

*Helping Hands on
Path to College*

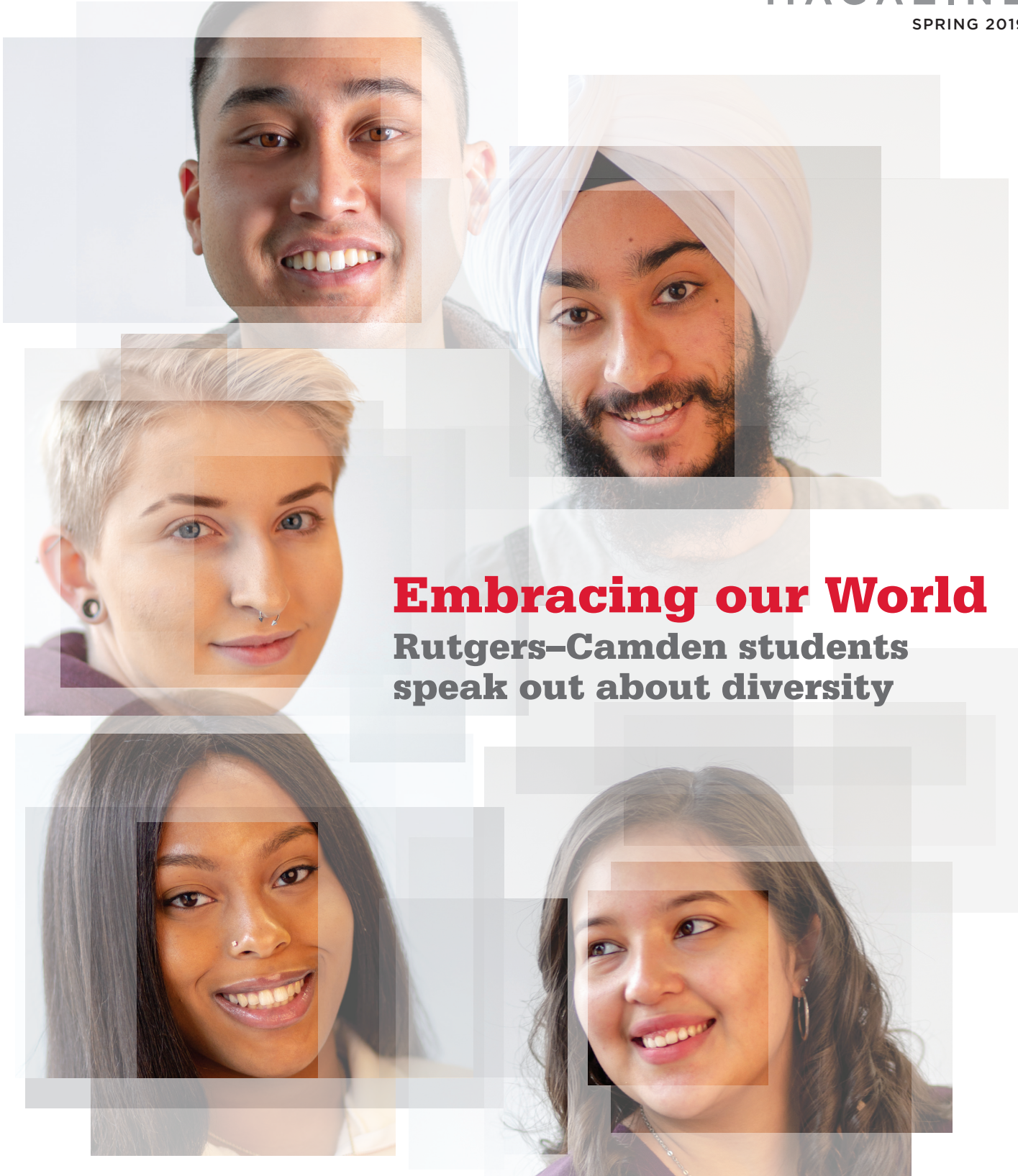
*Building Foundations
for Business Students*

*From the Computer Screen
to the Silver Screen*

RUTGERS CAMDEN

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2019



Embracing our World
Rutgers–Camden students
speak out about diversity

RUTGERS CAMDEN

Rutgers-Camden Magazine Vol. II, No. 2 Spring 2019





Graduates were all smiles at the Camden College of Arts and Sciences 2018 commencement ceremony at the BB&T Pavilion. At the five Rutgers University-Camden commencement ceremonies—which also included the School of Business, the School of Nursing, Rutgers Law School, and The Graduate School—a total of 1,831 graduates received diplomas ranging from bachelor’s degrees to doctorates. The 2019 commencement ceremonies are set for May 22-23. For more information, visit camden.rutgers.edu/commencement.

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World and national leaders have frequently shared their views at Rutgers–Camden commencement ceremonies.

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

CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

As The State University of New Jersey, Rutgers embraces the rich diversity of our world. At Rutgers University–Camden, we draw strength from our roots as a place of access for first-generation students of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities, and faiths. Our continued enrollment growth, particularly at the undergraduate level (due in large part to our unique Bridging the Gap financial aid program), amplifies that heritage of access. Diversity energizes the intellectual and social climate of our campus and provides exciting opportunities for us to learn from one another. Each day at Rutgers–Camden, we strive to make everyone on campus feel welcome. Our cover story (starting on page 8), primarily told from the perspective of students, illustrates many of our ongoing diversity initiatives.

Also in this magazine are two inspiring stories that demonstrate the tremendous impact a scholarship can have on students' lives. Twin brothers George and Washington Hill, alumni from the class of 1961 featured on page 14, and John Miller, a 1959 graduate profiled on page 31, were first-generation college students who benefited from scholarships to attend Rutgers–Camden. They went on to remarkable careers in medicine, science, and higher education, respectively. Recalling the opportunities given to them, they have been generous supporters of students who are in the same situation they were in more than 60 years ago. Their gifts empower our commitment to enabling first-generation students to earn a Rutgers degree. We are extremely thankful for the support of all alumni who join us in this critical mission that we hold dear: ensuring access to academic and personal success for all students.



Phoebe A. Haddon

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

THE BIG NUMBERS

127%+

FIRST-YEAR,
FIRST-GENERATION
STUDENTS*

123%+

FIRST-YEAR
UNDERGRADUATES*

30%

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS'
PARENTS DID NOT
ATTEND COLLEGE

25%

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS'
PARENTS HAD SOME
COLLEGE BUT NOT
BACHELOR'S DEGREES

615

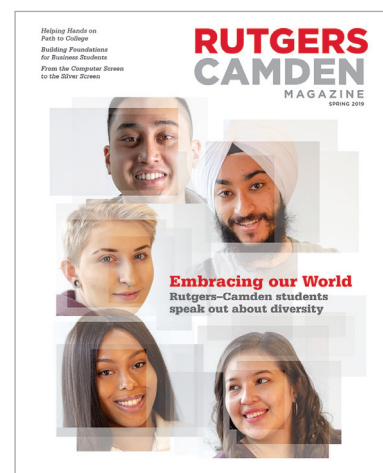
INCOMING FALL
2018 STUDENTS
BENEFITING FROM
BRIDGING THE GAP

\$1.4

MILLION OF SUPPORT
IN BRIDGING THE GAP
IN 2018-19 TO
INCOMING STUDENTS

*Percentage increase statistics reflect changes since fall 2015. Bridging the Gap, a program that provides full or significant tuition coverage for New Jersey families earning less than \$100,000 annually, welcomed its first students in fall 2016. For more, see page 13.

ON THE COVER



Clockwise from bottom right, students Yahoska Morales SNC'19, Nicole DuBose SBC'20, Angela Wismar CCAS'21, Robert Andrade RLAW'20, and Karanveer Pannu CCAS'20, write about their experiences and perspectives on diversity at Rutgers–Camden. See their stories starting on page 8.



MARCHITELLO



MUTCHERSON

Two New Deans Named

New deans have taken the lead at the Rutgers–Camden Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Rutgers Law School in Camden.

Howard Marchitello—a noted literature scholar—is the new dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences–Camden, the university’s largest academic unit. A professor of English, he joined the campus in 2008 and has served in leadership roles since 2012, most recently as senior associate dean for research and The Graduate School. Prior to joining Rutgers–Camden, he was an associate professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of English at Texas A&M University. He replaces Kriste Lindenmeyer, who served seven years as dean before choosing to return to the faculty as a professor of history. “We have experienced profound growth and development over the last several years and I believe that the future for Rutgers–Camden is bright indeed,” Marchitello said.

Kimberly Mutcherson, a bioethics and health law scholar, is the new co-dean

of Rutgers Law School in Camden. Mutcherson is the first woman, the first African American, and the first LGBT law dean at Rutgers. Previously vice dean and a professor at Rutgers Law, her scholarship addresses reproductive justice, with a particular focus on assisted reproduction and its relationship to how the law understands and constructs the meaning of family, maternal-fetal decision-making, and health care decisions for minors. Prior to joining Rutgers Law School in 2002, Mutcherson was an acting assistant professor at the New York University School of Law and a fellow and then staff attorney with the HIV Law Project in New York. She replaces Michael Cahill, who resigned to become president of Brooklyn Law School. She works with David Lopez, co-dean at Rutgers Law in Newark, to jointly lead the school. “Our institution has a very bright future and will continue to provide a high-quality legal education and produce lawyers who change the profession and the world for the better,” Mutcherson said.

A Lifetime of Achievement Honored

Rutgers University–Camden Chancellor Phoebe A. Haddon has been honored by the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Women in Legal Education with the 2019 Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime Achievement Award. It recognizes exemplary careers that demonstrate outstanding contributions to the legal academy and the legal profession through teaching, service, and scholarship, as well as the recipient’s impact on women, the legal community, and the academy. Haddon, a leading scholar in

constitutional law, equal rights, and bias, became chancellor of Rutgers University–Camden in 2014. Haddon also has received the 2019 Smith College Medal, an award recognizing alumnae who exemplify the ability of a liberal arts education to transform lives and communities. She is pictured at the AALS conference in New Orleans in January with Cynthia Fountaine, chair of the AALS Section on Women in Legal Education and a professor at Southern Illinois University School of Law.



