From Tears to Cheers

When your book hits the top ten on the New York Times best-seller list, there is cause for celebration. And when none other than two of Rutgers’ very own graduates are co-authors, the campus lost no time in inviting these distinguished alumni back to campus to speak about their new book.

On October 8, 2009, the Center for Genocide and Human Rights welcomed Michael (NCAS ’72) and Elizabeth (Beth) (NUR ’73) Norman to Engelhard Hall for a dialog with students about their best-seller, Tears in the Darkness: The Story of the Bataan Death March and Its Aftermath. The book, which chronicles the worst military defeat in U.S. history to date, is based on thousands of sources and hundreds of interviews with not only American but also Filipino and Japanese participants. The authors “wanted to tell it from the ground up,” and the result is a narrative that is at once authoritative and deeply moving. According to the New York Times, “If you aren’t weeping openly by the book’s final scenes… then you have a hard crust of salt around your soul.”

Tears in the Darkness begins on December 7, 1941, with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. Two weeks later, Japan invaded the Philippines, overwhelming the American and Filipino forces there. “They were sick, starving and outgunned,” explained Beth Norman in a lecture to a rapt audience of Rutgers students and faculty. The Allies surrendered, and 76,000
From the desk of the Dean of Arts and Sciences

As autumn leaves begin to cover the plaza (yes we have trees and flowers on the plaza for those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit us in a while!), the fall semester is nearly history for our interesting, bright, and most diverse student body in the country. The past half year has brought us extraordinary excellence from both our faculty and our students, so allow me to brag a little.

We have had faculty win a Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and now in the new season we have another finalist for the National Book Award among our faculty. Two of our departments have been ranked in the top 100 nationally by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Professor Alexander Gates, chair of Earth and Environmental Sciences, played the lead role in securing a $5 million grant from the National Science Foundation’s Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the sciences. We in Arts & Sciences are all about excellence in education, excellence in research, and excellence in opportunity for our students.

I have had the privilege of meeting a number of Rutgers - Newark alumni, both in New Jersey and across the country. A common theme emerges from the stories they have told me, whether they graduated 70 years ago or just last year. Whether you remember Rector Street, or the construction of the current campus in the 60s and 70s, or are a recent graduate and remember the flowers and trees on today’s plaza, you will likely relate to today’s students: students who may be the first in their families to go to college, who are commuting to class to save money, who are working to earn the money to pay tuition and who may need to go to classes in the evening because of that job, or who may go home to a family in which another language is spoken.

Many of you have been very generous in your support of today’s students. As you know, they generally have limited means to support their college careers. The scholarships you fund often make the critical difference. For example, a short time ago I met two young New Jersey high school students who dreamed of helping especially needy students at Rutgers, ones who were hit with a financial disaster and thought they would have to drop out of school. These two young men obtained enough donations to establish a fund of $70,000 that has now become a source of crucial help for those very students in distress. Isn’t that a wonderful story? The fact that it is real and that I had the privilege to meet these two students warms my heart to this day.

All of this speaks to the spirit of Rutgers, which is alive and well today, having been handed down from your generation. I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Philip L. Yeagle, Dean
Newark College of Arts and Sciences
University College | Newark

Kudos

· Annette Gordon-Reed’s *The Hemingses of Monticello*, awarded Pulitzer Prize, George Washington Book Prize, National Book Award, and seven other prizes.
· Jayne Anne Phillips’ novel *Lark and Termite* named a finalist for the 2009 National Book Award.
· History professors James Goodman, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Jan Ellen Lewis elected as Fellows of the Society of American Historians
· Deborah Walker McCall, Associate Dean and Director of our EOF program given the 2009 Nurse Recognition Award from the New Jersey League for Nursing
· Departments of Psychology and Mathematics/Computer Science ranked nationally in the top 100 Graduate Programs by *U.S. News and World Report*
soldiers were forced to march sixty six miles to a prison camp during the hottest season of the year. It was called the Bataan Death March because you were killed if you stopped marching. Tanks ran over men, skulls were fractured with rifle butts, and those who helped the fallen were shot point blank. In total, 11,000 men died before reaching the prison camp.

