “The group going through the program saw how much more successful we could be working closer together, and to be a sounding board for each other at times,” said Bob Knowles, NFI's president of the transportation division, who completed the program in 2011. He said the collaboration has helped him and his peers work through some challenges to help the company continue to succeed and grow.

Veronica Hawkins, NFI's vice president for talent strategies and solutions, said while employees in the Rutgers–Camden program are learning new skills that could lead to professional advancement, the company also sees great returns. “Anything we can do to give our leaders that professional boost in their business acumen, in their executive presence, in communications, and in their collaborations, benefits the employees and the company,” Hawkins said.

## **Taking Business Lessons Learned Around the Globe**

While NFI employees learned together in a customized corporate training program, Lan Nguyen, a system process improvement engineer at Lankenau Medical Center in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, enrolled in one of the school's Executive Education programs for individuals. She completed Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Training in which she learned how to streamline business processes while minimizing process variation and errors. She continued with Black Belt Certification, where she put to into practice what she learned, under the guidance of Executive Education, and improved a critical hospital process.

Nguyen, who trains medical staff—including doctors and nurses—to improve the efficiency, quality, and performance in

the hospital's clinical operations, said the training helped her to excel in her career. “Rutgers gave me a strong foundation to do my job well and to apply what I've learned in my current projects,” she said. “I've also shared what I've learned with my colleagues.”

Nguyen, who completed the program in 2017, also has been sharing her knowledge learned from Rutgers–Camden in Vietnam, where she was born. She has traveled to Vietnam to conduct training programs for doctors and nurses to improve operations at hospitals in the cities of Can Tho and Ho Chi Minh City. “To go back to Vietnam to help people has been very rewarding,” she said.

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*For more information about the Rutgers School of Business–Camden's Executive Education offerings, visit [exceed.rutgers.edu](http://exceed.rutgers.edu).*



**Lan Nguyen, center, with Sungsoo Kim, interim business dean at Rutgers–Camden, left, and Beverly Ballard, assistant director of graduate programs for the business school.**

# Law School Building Bridges to Business



Arthur Laby, co-director of the Rutgers Center for Corporate Law and Governance, at the 2019 Corporate Compliance Institute, an annual conference.

Founded on Rutgers Law School locations in Camden and Newark in 2015, the Rutgers Center for Corporate Law and Governance has grown in its first four years to make meaningful connections to the business community and beyond. “We are committed to building bridges with the business and nonprofit communities, government officials, and others as we seek to promote best corporate and governance practices and stimulate potential law,” said Arthur Laby, co-director of the center and a professor at Rutgers Law School in Camden.

A key element of the center’s outreach is the annual Corporate Compliance Institute, an annual conference in Camden that brings together practitioners, current

and former government officials, and business and legal scholars with significant experience in corporate compliance. “Corporate compliance has exploded as an area of interest for businesses and regulators alike,” Laby said. “The institute brings together top national speakers to take up cutting-edge issues in compliance and ethics.”

The fifth annual Corporate Compliance Institute, which is open to the public, will take place in Camden in spring 2020.

In 2018, the center also launched the Entrepreneurship Clinic in Camden that allows students to operate akin to a small law firm providing legal advice to start-up companies. Under the guidance of Tara Pellicori, a corporate attorney who teaches as an adjunct professor, students help owners launch their businesses.

“A lot of times these startups are entrepreneurs who just don’t realize the self-imposed risk that they have created by not doing things like maintaining corporate separateness,” said Pellicori, who graduated from Rutgers Law School in 2008.

Services offered by the Entrepreneurship Clinic include counseling and representation on such matters as founders’ agreements; pre-venture activities; entity selection and formation; nondisclosure agreements; employment agreements; intellectual property; and capital structure, valuation, and finance.

For more information about the Center for Corporate Law and Governance and its programs, visit [cclg.rutgers.edu](http://cclg.rutgers.edu).



# HELPING KIDS FORM HEALTHY HABITS



Professor Charlotte Markey, left, sought input from her daughter, Grace, center, and student Nana Amponsah when writing her forthcoming book *The Body Image Book for Girls*.





## RUTGERS-CAMDEN HEALTH SCIENCES AND NURSING FACULTY ARE FOCUSED ON TEACHING CHILDREN LESSONS ABOUT BODY IMAGE, NUTRITION, AND POSITIVE PRACTICES

By Shelby Vittek GSC'16

**M**ore adults than ever feel uncomfortable in their skin. Estimates are that 90 percent of women and 61 percent of men are dissatisfied with their bodies. Charlotte Markey, professor of psychology and founding director of the Rutgers University–Camden Health Sciences Center, knows these figures—and their long-term effects—well.