RESEARCH

A LEGAL ANALYSIS OF JIHAD

Professor at Rutgers Law School in Camden explores key aspect of Islamic law

By Sam Starnes

Adnan Zulfiqar says that to understand jihad—an Arabic term broadly defined as “struggle,” including the idea of “armed struggle”—one needs to look to its original understanding as a type of legal obligation. In an extensive article, the assistant professor at Rutgers Law School in Camden writes that militant Islamists, beginning in late ’70s and early ’80s, reinterpreted the term, which appears in the Quran, as an individual duty required of all Muslims instead of its earlier interpretation as a government-regulated collective duty that required only a portion of a population to take up arms when necessary. “Militants used the law to reframe the discussion around jihad and in the process empower themselves while diminishing the political authority,” he says.

Zulfiqar joined the faculty in 2017 and in fall 2019 will teach Islamic Law: Theory and Practice, the first time it will be taught at Rutgers Law in Camden. His article, “Jurisdiction over Jihad: Islamic Law and the Duty to Fight,” published in *West Virginia Law Review*, is an offshoot of his recently completed dissertation for a Ph.D. in Near Eastern languages and civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania, where he also earned his law degree. He says that many Muslim-majority nations wish to be viewed as



ZULFIQAR

secular governments and not theocracies, so they often fail to address religious laws on topics such as jihad, thus allowing forces outside the government to pursue military activities. He says nations should try to “take back control of the jihad narrative. They need to start articulating jihad in its collective form. Don’t run from the term jihad just because it’s being abused and misused in the context of terrorism.”

Zulfiqar, a practicing Muslim who is proficient in five languages—including Arabic, Urdu, and Punjabi—was born in Virginia to Pakistani immigrants and spent much of his childhood abroad because his father, a World Bank executive, often

chose assignments in African nations. He attended Emory University in Atlanta for his undergraduate degree and worked as a legislative staffer for former U.S. Senator Max Cleland of Georgia on Capitol Hill during the tense times around the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He says it is important for all to try to understand the impacts of varying religious beliefs in America and around the world. “People freeze up a little bit, and in our country religion is part of some very hot debates,” he says. “We do a disservice when we ignore religion and put it aside. In the worst case scenarios, ignoring it can have disastrous consequences.”

THE ARTS

Music professor an accomplished composer of electroacoustic music and film scores

By Sam Starnes

Mark Zaki was only 4 years old when a musical instrument caught his eye—and his ear. “I wanted to play trumpet because it was shiny and loud,” said Zaki, an associate professor of music at Rutgers University–Camden. But his father, a teaching physician with a love for classical music, had other ideas. “He stuck a violin under my neck.”

Zaki excelled at the violin as a child in Minneapolis and later learned guitar in high school in New Jersey, where he became enamored with electronic musical sounds from a synthesizer. His musical interests progressed at Rutgers–New Brunswick as a dual major in music and electrical engineering. He dropped engineering studies, but went on to earn a doctor of musical arts in the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers–New Brunswick and a Ph.D. at Princeton University in music composition. At Princeton, he met a noted Hollywood composer who introduced him to scoring screenplays. “I got hooked on this idea of film and music,” Zaki said, adding that he found it liberating. “The nice thing about film is that I could channel Brahms if I wanted, or I could go more experimental and do Radiohead.”

Zaki lived and worked in Los Angeles for 11 years, earning credits on more than 50 films, TV programs, and theater productions. Notable projects include Martin Scorsese’s *The Key to Reserva* and the HBO miniseries *Mildred Pierce* starring Kate Winslet.

Scoring films, however, is only one aspect of Zaki’s diverse body of work. He



is noted for composing electroacoustic music—an experimental, cutting-edge art form that melds instruments, computer sounds, and voices—and mixed-media compositions that add images to his music. Zaki, who joined the Rutgers–Camden faculty in 2008, continues to compose and perform, and his music is presented frequently at music festivals nationally and internationally. In his classes, which cover music technology and composition, he often introduces electroacoustic music to students. “It’s a fertile field,” he said. “You can define your own aesthetic. You don’t have 300 years of tradition sitting on your shoulders.”

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To see and hear Zaki’s compositions, visit markzaki.com. He also curates the Electric Café, a series of free cutting-edge art music concerts on the Rutgers–Camden campus. For more information, visit finearts.camden.rutgers.edu/music-program/the-electric-cafe-series.

Mark Zaki first performed this mixed-media composition “no one can hear you dream” in 2012 as part of his Fulbright Scholar award at the University of Sheffield in England.

Art Rising

The Rutgers–Camden Center for the Arts (RCCA) and Cooper’s Ferry Partnership are the lead partners in A New View, a city of Camden program that has been awarded a \$1 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies to transform sites plagued by illegal dumping into dynamic art spaces. “Public art has the power to bring people together to strengthen their communities,” said Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York and founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

ATHLETICS



A Record-Setting Raptor

PHOTOS BY CURT HUDSON



Of the more than 100 games that Gabby Greene started during her four years in a Scarlet Raptors uniform, one in particular

stands out—the night she sank 11 three-pointers. “It felt like every shot that I was putting up was going in,” she said of the game against Rowan University in January 2017.

That exceptional statistic, which set a Rutgers University–Camden women’s basketball record for most three-point goals in one game, sits alongside her many other accomplishments etched in the record books: Greene is the program’s all-time leader in three-point goals with 280 made and in three-point shooting accuracy with 33.7 percent made; she is fifth in all-time scoring with 1,295 career points; she is fifth all-time in steals with 231; and she is seventh in assists with 263. She started and played in a total of 103 games, and is one of only six Rutgers–Camden women players to play more than 100 games. Greene, who

stands 5 feet, 4 inches, has competed and achieved against many much taller players. “My speed beats height every now and then,” she said.

Her consistent play helped the team to post winning records for four seasons in a row, including a 15-11 record in her final year. “Gabby Greene is a diamond in the rough who helped to turn our program around,” said Annette Reiter, coach of the women’s team for the past six years who recruited and coached Greene.

Gabby Greene started in all 103 games she played for Rutgers–Camden, finishing her career as fifth on the all-time scoring list.

In addition to standing tall on the court, Greene—an accounting major from Howell, New Jersey, who will graduate in May—has been an excellent student, earning multiple spots on the dean’s list and academic honor rolls. “Ever since I was little, I’ve always liked school,” she said. “I try to get my work done right when I get it and get it out of the way so I have time for basketball.”

Greene’s older sister, Samantha, also attended Rutgers–Camden, transferring to the School of Nursing and earning her degree in 2017. Greene, who did an accounting internship last summer, plans to take the CPA exam after she graduates and hopes to land a position with a major accounting firm.

Although she said she was tired after this year’s final game, she will miss her time on the court when next season rolls around. “It goes by so fast,” Greene said. “I came here my freshman year and I didn’t even know if I was going to get a minute. Playing more than 100 games was like a dream come true.”

A group of five diverse Rutgers-Camden students are smiling and posing together. From left to right: a Black woman in a white sweater and blue jeans; a man with a red turban and beard in a black jacket; a man in a grey hoodie; a woman in a red Rutgers School of Nursing lab coat with a stethoscope; and a woman in a grey denim jacket over a maroon hoodie. The background is a light grey with a subtle geometric pattern.

EMBRACING OUR WORLD

**Rutgers–Camden students
speak out about diversity**

Through the voices of students, the following stories explore the many ways in which diversity, inclusion, and equity are woven into the fabric of Rutgers–Camden.



Karanveer Pannu, winner of a 2018 Rutgers–Camden Chancellor’s Civic Engagement Award, lives in Voorhees, New Jersey, and was named the town’s Citizen of the Year in 2018. An Eagle Scout, he has completed internships with U.S. Senator Cory Booker and U.S. Representative Donald Norcross, and is working toward a dual degree with a bachelor’s in political science in 2020 and a master of public administration in 2021.

Sikh Student Welcome from Day One

By Karanveer Pannu CCAS’20

On my first day on campus at Rutgers University–Camden, I had myriad feelings. One was a slight fear deep inside that someone would hurl racial epithets as soon as they saw my turban. However, that fear never grew because my first day on campus felt like I was home. I saw and met students of all backgrounds, and I immediately understood that this campus takes its diversity seriously.

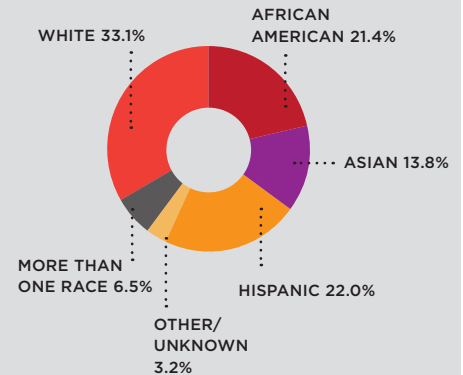
Now as a political science major in my third year, I proudly talk about the diversity of Rutgers–Camden wherever I go. This campus really connected with me because of what I do outside of being a full-time student. In my senior year of high school, I wrote and published a book, *Bullying of Sikh American Children: Through the Eyes of a Sikh American High School Student*. Since then, I have traveled the nation as a “bullying prevention specialist,” speaking at schools and conferences with the goal of reducing bullying while educating fellow Americans about the Sikh faith. I’m also very involved with the Rutgers–Camden Sikh Students Association, which works to broaden the understanding of our religion in the campus community. Last year, I worked with the New Jersey State Police to educate officers about the Kirpan, a

sword of varying lengths (often a small knife) that is one of the five articles of faith carried by formally initiated Sikhs. Intended to be a weapon of defense, it is often misinterpreted as threatening. With the support of New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, I connected with State Police Colonel Patrick Callahan to make a video to educate police and the general public about my faith and the Kirpan.