The emotional center of the story is provided by “one particular voice, that of Ben Steele, a young, Montana cowboy and self-taught artist. Twenty-two of his sketches are featured in the book,” said Beth. The audience sat spellbound, riveted by accounts of what it was like to live through these experiences.

Captured on the pages of the book are the thoughts and experiences of hundreds of other soldiers. The Normans crystallize the horrors, while at the same time, present an understanding of one of the worst acts against humanity. Their sympathy extends even to the Japanese soldiers, whose stories of unwilling participation in the events give their book a richness and complexity that are unusual in books about war.

“As soon as the first shot is made in a war, everybody loses,” says Michael. “We wrote in a way that the reader can make up their mind about the truth. By speaking to and writing about all sides in the battle, we can begin to understand what happens - and why - in war,”

During the exchange with the audience, the Normans provided interesting insights on their research, methodology and connection to Arts and Sciences. Students were amused to learn that Dr. Norman Samuels, the former Provost of the campus, was a young professor at Rutgers - Newark when the Normans were undergraduates. During a time of war and profound social change, professors and students alike were active in campus life. Beth, a nursing student, was president of her freshman class. Michael, an English major and Vietnam Veteran, was writing for the Observer when they met during a student government gathering. Before Michael graduated in 1972, they were married by the campus chaplain.

As the event concluded, the audience expressed a deep appreciation to the Normans for sharing their inspirational success story. Beth offered one last personal footnote regarding their positive Rutgers undergraduate experience: “You never know where it’s going to take you.”
Class Work in Glass Work

Samantha Glovin is a rising star at the NCAS and has the video footage from Hollywood to prove it. It all started with an art assignment for Professor Nick Kline’s Photo, Communication and Illustration course. Kline challenged students to create a book around the theme of self inflicted violence (SIV), one of society’s most misunderstood, shame-inducing behaviors. More important, the book had to be made of glass.

In researching the topic, the class met the country’s top experts on self injury and spoke directly with trauma survivors. They also participated in a demonstration of glass-making at GlassRoots Studio located near campus.

Students learned that all types of people live with SIV. Most people who self-injure begin to do so in childhood or adolescence as a form of coping with severe emotional pain and as a way to manage feelings of intense helplessness.

Glovin designed her glass book with seven pages, each featuring a letter from the word “release.” Each page of glass is longer than the one before it. Every page portrays a different method of self-injury.

“Since SIV is something that is ingrained into its victim and is difficult to overcome, I created symbolism through the book,” she explained. “The word ‘release’ is sand-blasted and embedded into the glass. Each glass page features items that trauma survivors have used to self injure, such as cigarettes, tweezers, and safety pins. The rubber band-and-wire binding represents the sense of release that a person seeks from SIV.”

In a month’s time, the books were ready for critique at Dana Library, and the concept had grown into the Glass-Book Project collaboration with WitnessJustice to foster positive mental health reform. The next thing Glovin knew, she and her fellow classmates were being asked to exhibit their work at the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care (NCTIC) meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, where the response was overwhelming.

“Healthcare professionals were amazed at the powerful reactions to the books,” explained Professor Kline. “Kathryn Power, the director of the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, became an advocate of the project, encouraging us to make a documentary and get as much exposure as possible.”

The next stop was Washington D.C., where federal leaders from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services championed the GlassBook Project for future trauma-informed care programs. The Project was awarded federal funding to develop a curriculum that can be adapted at the state level to augment mental health transformation and reform. Four states, Illinois, Mississippi, Ohio and Wisconsin have already signed on to the program and are launching GlassBook Projects to address many aspects of mental health education and reform.

Not only did the GlassBook Project receive federal funding to develop positive social change, but the team was also asked to showcase the project at the annual Voice Awards at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles, California. The Voice Awards honors writers and producers who portray individuals with mental health problems in a dignified, respectful manner in television and film productions.

As a TV and Media Arts major, Glovin tapped university resources to borrow cameras and other materials for filming the remarkable story of the GlassBook Project. She explained that the team is currently working on making the GlassBook collection available to the Library of Congress for an international exhibition that she will include in the documentary.

When asked if the documentary is “a wrap,” Glovin said it’s still a work in progress, but the end is in sight. She wants to include footage of the GlassBook Project exhibition at the Dana Library taking place now through January 22, 2010.