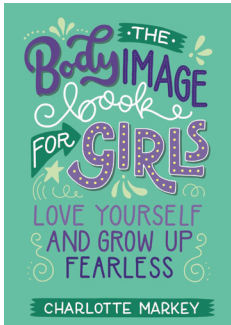
For more than 20 years, Markey's research has focused on diet, eating, and body image—defined as the perception that a person has of their physical self—and how they make up the way we think and feel about ourselves. In 2014, she published her first book, *Smart People Don't Diet: How the Latest Science Can Help You Lose Weight Permanently*. Intended for adult readers, it was about why diets are ineffective—and which healthier habits actually work. During the writing, she began to picture a similar version for a younger audience. "I thought, 'Wouldn't it be nice if before some of these bad habits got set in place that young people had this information?'" she said. "What if we could just prevent this dissatisfaction from brewing in the first place?"

The ideas percolated for a couple of years before Markey shifted her full

attention to the younger generation. Many leading causes of death can be attributed to people's behaviors, such as how they eat, whether or not they exercise, and what, if any, substances they use. The earlier a person adopts healthy habits, the more likely they are to stave off a variety of illnesses and problems, including anxiety, depression, obesity, and eating disorders. Markey wanted to reach youth when their health routines and sense of self are being set for the rest of their lives. "Habits, by definition, are hard to change," Markey said. "Getting into good habits early in life can literally be life-saving."

This idea is the focus of Markey's forthcoming book, *The Body Image Book for Girls: Love Yourself and Grow Up Fearless*, to be published in spring 2020 by Cambridge University Press. It reaches out to girls in an attempt to break the cycles that contribute to the alarmingly high rate of body dissatisfaction prevalent in women. Intended for preteen and adolescent girls, it is written in an easy-to-read format and includes illustrations and chapters about body image, self-care, body positivity, nutrition and healthy eating habits, physical activity, mental health, and social media. It offers girls tips to help them accept and appreciate their bodies,





Charlotte Markey's new book, *The Body Image Book for Girls*, will be published in spring 2020.

which Markey said will contribute to their long-term mental and physical health. "There's something really limiting about thinking that you're deriving your value from your appearance," she said. "To shift the conversation about that is really important." Markey added that some of topics covered in the book are in sync with issues that have come up in recent years, such as the #MeToo, body positivity, and diversity movements. "It's a really good time, socially and politically, to be talking about these things."

Before she was ready to address younger readers, Markey relied on her Rutgers–Camden students to test her tone and approach. Since 2003, Markey has taught Psychology of Eating, a class that covers nutrition, body image, obesity, food policy, and other topics. "My teaching informed my writing almost more than my research, because it's a similar audience," she said. "They got me thinking about how to explain things to a general reader. That's something I do more with teaching than with scholarship."

She also relied on a small group of Rutgers–Camden students during the writing process. Five female research assistants helped research and

brainstorm possible topics for Markey to cover in *The Body Image Book for Girls*, as well as read rough drafts of the chapters as she finished writing them. "The whole process made me more interested in research," said Nana Amponsah, one of Markey's student assistants, who graduated in May with a degree in health sciences. Amponsah raised important points along the way, such as making sure the book offered alternatives for girls whose families live in food deserts, and that it didn't exclude girls with disabilities. "There are so many kinds of girls out there, and I wanted everyone to get something out of it," she said.

Amponsah, who lives in Willingboro, New Jersey, and is considering graduate programs, said participating in the research process was rewarding. She expects the book will impact a younger generation of girls in a positive way. "It

reaches girls in a way they'll understand," she said.

In addition to enlisting students' help, Markey conducted interviews and focus groups in Camden and in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, where she lives, reaching more than 100 girls ranging in age from 10 to 15—including her own 12-year-old daughter, Grace. "She read a lot of these chapters for me, which was kind of a fun role reversal for her, and really useful to me," Markey said.

Twelve-year-old Maya Grande also enjoyed being part of the focus groups, in which she read chapter drafts and offered feedback. The concept that stuck with her most was about healthy eating habits. "I learned that diets aren't the best way to go about it," she said.

Her mother, Sindhu Srinivas, believes the book has an important message. "It targets a certain age of girls



Nana Amponsah CCAS'19 assisted with research and commented on drafts of Markey's book while earning her health sciences degree. "It reaches girls in a way they'll understand," she said.

and helps combat a lot of the negative messaging they're exposed to," Srinivas said.