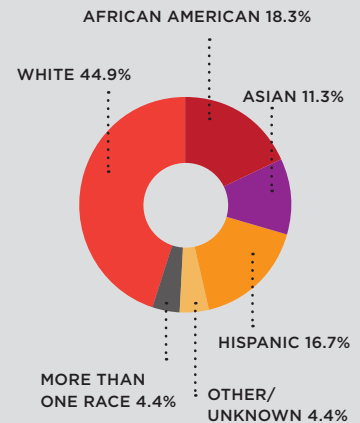
Being a Scarlet Raptor, I have learned that this institution is a place of inclusion and open dialogue. Values such as respect and community engagement are inculcated in students who attend by simply being in the campus atmosphere. Being connected with amazing faculty and students on campus has further motivated me to continue the work I do. Every day I grow prouder of having chosen to attend Rutgers–Camden because I see the desire of faculty and students alike to move beyond acceptance and tolerance with the goal of promoting love and inclusiveness. That is something that is very much needed in today’s society. I am confident that Rutgers–Camden will produce graduates who will rise to embrace diversity by combating hate and bigotry in their everyday lives.

OUR STUDENTS

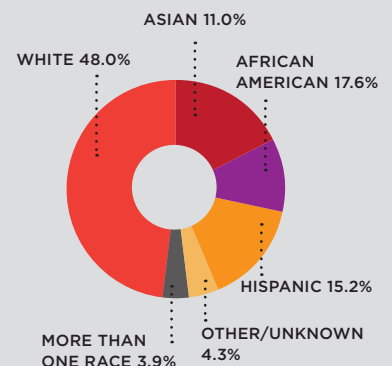
2018: Incoming First-Year Student Class of 2022 Demographics



2018: All Undergraduate Student Demographics



All Graduate and Undergraduate Student Demographics





Yahoska Morales plans to graduate with a bachelor of science in nursing degree in May. The Spanish for the Health Professions certificate program, a collaborative effort between the School of Nursing and the Department of World Languages and Cultures, received a 2018 American Association of Colleges of Nursing Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award.

Nursing Student Committed to Supporting Spanish Speakers

By Yahoska Morales SNC'19

My parents emigrated from Nicaragua in the 1980s, and I was born here and have lived all of my life in North Camden. I've always known about Rutgers–Camden and I live very close to it. The diversity is vast. Because it's a small campus, it's like everyone has a family connection. I've always felt very welcome here.

My first language was Spanish, as that is what we spoke in my home. I didn't learn English until I went to kindergarten, but it has been my primary language in my education and work. I was thrilled with the opportunity to take Spanish for Health Professions, a class that allowed me to polish my Spanish to use in medical settings. It led to an internship with VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services in Camden that allowed me to serve Spanish-speaking patients. The primary language of about 40 percent of Camden residents is Spanish, and I'm committed to providing health care for that population. The number

of Spanish speakers in America will continue to grow, and I'm pleased to be a part of the university's award-winning effort to ensure they can receive health care from someone who can communicate with them in their native language. It felt good to be doing work in my hometown, helping Spanish speakers get the most out of the health care system.

Before starting at Rutgers–Camden, I attended Camden County College. My younger sister, Tatiana, is also a student at Rutgers–Camden, studying health sciences. Knowing I am going to be the first in my family to graduate from college, I feel like that's such a huge accomplishment for me. I am also proud to be a mentor for my sister and know that she will follow in my footsteps. Many people think that if you live in Camden, you don't have opportunity. They don't think that people in Camden turn out to be something. I feel like we are doing the complete opposite, and proving them wrong.



Inclusivity for All

“The country is changing. The state of New Jersey and its residents are changing. Rutgers–Camden is responding by making sure that we are open and welcoming to all types of students to come here and to get their education. We want to make sure when they come here that they feel like they belong here, that they feel connected, and that we have opportunities and experiences across the board for them, regardless of how they identify. It's not just about race. It's about supporting people of all races, faiths, sexual orientations, and gender identities.”

–Nyeema Watson, associate chancellor of civic engagement and leader of a campus-wide effort to enhance the university's diversity, equity, and inclusion.

A Student Advocate for Fellow LGBTQIA+ Students

By Angela Wismar CCAS'21


I'm from a very small town in South Jersey with a population of less than 10,000 people. Everyone knew everyone, and it wasn't diverse at all. There were no gay people that I knew of, and very few people of color. I wanted to attend a college with a diverse mix of people. I liked the smaller environment at Rutgers-Camden because that's something I'm comfortable with, but I also like it because it's so diverse and the university takes pride in it. The diverse atmosphere is why it was my top choice. At first I was nervous about fitting in and being accepted on campus, but the more I involved myself and went to events, the more I realized that everyone here is kind of like a family.

Toward the end of my first year I began working in the university's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. A major project I've helped to organize on campus is the High School Empowerment Summit. We invite students who often come from backgrounds that are not very inclusive and they don't have a safe space to express themselves. We had a variety of educational workshops, and we started

with a drag show in the morning to get morale up. It's a way for students who don't have that space to express themselves to come to Rutgers-Camden and see how inclusive we are. If I had had something like that in high school, I would have come to terms with my own sexuality a lot sooner than I did.

I'm also involved in many other programs initiated by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, including Lunch and Legos, a conversation lunch group for LGBTQIA+ students that draws about 25 people weekly; gathering information for the university's rating in the Campus Pride index, a national listing of LGBTQ-friendly colleges and universities; and an assessment of all bathrooms on campus to create signage for the ones that are gender-neutral.

It feels good to know that I'm making a difference for the LGBTQIA+ community and helping to enhance the culture of inclusion on campus. Inclusion, which means accepting everyone for who they are regardless of their race or sexuality or religion, is very important to me. I'm happy to say it is important to Rutgers-Camden as well.



Angela Wismar, a sophomore majoring in psychology with plans to pursue a minor or a double major in gender studies, ultimately wants to start a career as a psychologist. To learn more about the Office of Diversity and Inclusion where she works, visit inclusion.camden.rutgers.edu.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION
AND GENDER IDENTITY

9.6%

UNDERGRADS SELF-IDENTIFIED
IN 2017 AS LGBTQIA+



Clear Benefits

"Diversity has been studied in an organizational context for many, many years and the findings are very clear: diversity increases creativity and innovation, and leads to higher quality decision-making."

—Anuja Gupta, assistant professor of strategy, international business, and entrepreneurship, Rutgers School of Business-Camden, is author of "Women Leaders and Organizational Diversity: Their Critical Role in Promoting Diversity in Organizations," published in the journal Development and Learning in Organizations.

Minority Program Enhances Law School

By Robert Andrade RLAW'20

I grew up in a Filipino-American neighborhood in San Francisco. After attending the University of California, Irvine, for my undergraduate degree and working as a paralegal for two years, I realized I wanted a career in the law. I had planned on staying in California, but then I began looking at the value of Rutgers Law School. I was accepted at several schools, but the clincher for me was the school's Minority Student Program. When I found out about the sort of resources the program offered, such as mentoring and tutoring and providing access to a network of minority attorneys, that was something that I couldn't really pass up.

Law school is very difficult, and there is a huge lack of diversity in the legal field. I was the only Filipino American in my first-year class at Rutgers Law School, but the Minority Student Program embraces people from all backgrounds. It's allowed me to find a home away from home.

I benefited tremendously from mentoring I received in my first year of

law school. Now that I'm in my second year, I'm returning the support by mentoring first-year law students. Those of us in the program adhere to this notion of paying it forward through mentorship.

I also have been active in student associations, including serving as vice president of our chapter of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA), which has involved me in projects such as participating in the Asian Pacific Voter Protection Rights Project, which was successful in registering voters in South Jersey and Philadelphia. I also do work with Alianza, the Latino law students association, which has a rich history at Rutgers Law School in Camden.

Ultimately, I want to practice labor and employment law. I am drawn to it because you can connect with people and make sure they can keep what is most important to them, which is their job, so they can provide for themselves and their families. There's a civil rights and human rights aspect to it that is very fulfilling.

Robert Andrade is one of 70 students in the Rutgers Law School Minority Student Program in Camden. The program provides academic support, mentoring, and summer internship opportunities to diverse law students who are under-represented in the legal field and to law students, regardless of race and ethnicity, who have overcome socio-economic or educational challenges during their journey to law school.



Enriching Classrooms

"Diverse classrooms actually provide more educational benefit for students. They have more robust and dynamic engagement around substantive issues in the classroom. The diversity of perspectives that are brought to bear in the classroom enriches the educational enterprise ... Higher education is the training ground for future civic leaders. In a pluralistic democracy, we need to be training diverse leaders for the future. Employers in the 21st century need a labor force with the skills to navigate a diverse workplace ... It is not just about preparing students to lead a diverse nation, it's also preparing them to work in a diverse world."

—Stacy Hawkins, professor, Rutgers Law School, researches and writes about diversity in the workplace and higher education, including the recent article "Race-Conscious Admissions Plans: An Antidote to Educational Opportunity Hoarding?" published in the Journal of College and University Law.

Business Student Now a Mentor

Nicole DuBose of Burlington Township, New Jersey, plans to continue mentoring in the Rutgers University Student Executives program, which gives high-achieving, under-represented high school students an opportunity to get a taste of college life and learn about business topics.



Nicole DuBose SBC'20

I felt welcomed at Rutgers–Camden the very first time I stepped on campus. This occurred in 2015, just before my senior year at Burlington Township High School when I attended the university’s summer BizEd program. The program was fun, and I learned about all the great opportunities that the School of Business–Camden had to offer. I was fascinated, and I enrolled the following year.

As a student, I have participated in the Leadership Institute, which helped me explore campus and provided coaching events to help with student success. My participation enabled me to make friends and local connections even though I am a commuter. Through the encouragement from the Leadership Institute and opportunities presented by the Career Center, I landed an internship in my sophomore year with the Latin America Economic Development Association (LAEDA) that involved helping small businesses and future entrepreneurs in Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, Atlantic, and Cumberland counties. I learned much about the city of Camden through that internship. I also

learned about the importance of business planning and client management. Currently, I am in a multiyear internship program with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Philadelphia. I also am an active member in the student chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants.