At this point, one GlassBook chapter may end, but another will begin as Kline’s class continues the legacy of the Project with new students, new books, and a new mental health topic. And who knows, for Glovin the GlassBook documentary may earn her an Academy Award.
Name: Margaret Derrick
Degree: Class of ’71, B.A., English

What was your most memorable experience at Rutgers-Newark?

The outstanding part of my Rutgers-Newark experience is that I was in school during the Newark riots, during the campus takeover, and also during the spring of ’70 when the university shut down because of Kent State. So what I remember is the activism, the world and national events at the time, and that certainly played a role in the teaching and learning that was going on. You couldn’t help but be a part of “history” because when the university shut down you had to pay attention and educate yourself. You were faced with a number of sociopolitical issues that were happening, and those issues became part of your education.

How did the Rutgers-Newark experience make a difference in your life?

The personal piece, the other element to my experience, is that I had left school in the fall of 1967 due to illness. The only thing that helped me focus, to move forward with my life, was the fact that I would return to school. Rutgers-Newark made that happen for me. When I returned to school, I was disabled, and have been since that time. Dean Blumenthal played a big role in my transition back to the university, working with me to figure out what I needed to do to get a degree, while addressing my physical abilities. It was quite an accomplishment for me to get back and complete the university experience, and the faculty and administration of Rutgers-Newark played a huge role in making that happen.

What motivated your initial gift?

I’ve always had a sense of giving back, volunteering and giving my time in little ways. I value my Rutgers education, and my Newark education, very highly and I gave nominally in the beginning. I didn’t play an active role in the alumni association, but I was a card carrying alumni member from the start, and gave on an annual basis.

Over the years my giving has increased; I give more because I can. For a number of years I worked in the non-profit sector, and I got a real education about what it means to support organizations that are important to you. So, as my ability to give grew, my commitment to give grew as well, because I understood what went into the process.

How has giving back to Rutgers-Newark enriched your life?

For me, it feels good to provide support to an organization I care about. Specifically I’ve given money for scholarships, because I think students need support so that they aren’t distracted by trying to hold down a job, or by something else that will take away from their academic commitments.

What would you say to others to encourage them to give?

Find what you’re grateful for and give back.

Help the next generation of students to succeed at Rutgers-Newark.

To learn more about giving opportunities, and to make a gift, call Brian Agnew at 973-353-5641 or visit http://fasn.rutgers.edu and click “Giving.”
Seeing his name in big letters on the title page of his forthcoming book was a humbling experience for John McIntyre. He is currently putting the finishing touches on his first book, an edition of the correspondence between two writers he had admired for years: James Salter, the acclaimed American novelist and Robert Phelps, a literary critic and novelist. As the first recipient of the prestigious Truman Capote Fellowship offered by the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing program, McIntyre is the latest up-and-coming talent at Rutgers-Newark.

“We are thrilled that the Capote Literary Trust regards us so highly and is partnering with us to nurture a gifted graduate student who is seeking the unique experience we can offer,” states Jayne Anne Phillips, director of the MFA program. “It’s extraordinary that executives at the Capote Trust contacted us when considering granting this fellowship. The growing reputation of our MFA program combined with

“the success of the Writers at Newark Reading Series got their attention, and our diversity set us far apart from the eight other university contenders.”

Established in 1994, The Truman Capote Literary Trust funds a variety of scholarships and fellowships from the royalties and revenues from Truman Capote’s literary works. The Capote Fellowship will cover all tuition and fees, plus a stipend for the two-year graduate program, so McIntyre can focus on course work.

When asked how the Capote Fellowship has affected his life, McIntyre recalls his days teaching in Korea, China, and Japan. “I had to grade 150 papers and it would take hours so I didn’t write much,” he said. “Unlike some fellowships, the Capote Fellowship is designed to financially support my graduate studies without the need for a teaching stipend. It provides me with the necessary time to devote to writing.”

McIntyre is also writing his next book, a collection of short stories about a small town in Tennessee. It is a project he’s been crafting in the Writing Workshop, with Phillips’ assistance. Phillips’ novel, Lark and Termite, has just been named a finalist for the National Book award, an acknowledgement that motivates McIntyre and his fellow colleagues to work hard and pursue excellence.