Markey is hopeful that girls will embrace her new book, and as a result, the next generation of girls won't encounter the same amount of insecurity.

She is also already looking ahead to her next book project. Discussions for *The Body Image Book for Boys* are already underway. "I've started talking with graduate psychology students to get help interviewing boys."

Regardless of gender, the message Markey wants to spread is universal: "You don't have to be just one thing. Be who you are—whatever color, size, or shape you are—and be the best that you can be."

## Nursing Outreach Prepares Preschoolers

In addition to Markey's work, students and faculty in the Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden have a similar goal and are expanding a program aimed at teaching preschoolers healthy habits.

For the past four years, nursing students have taught nutrition classes to preschoolers at the Catholic Youth Organization of Mercer County in Trenton. The program, called Curriculum in a Box, covers topics such as nutrition, dental health, yoga and mindfulness, water safety, stranger safety, and bullying. Nursing students sit with the preschoolers, reading books and doing various activities that cover the different themes.

A primary theme is making healthy food choices. The lunch served at the school follows the U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for a balanced diet of fruits, grains, vegetables, and protein, and includes healthy foods some students have never eaten, such as green beans. To encourage students to try foods that



Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden students, pictured leading yoga lessons for preschoolers in Trenton, teach healthy habits to children.

are new to them, nursing students ask the students to take at least two bites of the food. "Even the ones that didn't finish it, they all tried it," said Kate Ormsby, a senior from Maple Shade, New Jersey.

The sessions are mutually beneficial for the future nurses and the preschoolers. The young children learn how to live healthy lives, and the nursing students have an opportunity to learn about patients they will encounter when they become nurses. "When you do health education programs like this, you hit everyone," said Kathie Prihoda, a clinical assistant professor at the School of Nursing. "It's really beneficial for all parties involved."

This fall, nursing students are teaching the Curriculum in a Box nutrition program at the health center recently opened in the Branches at Centerville housing community in Camden. Prihoda is excited to watch

the program further expand its reach to nearby preschoolers. "The children love it," she said. "As soon as the nursing students show up in their red uniform tops, the kids start embracing them."

Gabrielle Gutleber, an accelerated nursing program student who will graduate in December, found participating in the program to be valuable. "I love being able to go to different parts of the community and be a part of educating the youth," she said. "It's a unique way to get children actively engaged."

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*Shelby Vittek, associate editor at New Jersey Monthly magazine, holds an M.F.A. from Rutgers–Camden.*



# SCARLET PROFILES

## A CAMDEN SUPERHERO



By Mary Anderson

**R**yan Brady was volunteering at a local school during his senior year at Rutgers–Camden when he bonded with kids over superheroes. “I asked, ‘Do you guys like Batman or Superman?’ Instantly I had a connection.”

The experience with the students inspired a big idea for Brady, a 2011 graduate who has a lifelong passion for comic books. His vision? “Batman is from Gotham, Superman is from Metropolis—so maybe there needs to be a Camden superhero.”

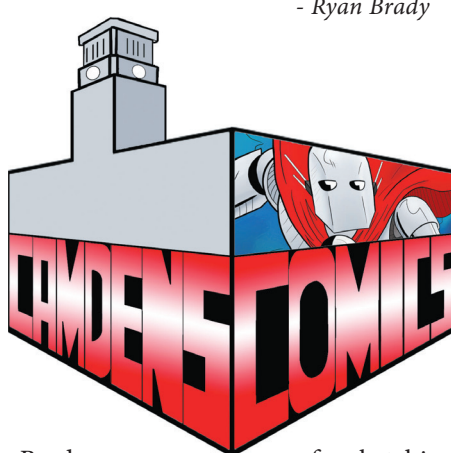
As a child growing up with two older brothers who were into comic books, Brady wore Batman pajamas and always felt the comic book world was “so much cooler than real life.” With a knack for drawing, Brady started replicating the art he saw in comic books in the fifth

SELECTIONS FROM RYAN BRADY'S COMICS



**“BATMAN IS FROM GOTHAM, SUPERMAN IS FROM METROPOLIS— SO MAYBE THERE NEEDS TO BE A CAMDEN SUPERHERO.”**

- Ryan Brady



grade and passed his work onto friends. Inspired by his love of superheroes, Brady thought about becoming a detective. After high school, he headed to Rutgers–Camden in 2009 to major in criminal justice.