When Oscar Holmes IV, the professor in my Organizational Behavior course, invited me to serve as a mentor to local high school students in the Rutgers University Student Executives program, I was thrilled to do it. I have benefited from much support at Rutgers–Camden, so I wanted to help others the way I have been helped. I mentored a young woman who was a senior in high school, helping her to explore majors and coaching her in a team project that developed a business plan. I also coached her on her presentation. It was a great feeling to teach someone in the same way that I was taught only a few years ago. I’m excited to be one of the faces that will diversify the world of business and to help others like me follow on that path. With the encouragement and education that I have received at Rutgers–Camden, I’m confident I can achieve success with endless possibilities!

Class of 2022 Largest, Most Diverse Ever

Rutgers–Camden’s first-year class in 2018–19 set records not only for being the university’s largest ever, but also the most racially diverse in its history. Bridging the Gap, a Rutgers–Camden initiative that provides full or significant tuition coverage for New Jersey’s working families, has been credited with increasing the number of minority students enrolling at Rutgers–Camden. The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia noted in a 2018 report that the likelihood of African-American and Hispanic students enrolling in Rutgers–Camden was much greater as a result of Bridging the Gap. The racial diversity of incoming classes has increased significantly since the Bridging the Gap program welcomed its first students in fall 2016.

BRIDGING THE GAP IMPACT

271%+

FIRST-YEAR AFRICAN-AMERICAN UNDERGRADUATES*

139%+

FIRST-YEAR HISPANIC UNDERGRADUATES*

**Percentage increase changes since fall 2015.*

HELPING HANDS ON PATH TO COLLEGE

By Shelby Vittek GSC'16

Desinee Davis's pending graduation from Camden High School brings on mixed emotions. "It's exciting to be finishing, but it's scary, too," she said. "I think doubts go through every high school senior's mind. You are scared sometimes and you don't always know what to do."

A native of Camden who has lived all her life in the city, Desinee wants to pursue an undergraduate degree in psychology. When she does, she'll be the first one in her family to attend college, a goal she is well on her way to achieving with guidance from the Hill Family Center for College Access at Rutgers-Camden. "It has been a lot of help," said Desinee, a senior who is applying to Rutgers-Camden, Rutgers-New Brunswick, and two other schools. "It's preparing me for the real world."

The Hill Center is dedicated to providing local students like Desinee and their families with pre-college assistance and support. She has benefited from workshops and one-on-one consultations with education ambassadors from the Hill Center who visit high schools in and around Camden to provide counseling, advising, and preparation for college. "We host college and career readiness workshops," said Siatta Davis, program coordinator for the Hill Center. "We assist with completing financial aid applications and college applications. We make sure that students stay on top of their documents and communications from the schools, and we mentor them during the admissions process."

The Hill Family Center for College Access, funded by twin brothers from the Class of 1961, assists local high school students who want to attend college



Twin Brothers Give Back

The Hill Center began with a \$200,000 gift from George and Washington Hill, Class of 1961 alumni. Since opening in 2011—the 50th anniversary of their graduation—it has assisted more than 1,500 high school students, including 500 in the past year.

The identical twin brothers saw the center as an opportunity to give back to the university and the community that helped shape them. "We were serious about mentoring students, but also mentoring the community," Washington said.

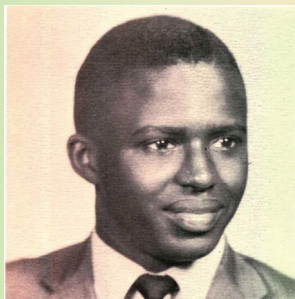
The brothers were born in Moorestown in 1939, and moved to Camden with their parents and younger sister, Mary Esther, when they began junior high school. Their father, William, was a clerk at the 30th Street Station post office in Philadelphia and their mother, Ruth Esther, did domestic work in nearby Cherry Hill. "We got our work ethic from them," Washington said.

In 1956, the brothers attended the American Legion Jersey Boys State, an annual leadership program gathering boys from New Jersey high schools. "There were a thousand kids there, yet only five black representatives from high schools participated," George said. "Washington and I were two of them."

It was there that George and Washington met Harold Eaton, director of admissions at Rutgers-Camden, then known as Rutgers College of South Jersey. Eaton took a strong interest in the Hill brothers, and kept in touch with them after the program was over. In the spring of 1957, as George and Washington



Siatta Davis, left, program coordinator for the Hill Family Center for College Access at Rutgers-Camden, is helping Desinee Davis, a senior at Camden High School, with her college plans. Desinee will be the first in her family to attend college.



GEORGE C. HILL, PH.D.

EDUCATION

- Camden High School, 1957
- Rutgers–Camden CCAS’61; class president, 1959
- Howard University, M.S., biochemical parasitology, 1963
- New York University, Ph.D., biochemistry, 1967
- Postdoctoral work at University of Cambridge in England and the University of Kentucky

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Vanderbilt University, 2002–present: Distinguished professor emeritus; vice chancellor for equity, diversity, and inclusion; Levi Watkins Jr. M.D. Professor for Diversity in Medical Education
- Meharry Medical College: Professor of microbiology and vice president for sponsored research
- Colorado State University: Associate professor of microbiology

SELECTED HONORS

- American Association of Medical Colleges Herbert W. Nickens M.D. Award
- Member, National Academy of Medicine of the National Academies
- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni, Rutgers–Camden Finest, and Rutgers–Camden Chancellor’s Lifetime Achievement Award for Civic Engagement

prepared to graduate from Camden High School, Eaton sent the brothers letters informing them they’d received full tuition scholarships. “Rutgers allowed us to go to college,” said Washington. “Remember, it was the 1950s and we were two black students. I’m not sure where else we would have gone.”

George started out on the path to become a history teacher, but after taking an interest in parasitology during a biology class as a sophomore, decided to switch his major. He also was very involved in student government. Washington, who had always been interested in medicine, majored in chemistry and joined a fraternity.

The brothers both went on to exceptional and accomplished careers, collecting long lists of accolades along the way. Washington earned his medical degree from Temple University, where he developed a fascination with the labor and delivery process. For nearly 50 years, he has been a practicing obstetrician and perinatologist, and only recently stepped down from performing surgeries. Among many other positions, Washington has served as the president and chief of the medical staff at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Florida, where he helped found a high-risk pregnancy center. He still works as a senior physician for the Florida Department of Health to ensure high-risk pregnant women have access to care.

George went on to earn a master’s degree from Howard University and a doctorate in biochemistry at New York University. He has led a distinguished career in biomedical research and spent four decades in academia, holding faculty positions at Colorado State University, Meharry Medical College in Nashville, and, most recently, Vanderbilt University in Nashville, where he served as the first vice chancellor for equity, diversity, and inclusion until 2017. Though he’s a

renowned microbiologist, George has devoted much of his career to promoting diversity in the sciences, and has mentored hundreds of graduate and medical students. “Mentoring has always been a key part of both of our careers,” said George. “It’s heart-warming and rewarding to know that the gift we were able to provide—with the intention of being able to provide for students from Camden—is bearing fruit.”

While he admits that he doesn’t always agree with his brother about everything, Washington said they do see eye-to-eye about this. “It’s a great way to give back to students who can find a place where they’ll feel comfortable learning,” Washington said.

George agreed. “When you’re able to provide support and see the impact it has on the lives of students, that’s what investment is all about.”

Increasing College Degrees in Camden

The Hill Center, part of the Rutgers–Camden Office of Civic Engagement, is a key partner of the Camden College Access Network (CCAN), a collaborative effort of colleges, K–12 schools, nonprofits, and corporations in Camden. The collaborative effort hopes to raise the number of Camden residents with college degrees. Estimates are that about 10 percent of residents have post-secondary degrees; the goal is to increase that to 50 percent by 2023.

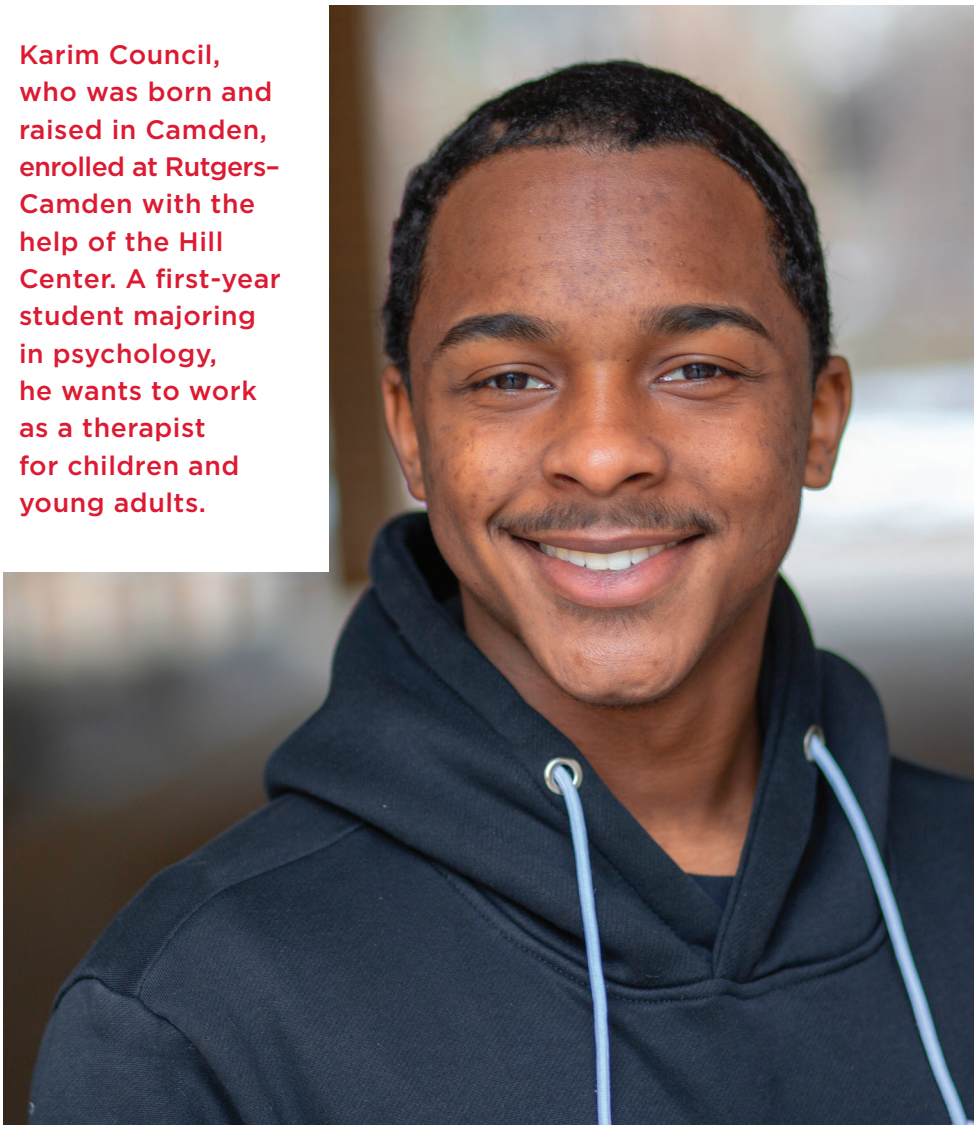
There are many examples of high school students from Camden who are now in college who have benefited from the Hill gift. Karim Council, who was born and raised in Camden and attended UrbanPromise Academy, worked closely with Hill Center advisers and his high school guidance counselor during the college application process. Now a first-year psychology major at Rutgers–Camden, Karim wants to be a thera-

pist for children and young adults. He's glad to have had the opportunity to work toward this goal at a college in his hometown. "Camden has such a negative connotation," Karim said. "I want to say I grew up and stayed in my city."

Thanks, in part, to the Hill brothers, he is studying at the college they did six decades ago. It's a location with which he is quite familiar. "When I was a kid, I'd walk by the Rutgers library and play on the stairs," Karim said. "Now, I'm proud it's my campus." **R**

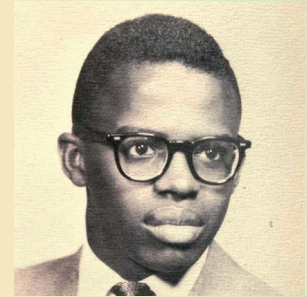
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Shelby Vittek, associate editor at New Jersey Monthly magazine, holds an M.F.A. from Rutgers-Camden.

Karim Council, who was born and raised in Camden, enrolled at Rutgers-Camden with the help of the Hill Center. A first-year student majoring in psychology, he wants to work as a therapist for children and young adults.



ABOUT THE HILL FAMILY CENTER FOR COLLEGE ACCESS

- Founded: 2011
- Students Served: 1,500+
- Services Offered: Post-Secondary Education Advising; College Pathway Sessions; Academic Assistance; Parental Support; Middle School College Awareness Programs
- Online: camden.rutgers.edu/civic-engagement/hill-family-center-college-access
- Phone: 865-225-2885



WASHINGTON C. HILL, M.D.

EDUCATION

- Camden High School, 1957
- Rutgers-Camden CCAS'61; Protestant Fellowship, president 1961
- Temple University School of Medicine, M.D., 1965

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Florida Department of Health, 2015-present: Senior physician
- Duke University, 2013-15: Instructor, Department of OB-GYN and Human Resources for Health Rwanda Program in Rwanda
- Sarasota Memorial Hospital, 1992-2013: OB/GYN chair; president and chief of medical staff; founder, maternal-fetal medicine
- Meharry Medical College: Chair of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- U.S. Army: Medical officer

SELECTED HONORS

- Named one of top 100 black physicians in the nation by *Black Enterprise* magazine
- Member of the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and National Medical Association
- Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni, Rutgers-Camden Finest, and Rutgers-Camden Chancellor's Lifetime Achievement Award for Civic Engagement

Building Foundations for Business Students

By Jen A. Miller GSC'04

Victoria Abrams has learned much inside the classrooms of the Rutgers School of Business–Camden, but an assignment to work in the field with a nonprofit organization elevated her education to another level.

Abrams, a junior management major, and a team of her classmates in the Business Leader Development Program's Marketing in the Social Media Age course, consulted for PetPALS of Southern New Jersey, a nonprofit organization that helps take care of pets for seniors and those who are disabled or chronically ill. With guidance from Professor Carol Kaufman-Scarborough, students met with the organization's executive director and asked him questions about the company's social media efforts. Based on that meeting, they developed a strategy and gave a presentation to the director with their findings about best social media practices for nonprofits. "I had never done that in a class before," Abrams said. "I was confident in all of our work, but building up the confidence to present it to him was a new skill for me."

Abrams' experience is just one of many hands-on, real-world pursuits offered through two dynamic School of Business–Camden initiatives—the Student Experience Center and the Business Leader Development Program (BLDP).

"While what's learned in the classroom is critically important for students to build the foundation of what will be their professional lives, opportunities outside the classroom allow students to expand their horizons and experience business in practice," said Jaishankar Ganesh, dean of the School of Business–Camden. "That's why we have designed

programs that support the traditional classroom experience, but also teach them business skills outside of the classroom through experiential learning. When they graduate, they will be ready to hit the ground running."

Enhancing Experience

The Student Experience Center is both a resource and a series of classes to help prepare students for working in the business world. It initially started as a "one-stop shop, where all School of Business–Camden students could come and get connected to any resources across campus," said Carla Mandell, project and data manager at the Student Experience Center. "It now consists of three mandatory 1-credit courses where all business students learn about everything from grit and resilience, to how to be a successful college student, career exploration, and networking."

Students begin taking the courses offered by the Student Experience Center in their very first year. "We start building relationships early with the students," said Dan Rosenthal, a student experience officer. "This puts a structure in place for the students as soon as they arrive."

STUDENT EXPERIENCE CENTER RECENT EVENTS

- **Personal Brand Management: Building Your Brand from the Inside Out**
- **Six Secrets of Effective Networking**
- **Résumé Workshop**
- **Drop-Dead Interview Questions**



Experience-focused programs enrich the Rutgers School of Business-Camden curriculum

Natalie Cox, at right, a student experience officer, counsels students in the School of Business-Camden's Student Experience Center. Victoria Abrams, at left, is a junior management major who participates in the experiential learning and mentoring opportunities offered by the school's Business Leader Development Program.





Student Experience Center staff, pictured with students, includes project and data manager Carla Mandell, front row center, and Dan Rosenthal and Natalie Cox, both student experience officers, second row center. Shannon Traum, second from left, is an adviser for finance and marketing students.

A key part of that is working with students to help them discover what careers and coursework will be best suited for them by taking the Strong Interest Inventory, an assessment that reveals potential paths. “It aligns the students’ interests to career fields that they may or may not have considered,” said Natalie Cox, a student experience officer who manages corporate relationships and internships for the school. “In a lot of cases, it will confirm what they want to study, or in some cases, it opens their eyes to new possibilities.”

Through two classes known as Professional Skills Forums and one known as Career Development Strategies, students learn about good study habits, create a LinkedIn profile and résumé, explore different leadership styles, and develop other valuable business skills such as networking and goal-setting. “This is building a foundation for their academic success, but also their professional success,” Cox said.

Students also learn professionalism (they are required to come to class in business casual attire) and attend a

mandatory dinner where they learn dining etiquette and network with a guest speaker from the business world. “That was really interesting and fun,” said Irum Syed, a junior majoring in finance.

Syed said she wasn’t too sure about Student Experience Center classes when she saw they were a requirement. “At first when we were told to take this class, I’m not going to lie—I was dreading it,” she said. But she came to realize how helpful it would be. “It brushes up on your knowledge about communication and how to dress professionally.”

Administrators have been taking feedback on the program and continuing to enhance it, said Rachel Tomlinson, director of operations and administration for the School of Business–Camden. “We have a really good team,” she said.

In addition to the courses, Student Experience Center officers counsel students applying for internships and coach them on their interviewing skills. “We are a resource to all business school students,” Cox said. “We encourage students to complete internships so that they get that foundational experience

before graduating and going out into the career field. We’ve been seeing record number of internships since spring 2018.”

Developing Leaders

While every student in the School of Business–Camden is now required to complete the courses offered through the Student Experience Center before they can graduate, the Business Leader Development Program is a selective 3-credit course for students who hold a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher. Participation requires sophomore status, an application with a personal essay, and letters of recommendation. The program is open to nonbusiness majors, but about 90 percent are from the School of Business–Camden. “It’s a customized leadership training program that gives students a firm basis in the concepts of leadership,” said Kaufman-Scarborough, director of the program.

As part of the program, students can choose activities such as helping to meet and greet invited speakers and recruiters coming onto campus, assisting incoming students with registration, participating in community activities like the Rutgers

School of Business–Camden Earns Reaccreditation

The Rutgers School of Business–Camden has received reaccreditation from AACSB International, the premier accrediting body for business schools in the United States and around the world. The AACSB peer review team was impressed with the school’s strides in online learning, praising how the school enables online curricula by “strong faculty support, training and access to instructional designers,” and having “staff members regularly check on

Business Outlook, taking field trips to different companies and nonprofit organizations, shadowing an executive for a day, and attending workshops on concepts like emotional intelligence and time management.

Jason Marsdale SBC '11, vice president of sales and marketing at Monroe Systems for Business, said the BLDP course he took as a student was transformative. "Being a student, you're always thinking about how do you ace that test," he said. "It was a different pace in the BLDP class. It wasn't focused on mastering a topic so you can get every answer right. It was about listening and engaging with the speakers."

Marsdale is now giving back to the program, which he said helped him become the working professional he is today. He invites BLDP students to visit his workplace, and he has presented to students on campus as well. "The BLDP is one of the best things to give your time to," he said. **R**

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Jen A. Miller is a widely published writer and the author of three books who holds an M.A. in English from Rutgers-Camden.

students to ensure their success in the program." The team commended the school for its creation of the Rutgers University Student Executive program for high school students, and the launch of the Student Experience Center. The review team also applauded the business school's impressive growth, powered by a "robust and ambitious" strategic plan and "a great deal of dynamism in the development and refinement of educational programs."