Brady would sit in the Rutgers–Camden dining hall between classes sketching out his ideas. It was there that *The Bolt*, a superhero who attends Rutgers–Camden and protects the citizens of Camden, was born. Brady initially didn't publish the comic book, but in 2012 his friend and former classmate Hong Nguyen CCAS'12 needed a favor. Nguyen, who was developing a comic book website where multiple artists would be featured, asked Brady if *The Bolt* could be posted, and Brady agreed.

On launch day, *The Bolt* was the only

comic posted on Nguyen's site. Brady was terrified, but then encouraged by the response. "I started to get messages like 'Hey, I really liked it. You should keep doing it.' That motivated me to try to do the next one better, and the next one better. And I was hooked."

In the years since introducing *The Bolt*, Brady—who manages a GPS systems department at Rosenberger-Toth, a technology manufacturing company in Pennsauken, New Jersey—has developed his own comic line, Camden's Comics. He has added a new series, *Anomaly*, that connects to his life after Rutgers–Camden. "I like to think of *The Bolt* as sort of my Rutgers life, where I was in classes, and *Anomaly* is more of my work life."

Brady, who lives in Pennsauken, married three years ago. With less time

for sketching, he has begun working with digital devices to make his comics, with the eighth issue of *The Bolt* being the first to be fully digitally produced. Though Brady likes the convenience of digital, he still prefers print comics. "I always prefer holding it in my hands."

After eight years, six additional issues of *The Bolt*, and five issues of *Anomaly*, Brady is a recurring exhibitor at the Camden Comic Con, the popular annual celebration of comic books held at Rutgers–Camden each spring. Though he sometimes feels anxious at other comic book conventions, he enjoys showing his work on campus. "When it's at Rutgers, I feel like this is my home and I have the home-field advantage," he said. "It's so cool to see something that I made and that people are connecting with it."





**'CIVIL RIGHTS POWER COUPLE'**

**This prominent South Jersey law partnership began at Rutgers Law School in Camden**

Stanley RLaw'94, left, and Sharon King RLaw'93, have been honored with the Camden County Bar Foundation's Hon. John F. Gerry Award for their work.

By Sam Starnes

The first time Stanley King heard Sharon King's voice was in a Tax Procedure and Fraud class at Rutgers Law School in Camden in 1992. "I heard someone in the back of the room ask a question with a very distinct Caribbean accent," Stanley said.

A native of Brooklyn whose parents were from the British Virgin Islands, he later spoke with Sharon while they were both checking their student mailboxes. He learned that she was from Trinidad, but had moved to Brooklyn when she was 11 and that they had grown up only

a few blocks apart. "I thought there were too many coincidences," Sharon said.

Sharon earned her Rutgers Law degree in 1993, and Stanley finished in 1994. They married in 1996, the same year they started King & King LLC, a law firm based in Woodbury, New Jersey. In the 23 years since, they have become two of the most respected attorneys in South Jersey, described by a *Philadelphia Inquirer* headline as a "civil rights power couple" and recently awarded the prestigious Camden County Bar Foundation (CCBF) Hon. John F. Gerry

Award. "Stanley and Sharon King have built a reputation as prominent civil rights attorneys willing to face big law firms in some of the toughest cases in the region, taking on police misconduct and wrongful-death cases," a CCBF press release announcing the award said. "They have won million-dollar settlements for victims and families of those killed or injured in violent encounters with law enforcement."

The Kings said while the work they do is challenging—and often financially precarious, because most of their clients do not have resources to pay unless they win their cases—they view it as a calling. "It's rewarding," Sharon said. "Somebody has to do it. If we don't do it, nobody else does. There are not a lot of civil rights lawyers in this area, although there is a great need."

Stanley said their work can be emotionally difficult. "When you deal with a wrongful death case, you become very close to the families," he said. "And when you see the pain associated with a family and loved ones when they lose someone—in an unnatural and uncalled for manner—it sticks with you. It leaves a mark on you forever."

The Kings credit the support they received from faculty and the Black Law Student Association (BLSA), which celebrated its 50th anniversary at Rutgers Law in Camden earlier this year, with helping them to launch legal careers. "BLSA offered an opportunity for black students to have support," Sharon said.

While being married and having a family and working together sometimes can be a challenge, they are understanding when paperwork piles up at home. "I don't have to make an excuse why the dining room table looks the way it does," Stanley said. "We are equally dedicated to the kind of work we do."