In 1995, Rutgers-Camden became the first southern New Jersey institution to earn AACSB accreditation.

Responsibility Scholarships Support Student Learning



JORDAN PARENT SBC'18

What Jordan Parent SBC'18 needed her senior year was more time. Although she had numerous academic and internship opportunities related to her major in management, she kept a part-time job teaching kickboxing classes in order to ensure a steady income.

But thanks to the Hartmann Family Annual Responsibility Scholarship given by alumnus Jeff Hartmann SBC'84, president of the Hartmann Group, she was able to give up the work unrelated to her career plans and focus on a research/teaching assistant position, an internship, and participation as a student trainee at the Defense Logistics Agency, a division of the U.S. Department of Defense. "I was able to resign from the kickboxing studio to focus on my career path," Parent said.

The idea behind the School of Business-Camden Responsibility Scholarships, which are tracked by the Student Experience Center, is to "buy back" a student's time, allowing them to focus on their studies and participate in academic clubs and internships. "This allows a student to forgo having that part-time job and allows them to focus on the academics,"

Hartmann said. "My wife, Marisa, and I wanted to be able to sponsor students to focus full time on the college experience."

Parent, now a full-time contract specialist at the Defense Logistics Agency, said the scholarship certainly made a difference for her. "I will always be grateful for the chance to dive into the business world during my senior year," she said.

To support a Responsibility Scholarship or other scholarship programs, contact Kate Brennan, senior director of development, at 856-225-6577 or katecb@camden.rutgers.edu.



JEFF HARTMANN SBC'84

FROM THE COMPUTER SCREEN TO THE SILVER SCREEN



Chip Lotierzo CCAS'02 worked as an animator and animation supervisor on the film *Ferdinand*, which was nominated for an Oscar and a Golden Globe in 2018.

FROM THE COMPUTER SCREEN TO THE SILVER SCREEN

ALUMNUS WHO WORKED ON OSCAR-NOMINATED FILM IS ONE OF MANY GRADUATES FROM RUTGERS-CAMDEN ANIMATION PROGRAM FINDING SUCCESS IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS

By Tom McLaughlin

There were the rough drafts, daily meetings, consultations, and collaborations, not to mention the constant cycle of revisions, deadlines, and who knows how many trips back to the drawing board.

But for Chip Lotierzo, a 2002 graduate of Rutgers University–Camden’s animation program who worked on the film *Ferdinand*, the years-long production process began, appropriately enough, in a barnyard. “We had some fun visits to farms to study bulls and goats,” he said.

Lotierzo served dual roles as an animation supervisor and an animator on the Blue Sky Studios film that brought the classic story of the lovable bull who would rather smell and protect flowers than fight to a new generation of adoring children and adults. The critically acclaimed *Ferdinand* earned both Oscar and Golden Globe nominations. “It was amazing seeing it for the first time,” Lotierzo said. “It represents the collective work of several hundred artists working together over the course of three to four years toward the same goal. I think anyone involved with such a project would experience both joy and relief, as did I.”

Lotierzo, who grew up in Maple Shade, New Jersey, went on from Rutgers to earn a postgraduate certificate in character animation from Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Canada. A resident of Ossining, New York, he has worked in animation for Blue Sky Studios since



2005, and gives much credit for his success to the time he spent honing his skills in the early days of a then-burgeoning Rutgers–Camden animation program. “I learned a lot about pushing myself to create the best quality of work possible,” he said. “The amazing opportunity to work with other students was likewise a great way to challenge one other and to learn to build good working relationships with other artists.”

Lotierzo headlines a growing list of accomplished alumni of the Rutgers–Camden animation program who are thriving in a wide range of roles in different industries. “Alumni of the program are enjoying success in film and TV, as well as in video game design, architecture, medicine, music, and jewelry-making,

The tale of a bull with a big heart, *Ferdinand* was based on the 1936 children’s book, *The Story of Ferdinand*, by Munro Leaf.
Image courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

among other industries,” said LiQin Tan, professor and head of the animation program. Notable alumni in addition to Lotierzo include Shaun Jennings CCAS’05, who works as technical art director for Ubisoft Toronto, a major video game development company, and Milady Bridges CCAS’08, an animation and visual effects artist who is program director for animation and visual effects at Drexel University. Bridges’ film credits include *Jurassic Park 3D*, *Titanic 3D*, and *The Avengers*.



Above: LiQin Tan's most recent book covers more than 50 examples illustrating how the art of the future could be driven by technology.

Right: Tan, professor and head of the animation program, pictured overseeing students in an animation class, emphasizes both 2D and 3D principles.



PHOTOS BY MARY ANDERSON

Some students currently studying in the Rutgers–Camden program have dreams of following a path to filmmaking. Doaa Ouf, a junior from Egypt working on a dual major in animation and filmmaking, has developed an animated duck character named Starla over the past year. “I would like to work for one of the big film companies and one day be at the Oscars,” she said. “That’s the ultimate dream.”

But there is much more to animation careers than making movies. Madeleine Hogan, a senior from Sicklerville, New Jersey, is not striving to work in movies or video games, but instead wants to take the skills she is learning into fields such as environmental services, medicine, or real estate. “I really like the 3D modeling part of it, as well as environmental design and architectural design,” Hogan said.

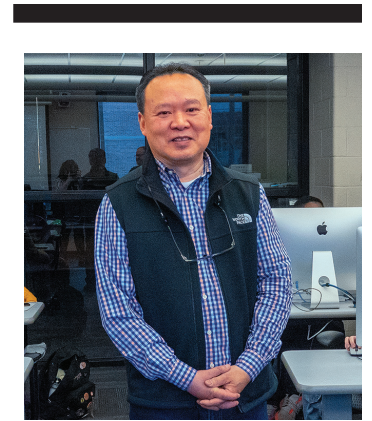
The Rutgers–Camden animation program—and the widespread applications of graduates’ expertise—is a reflection of

Tan’s personal philosophy that the artistic and technical aspects of animation should be cultivated hand-in-hand. Some college programs, he said, mistakenly believe that artistic skills take sole precedence, leaving students grappling with how to use the technological tools at their disposal. “It is actually the ability to use these technical skills that allows an artist to open their minds to new ideas and visions that they otherwise would not have known were even possible,” he said.

It is an approach that Tan has put into action since arriving on campus in 2000 with the task of reestablishing the program. Tan, who already had considerable experience working and teaching in digital art and animation in China, Canada, and the United States, proceeded to grow Rutgers–Camden’s program from one to five computer labs. He restructured the curriculum to emphasize the need for students to develop their creativity as well as a strong technical

foundation. “If you know the technical side, you have new sources, a new methodology, a new tool to inspire and create,” he said. “That can make all the difference in the world.”

Tan likewise instituted his belief that the future of animation is as much about where the mediums are going as where they have been. As a result, Rutgers–Camden students are trained in classical and 3D animation. He said that in addition to still-thriving markets for 2D animation, students who learn classical animation fundamentals can apply them to learning 3D and what he believes is the future of animation: “VR,” shorthand for virtual reality. “For instance, body movement has certain movements and principles that need to be followed,” Tan said. “When students move on to 3D, their brains will naturally still apply these 2D animation principles. That is extremely important.”



“If you know the technical side, you have new sources, a new methodology, a new tool to inspire and create.”

- LiQin Tan

In addition to his leadership of the Rutgers–Camden animation program, Tan’s digital artwork has won awards and been exhibited worldwide. In recent years, he has written and published many works, including his latest book, *Singularity Art*, published last year.

For Lotierzo, the atmosphere that Tan cultivated proved to be the ideal place to express his love for both the technical and artistic aspects of animation, building a solid foundation for the successful career that he enjoys today. “Professor Tan helped me push my work by always challenging my ideas,” Lotierzo said. “He was always very positive and encouraging, but not at the expense of honest and constructive criticism. This was a great thing to be exposed to because, as artists, our work is always being pushed and challenged by other artists in order to elevate our craft.” **R**

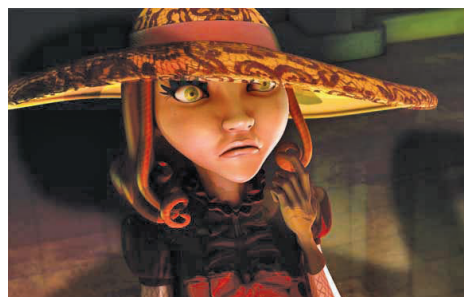
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EXAMPLES OF STUDENT AND ALUMNI WORK



STARLA, DOAA OUF CCAS'20



ALIEN, MADELEINE HOGAN CCAS'19



STAGE FRIGHT, MILADY BRIDGES CCAS'08



IN TRANSIT, BRANDON BORELLI CCAS'14

SCARLET PROFILES

A MAGICAL SECOND ACT

Alumnus moves from distinguished legal career to owner of a magic lounge and producer of films and plays

By Dan Hanson

How does one go from being a highly successful attorney to an entertainment entrepreneur? “I tell people I followed the natural progression from Fortune 500 litigator, to being a religious denomination general counsel, to being an entertainment entrepreneur,” Donald Clark Jr. said with a laugh.

After graduating from Rutgers Law School in Camden in 1979, Clark and his wife, Ellen, who earned a master’s degree in library science from Rutgers, moved back to his hometown of Chicago. He began his storied career there, working for two of the city’s largest law firms—Isham, Lincoln & Beale and McDermott, Will & Emery—before hanging his own shingle as founding and managing partner of Clark & DeGrand. He also served for 15 years as general counsel for the United Church of Christ, a tenure that included winning a landmark lawsuit in federal court in 2014 that struck down as unconstitutional a North Carolina law banning same-sex marriage.

After retiring from practicing law in 2015, Clark decided to let the next chapter in his life find him. While taking continuing legal education courses in Chicago, he attended a magic show. Magic—once as much a part of Chicago culture as deep-dish pizza and the blues—held a deep connection for Clark. “I’ve been interested in magic since I was a kid,” he said. “I sawed a woman in half in my day, but that was a long time ago.”



Donald Clark Jr. RLAW’79 and his wife, Ellen SC&I’77, with actor Jeff Daniels at the Broadway production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Daniels wrote and played the lead role in the *The Guest Artist*, a film for which Clark was the executive producer.

He loved the show, which was held in a basement, but knew it could be bigger and better with its own place. He approached the show’s creator, Joey Cranford. “After a few meals and a handshake, we became partners,” Clark said. The Chicago Magic Lounge was born when they converted an old commercial laundry building into a 7,200-square-foot venue with three performance spaces that include a 1930s-style speakeasy performance bar and a cabaret theater. “It’s going fantastic,” Clark said. “We’re sold out Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, three or four weeks in advance.”

Clark expanded his entertainment enterprise to New York, producing *The Encounter*, a Broadway play that won a Tony Award, among others plaudits. Most recently, he looked toward filmmaking, serving as executive producer for *The Guest Artist*, a film written by and starring Jeff Daniels. It debuted in February at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, and was honored with Best Independent Film and Best Actor awards at the

Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival.

Clark and his wife, Ellen, who live in Glenview, Illinois, and have two children and seven grandchildren, have been generous supporters of Rutgers. The commons area on the third floor in the Rutgers Law building in Camden is named for Clark, as is the annual Donald C. Clark Jr. Endowed Law and Religion Lecture. He also supports an endowed scholarship, and has taught for Rutgers Law as an adjunct faculty member. His wife supports the Ellen Boates Clark Endowed Fellowship at the School of Communications and Information at Rutgers–New Brunswick.

As for his career, he said while there may be no “natural progression” from being a lawyer to a religious denomination general counsel to an entertainment entrepreneur, there are some common attributes. “In their own respective ways, they’re all intellectual enterprises and communications enterprises,” he said. “They’re all about reaching people in different aspects of their lives.”

From Scholarship to Marketing Success



By Sam Starnes

Before she even graduated from the Rutgers School of Business–Camden, Adrienne Onorato Dell’Olio was named director of marketing for the accounting firm Alloy Silverstein. Dell’Olio, who would earn her degree in marketing a year later in 2011, had started making copies and inputting tax documents when she was in high school. “This is my 14th tax season with the firm,” she said.

Reynold P. “Ren” Cicalese SBC’78, Alloy Silverstein’s managing director and a longtime Rutgers–Camden supporter, saw her potential early, supporting Dell’Olio with one of the many scholarships he has provided for students at the School of Business–Camden. It was an investment that has paid off. “She is a valuable part of my firm,” Cicalese said. “She looks at things differently, and always has, from the accountants in the room.”

Major contributions Dell’Olio has

made at the firm, which has more than 50 employees with offices in Cherry Hill and Hammonton, New Jersey, include formalizing a business development and marketing strategy, as well as rolling out four new websites, all of which have social media components. “That definitely keeps me busy,” she said.

Another significant project for Dell’Olio, whose husband, Christopher, is a 2012 School of Business–Camden alumnus, is heading the firm’s Adopt-A-Family holiday program, which began in 2013 and has grown exponentially to partner with service organizations and provided food and gifts for more than 50 families in need in 2018. “It’s very rewarding,” she said. “We help families from Camden to Cape May.”

The project has received support from many organizations, including a Rutgers–Camden sorority, and is just one example of the many ways the university,

Young alumna a key player at Rutgers–Camden proud accounting firm

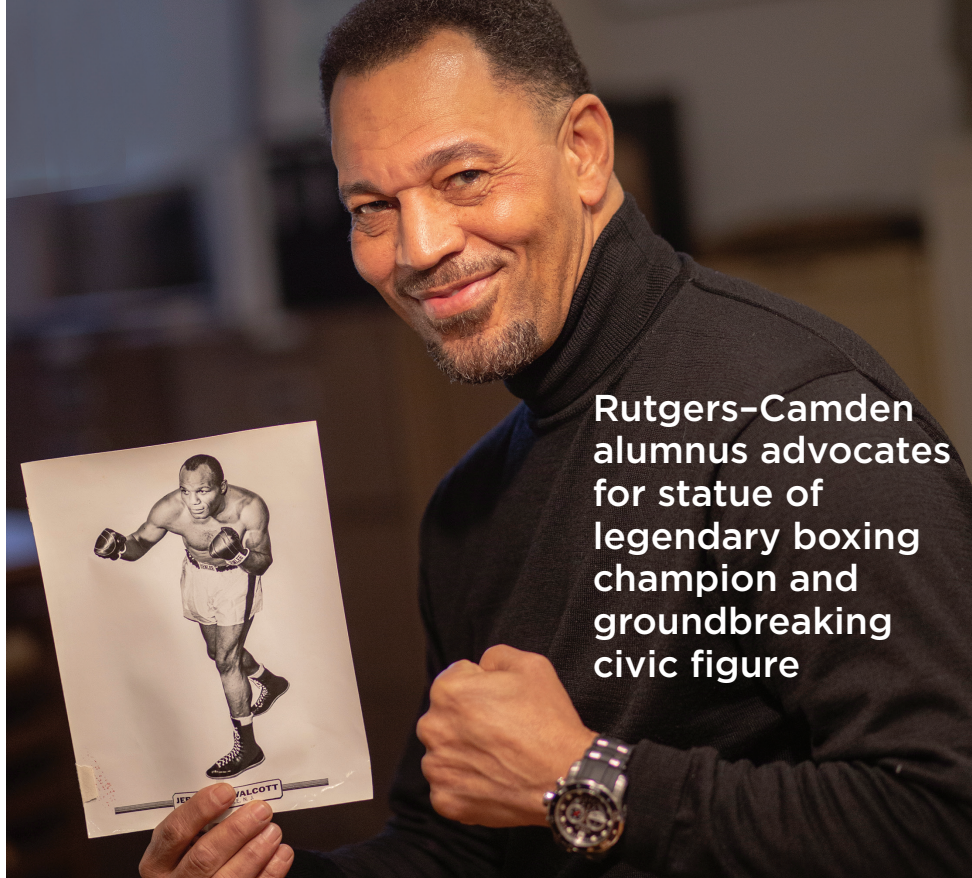
Alloy Silverstein, and Cicalese’s family are closely connected. “We pretty much have Rutgers–Camden in our bloodline,” Cicalese said. His wife, Anne D’Amico SBC’89, and sons, Reynold III SBC’09 and Christopher SBC’11—all accountants at Alloy Silverstein—are alumni, as is his stepson James Milano SBC’03, RLAW’06, an attorney.

Cicalese, who joined Alloy Silverstein as a temp in 1980 and has risen to its top position, has hired numerous Rutgers–Camden interns and alumni over the years. His firm, which has funded scholarships since the 1990s, was the first to endow a scholarship for the School of Business–Camden of more than \$100,000. “I give back because I feel like everything that I have is due to my Rutgers–Camden education,” he said.



Clockwise, from front left, Adrienne Dell’Olio SBC’11; Christopher Cicalese SBC’11; Sister Karen Dietrich from Catholic Partnership Schools; and Reynold “Ren” Cicalese SBC’78 collecting items for Alloy Silverstein’s Adopt-A-Family program.

‘MY GRANDFATHER’S LAST PROMOTER’



Rutgers-Camden alumnus advocates for statue of legendary boxing champion and groundbreaking civic figure

By Sam Starnes

Long before Muhammad Ali, there was Arnold Cream. A Camden County-born son of an immigrant from the Virgin Islands, he boxed on the sport’s biggest stages—including fights in Yankee Stadium and Madison Square Garden—under the name Jersey Joe Walcott. He won the World Heavyweight Championship in 1951 at the age of 37, becoming at that time the oldest fighter ever to hold the crown.

Walcott, known for his flamboyant footwork that inspired Ali, was recognized all over the globe. “Walt Whitman is the first person from Camden known worldwide,” said Vincent Cream CCAS’83, the boxer’s oldest grandson who is leading an effort to erect a statue of Walcott. “My grandfather would be the second.”

Vincent Cream CCAS’83 above with a photo of his grandfather, Jersey Joe Walcott. Below, he’s pictured at left with Walcott and cousin Nathaniel Streater in 1968.



Walcott lost his title to Rocky Marciano in 1952 and was defeated in a rematch the following year. He retired afterward, stepping into a career of noteworthy civic positions, including being elected sheriff of Camden County

in 1974—a political victory that made him the first African American elected to countywide office. (He ran as Arnold Cream Sr. and never legally changed his name to Jersey Joe Walcott, although that was how he was widely known.) He also served as chair of the New Jersey State Athletic Commission and directed many special statewide projects aiding children in need. “He came out of boxing and stepped right into a role of doing service for the community,” Vincent Cream said.

Walcott’s fame gave him access to celebrities, such as Ali, Joe Frazier, and Burt Lancaster—all of whom he introduced to his grandson—but the fame never went to his head. “He was humble,” Vincent Cream said. “As his obituary said, ‘He walked with kings, but he never lost the common touch.’”

Walcott married his second wife, Riletta Cream, the late Camden County freeholder and educator, after his first wife, Lydia, died in 1970. He died in 1994 at the age of 80.

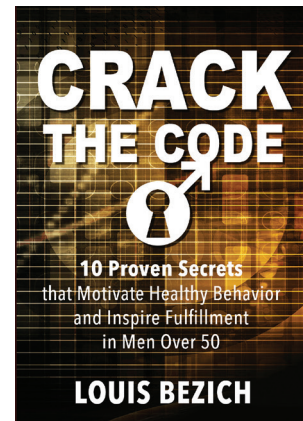
Vincent Cream, who earned a political science degree, said his grandfather—who had only an eighth-grade education but often said that he had earned a “Ph.D. in life”—and his father were major influences. “They both beamed with pride when I received my degree,” he said.

Vincent Cream, a Pennsauken, New Jersey, resident, has had a successful career in sales and now works as a sales marketing consultant for Allied Beverage. He was involved in Rutgers-Camden student government, serving as a student body vice president, and was a founding member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity chapter. “Some of the best times of my life happened at Rutgers-Camden,” he said.