# Nursing Alumnus Paving the Way with Education and Prevention



## Joseph Cipriano is passionate about preventative care

in Camden,” Cipriano said. “That type of community outreach and presence to promote health care translates from Camden. I took those foundations and use them here in Vineland.”

He works to ensure the nurses and nurse practitioners he works with keep barriers to access for patients in mind. That can mean helping them to find access to healthy food, recommending generic medications, offering diabetic or other disease educators, and providing budgeting help. “When I’m training staff, I remind them to be mindful of some of the interventions that they’re going to have to provide for the patients,” he said.

Cipriano, who also holds a 2006 biology degree from Rutgers–Camden, credits the School of Nursing with instilling in him the attention to preventative medicine. “Patients come to the office to see me and they don’t know ways to prevent heart disease or colon cancer,” he said. “Those moments in the office are truly rewarding. You get to influence a person’s life to help them make changes to reduce their cholesterol, which will prevent a heart attack or stroke. My passion is providing primary prevention screenings, talking about ways to decrease risk factors for disease processes, and doing more preventative health care, rather than reactionary care.”

*Allison Casey holds an M.F.A. from Rutgers–Camden.*

Joseph Cipriano CCAS’06, SNC’15, ’17 is breaking new ground for nurse practitioners by serving as an assistant medical director in Vineland, New Jersey.

By Allison Casey GSC’19

**F**or Joseph Cipriano, being a nurse practitioner is all about education and prevention. Currently an assistant medical director at Complete Care in Vineland, New Jersey, he is the first nurse practitioner to hold the position, which was previously filled only by physicians. Cipriano, who earned his bachelor’s degree in nursing in 2015 and his doctor of nursing practice degree in 2017 at the Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden, not only provides primary care to his patients, but also ensures that his staff are serving the community for

all primary-care purposes. “The care that we give, as nurse practitioners, is comprehensive,” he said. “A nurse practitioner thinks of the whole picture.”

He considers not only the patient’s health, but also the challenges they may face. “Can they afford their medications? Do I need to order physical therapy, or home-nursing? We take a holistic approach.”

His approach, he said, is one that started at Rutgers–Camden and was greatly influenced by Kevin Emmons, a clinical associate professor who mentored him. “A lot of my clinicals were



# Business Degree a Boon for Standout Sushi Chef



Jesse Ito SBC'12, a finalist for the national 2019 James Beard Award for Rising Star Chef, at Royal Sushi & Izakaya, his restaurant in Philadelphia's Queen Village neighborhood.

By Shelby Vittek GSC'16

Jesse Ito has known sushi all his life. As a 14-year-old high school student at Cherry Hill High School West, he got a job as a dishwasher at his family's Japanese restaurant, Fuji, located first in Cinnaminson and later in Haddonfield. He worked his way up to line cook and apprenticed under his father, Masaharu, to learn the art of sushi-making. While studying at the Rutgers School of Business–Camden, Ito continued full-time at Fuji. “My life was class and work,” he said.

As he learned more about business plans, operations management, and marketing strategies, Ito began to think about opening a restaurant. Shortly after he graduated in 2012, two of his regular customers asked if he would

be interested in partnering to open a Japanese restaurant in Philadelphia. It took three years for that plan to come to fruition—a time period that included the sale of his father's restaurant—but in September 2016, Ito's Royal Sushi & Izakaya debuted in Philadelphia's Queen Village neighborhood.

Since opening, it has earned much praise for changing the way Philadelphia does sushi. In 2017, Craig LaBan, restaurant critic for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, named Ito as the city's rising star chef. That same year, Ito also made Zagat's 30 Under 30 list. In 2019, Ito was a nominee in the finals of the Rising Star Chef category in the national James Beard Awards.

Essentially a Japanese-style pub, Royal Izakaya has a menu that goes

beyond sushi. Tucked behind a curtain behind the bar is Ito's 10-seat sushi counter, known as Royal Sushi, which serves omakase tasting menus—a sushi chef's choice set menu—five nights a week. It's an intimate experience, one that allows Ito to price out and plan every piece of fish, many of which are rare and expensive. The planning is a business skill that Rutgers–Camden helped him develop. “I had some great professors,” Ito said. “The best class I took was a pricing course. That certainly helped me build my omakase menu.”

For Ito, the journey from dishwasher at Fuji to chef and co-owner at Royal Sushi & Izakaya has been hard work, though he admits he has made good decisions along the way. “I'm glad that I went to business school instead of culinary school,” Ito said. “At the end of the day, a restaurant is a business. And I can say that my business is successful.”

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# Alumna Advances the Science of the Brain



By Dan Hanson

**D**r. Kathryn L. Holloway could be on the verge of another medical breakthrough in the field of neurosurgery. The 1980 Rutgers–Camden alumna broke new ground in 2005 with the development of a new technique to perform deep brain stimulation surgery, and her latest research could be very promising for those suffering from Parkinson’s disease and dementia. “We’re trying to see if we can revive the basal nuclei that live at the base of the brain,” Holloway said. “What we want to show is that we’ve been stimulating the brain the wrong way. We hope to have a publication out this fall with those results.”

Holloway holds three key positions in Richmond, Virginia: She is a professor of neurosurgery at Virginia Commonwealth University, and neurosurgical director of the Parkinson’s Disease Research, Education and Clinical Center at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, where she also is chief of neurosurgery.

Considering her accomplishments, it’s surprising that Holloway almost didn’t become a physician. A native of Clifton, New Jersey, who finished high school in Arizona, she started at Rutgers–Camden with the intention of becoming a nurse like her two older sisters—one an intensive care unit nurse and the other a neonatal nurse. “I remember asking my sisters what doctors were like,” Holloway said. “They said that doctors just sort of breeze in and leave after five minutes, and nurses take care of the patients.”

Perhaps her sisters were a little biased, but it wasn’t her sisters who almost pushed the thought of becoming a doctor out of her head—it was finances. In chemistry lab during her first year, Holloway struck up a conversation with the instructor. “I wasn’t particularly good with chemicals, so she had to keep an eye on me,” Holloway said with a laugh. “We were just chatting and she asked me what I wanted to do. I said I would love to go to medical school, but I couldn’t afford it. She said, ‘If you get in, they’ll find you money.’”

From then on, she had found her calling. She excelled at Rutgers–Camden, graduating with a bachelor of science in biology, serving on student government, and winning the Outstanding Senior Award from the Rutgers University–Camden Alumni Association. She went on to Rutgers Medical School with the intention of becoming a family doctor, but that was before a clinical rotation introduced her to neurosurgery. “I was observing a craniotomy and there was this wonderful, beautiful anatomy laid out in front of you,” Holloway said. “It’s almost as if you went in a cave. It is its own separate world. It’s just fascinating.”

Holloway’s research and innovation in the field have made her one of the nation’s foremost and honored neurosurgeons. With all that she has achieved, she said one of the greatest honors of her career has been working at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, where she has helped veterans who served as far back as World War II and as recently as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. “They’re just a really amazing group,” Holloway said. “They’re always looking out for their fellow vets. They’re just tough, good people and they’re great to take care of.”



**Kathryn L. Holloway CCAS’80, pictured with a patient and in surgery, is chief of neurosurgery at Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, neurosurgical director of a Parkinson’s disease center, and a professor.**



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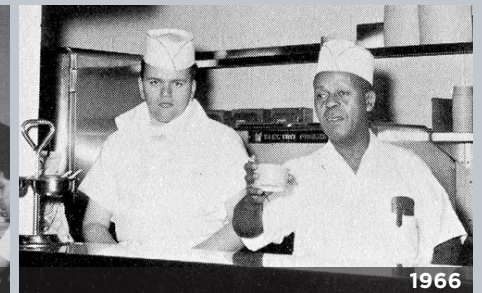
## MEAL TIME

How dining on the Rutgers-Camden campus has changed from the analog age to the digital age

A renovated dining hall in the Campus Center opened in the fall semester, offering students the opportunity to order with their smart phones. Its multifaceted features include an expanded menu of fresh dining options, an all-you-care-to-eat buffet, an on-site dietician, and vegan, vegetarian, and halal options. Pictured at top, Kai Puyat CCAS'20, left, and Cristopher Prieto CCAS'21 sample the salad bar; below they pick up meals from a high-tech “grab-and-go” box. For more about the new dining options, visit [camden.rudining.com](http://camden.rudining.com).

The dining hall has been based in the Campus Center, formerly known as the College Center, since it opened in 1964. Its tables have long been a gathering spot, as shown in 1990. In 1966, this counter offered “fresh donuts” for a dime each.

Prior to the existing Campus Center, a snack bar and a small dining area for students was housed on the first floor of 329 Cooper Street, which served as the campus recreation center from 1950 to 1964. That location, now known as the Artis Building, was renovated and reopened in 2018 as the home for the Department of Childhood Studies.







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