He has been working with the Camden County Historical Society in the Parkside section of Camden to raise funds to erect a statue in a planned sculpture garden. A sculptor has been selected, and they are hopeful the project will move forward later this year or next. “I consider myself my grandfather’s last promoter,” he said. “Camden has a championship pedigree, and it started with Jersey Joe.”

Writing the Road Map for a Healthy Life Journey

Alumnus pens book focusing on men's health after 50



Lou Bezych GSC'80 is an executive at Cooper University Health Care in Camden.

program, you have to have that underlying motivation.”

Much of Bezych's career has been, as he describes it, spent “in the public fishbowl.” Early on, he worked in government in Camden County and Washington Township in Gloucester County, ultimately serving as county administrator for Camden County. He began the position managing a \$200 million budget with 3,500 employees when he was only 32.

Prior to joining Cooper University Health Care in 2011, he served as vice president of administrative services at Camden County College. A lifelong resident of Haddon Township, he also currently serves as vice chair of the Rowan University/Rutgers–Camden Board of Governors and teaches graduate courses as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers–Camden, where his connections run deep. His late father, Anthony Bezych, graduated from Rutgers Law School in 1954, and his son, Stephen Bezych CCAS'11, and daughter-in-law, Colleen Bianco-Bezych GSC'09, RLAW'10, are alumni. “I'll be forever grateful for being a part of the Rutgers family,” Bezych said.

This story is adapted with permission from a piece written by Jen A. Miller GSC'04 for the UT (University of Tampa) Journal.

Lou Bezych discovered a way to deal with stress years before he faced the tension inherent in high-level executive positions. Troubled by the looming uncertainty of life after college and his parents' divorce when he was in his early 20s, Bezych started running laps around his apartment complex's parking lot. “It cleared my head,” he said. “I didn't know it at the time, but it set me on my journey.”

That journey, which included earning a master of public policy degree from Rutgers University–Camden in 1980, resulted in a lifetime of fitness and an accomplished career while overcoming some challenging events in his personal

life. Bezych, senior vice president for strategic alliances at Cooper University Health Care in Camden, is sharing what he has put into practice with his book, *Crack the Code: 10 Proven Secrets that Motivate Healthy Behavior and Inspire Fulfillment in Men Over 50*. “At a time in life when we look at the prospect of weddings and graduations and travel and retirement and a second or third career—the things one could potentially look forward to that would provide a motivation to stay healthy—men do the opposite,” he said. “My motivation started with social factors, and that's the essence of the book. Before you can get to any particular diet or exercise

PHOTO BY COLIN M. LENTON



Jennifer Wain SNC'18, pictured when she was a second lieutenant in the New Jersey National Guard, is now a first lieutenant.

By Sam Starnes

Although Jennifer Wain had earned one bachelor's degree and served as the first female combat arms officer in the New Jersey Army National Guard before she

Groundbreaking Nursing Alumna Deployed to Jordan

enrolled at the Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden, she still needed the support of classmates, faculty, and staff. “My fellow nursing friends helped me through school,” Wain said. “Without them, I would have had a much more difficult time.”

Wain, a first lieutenant in the New Jersey National Guard who graduated in May 2018, also credits faculty members, specifically Kevin Emmons, a clinical assistant professor in the School of Nursing and officer in the U.S. Army Reserve who served in Kuwait and Iraq, with helping her. “He made sure I understood what I needed to know and what was important,” she said. “He is very smart and always was approachable.”

Wain began working in fall 2018 as a nurse in the Heart and Vascular Intensive Care Unit (HVICU) at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where she worked as a nursing aide during her senior year. That job, however, is on hold while she serves an approximately 400-day deployment in Jordan as a squadron fire support officer with the 44th Infantry

Brigade Combat Team. Two more women have since become combat officers in the New Jersey National Guard, and Wain is honored to have had the opportunity to be a leader. “I am extremely humbled and I am so thankful for everything I have learned along the way,” Wain said.

Wain, who earned a biology degree from Temple University in 2013 before enlisting and attending Rutgers–Camden, worked on campus in the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs and served as vice president of the student-veterans association. She said that she and other student-veterans benefit from the welcoming atmosphere on a campus that has earned many awards for serving veterans, including being named the first Purple Heart University in New Jersey. “Veterans have a difficult time transferring back to civilian life,” she said. “They have so many great skills that they can apply, but it is sometimes hard to take that initial step back to going to school. People at Rutgers–Camden are so caring and concerned for veterans’ well-being.”

Alumni Couple Supports Student-Veterans

Alexis Marie Arthur, a junior majoring in biology, is pictured between Greg CCAS'70 and Donna Wade CCAS'71 at the 2018 Rutgers–Camden Veterans Day Luncheon. Arthur, who serves in the Air Force Reserves, benefits from an annual scholarship for student-veterans given by the Wades, who met as students at Rutgers–Camden. Greg Wade, a retired food and beverage company executive who served four years in the intelligence



community for the Navy in the early 1970s, was selected in 2016 to the Rutgers–Camden Finest, a program honoring outstanding alumni.

In Search of World War II Veteran Alumni

Are you or is someone you know a Rutgers–Camden graduate and a World War II veteran? If so, please contact Sam Starnes, editor of *Rutgers–Camden Magazine*, at 856-225-6857 or

[sstarnes@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:ssstarnes@camden.rutgers.edu).

All Rutgers–Camden alumni veterans are asked to update their contact information at ralumni.com/camdenveterans.



PHOTO BY MARY ANDERSON

At left: John Miller CCAS'59 at an exhibition earlier this year in the Stedman Gallery, which showed several pieces he donated to the Rutgers-Camden Collection of Art.

neighborhood, there wasn't a single person who had gone to college," said Miller, who grew up in Westmont, New Jersey.

Through the benefit of a state-funded scholarship, Miller became the first in his family to attend college when he started at Rutgers University–Camden in 1955. "It was a step into an opportunity that just opened up my life," he said. "The environment was so stimulating in many ways."

Miller, who studied French and psychology and earned a bachelor of arts in humanities in 1959, went on to earn a master's in French and Spanish at the University of Maryland and a doctorate in modern languages at Middlebury College. He taught at several universities, including the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, where he was a professor of Spanish and chair of the languages and cultures department. He received five Fulbright awards over his career to study worldwide, but his first international journey happened in 1959 as part of a Rutgers University trip to Argentina. "It was a life-changing event," he said.

It was in 1961 when he developed another passion—collecting art. He bought his first piece, a small painting, on a trip to Barbados while fulfilling a Fulbright in Venezuela. "With my limited student budget, I began searching thrift shops," he said. Travel and residency abroad in Turkey, Colombia, and Mexico led to new purchases, as did befriending artists where he taught. "Friends, other cultures, and the geography of memory mark my collecting," Miller said.

Miller and Robert E. Bixler, his husband of 37 years, have given 16 works from their collection to the Stedman

Gallery, including two that hung in the gallery's *Birthday Suit* exhibition in early 2019: a large drawing by noted Colombian artist Luis Caballero, and a watercolor diptych by Ben Jones, a critically acclaimed New Jersey artist.

Miller and Bixler, who live in Cape Coral, Florida, have given generously to support education. Their gift of \$160,000 funded the John C. Miller Endowed Scholarship for First-Generation Students in the Rutgers–Camden College of Arts and Sciences. They also established the Ladakhi Children's Schooling Project, a nonprofit that has funded education for 100 children in India, Laos, Turkey, Cambodia, and South Africa. "What we did with most of our pension was, very simply, we invested it in international education," he said. "This is our gift to the world, and it's a key point to our existence."

First-Generation Alumnus Gives Back in Many Ways

Supports Rutgers-Camden students with scholarships, art gallery with gifts

By Sam Starnes

The first of 10 children born to a truck driver and a stay-at-home mom, John Miller didn't have any examples to follow on the path to higher education. "In my

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THE BACK PAGE

DIGNITARIES ON THE DAIS

Rutgers University–Camden commencements frequently feature renowned leaders



Almost two decades before President Barack Obama spoke at Rutgers–New Brunswick’s commencement ceremony in 2016, the Rutgers–Camden College of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) commencement featured a sitting world leader: **Sam Nujoma**, president of the Republic of Namibia. The first president of the nation that achieved independence from South Africa, Nujoma was a contemporary of Nelson Mandela in the fight against apartheid. In his 1997 address, he credited Rutgers with helping to establish a national Namibian university, closing his address to cheers: “Long live Rutgers University! Long live the University of Namibia! Long live the spirit of international cooperation!”

Many other dignitaries have delivered commencement addresses at Rutgers–Camden. **José Ramos-Horta**, winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to liberate his native East Timor from

Indonesian rule, delivered the 2000 Rutgers Law School commencement address. “The message of East Timor is that nothing is impossible,” said Ramos-Horta, who went to serve as the nation’s president from 2007 to 2012. “Even in our darkest moments, if we have faith, if we have hope, we can move mountains.”

National figures whose political fortunes rose in the years after they spoke at Rutgers–Camden include **Ben Carson**, a former neurologist and presidential candidate now serving as secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), at CCAS in 2003, and **Joe Biden**, a U.S. Senator when he addressed the law school in 2004, five years before he became vice president.

Members of Congress have been many, including **Representative John Lewis** from Georgia in 2006 for law; **Senator Bill Bradley** of New Jersey in 1983 and 1996, both for CCAS; **Representative**

Shirley Chisholm of New York for law and **Senator Sam Ervin** of North Carolina for CCAS, both in 1977; and **Eugene McCarthy**, former presidential candidate and senator from Minnesota, for CCAS in 1974.

The U.S. Attorney General’s Office also has been well-represented: **Alberto Gonzalez**, who served as White House Counsel and later attorney general, spoke to law in 2004, and **Attorney General Janet Reno** addressed law in 1996.

In 2017, another prominent figure from Capitol Hill addressed CCAS: **Carla Hayden**, the 14th Librarian of Congress and the first woman and African American to hold the post, told graduates, “Your degree is your passport to opportunity. It is your ticket to ride.”

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For information on this year’s commencement speakers, visit camden.rutgers.edu.

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 the RUAA, including announcements of exciting events, update your email address at RAlumni.com/CamdenUpdate.

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



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