Fed Challenge Team Finishes 2nd at Nationals with Alumni Support

If you’re looking for celebrities on the Rutgers-Newark campus these days, look no further than the Economics Department. There you’ll find not only distinguished professors, but also a group of distinguished undergraduates.

The Rutgers-Newark Fed Challenge Team recently placed second in the 11th annual national competition, edged out only by Harvard. It’s the third time in the last three years they’ve gone to the nationals—and the fourth time in the last seven years, since the team’s 2005 inception.

This year’s team, anchored by seniors Victor Castaneda and Sher Singh, benefited from something altogether new and welcome: support from a group of Economics department alumni.

“We got better as the competition got stiffer,” says Castaneda. “And the fact that our alumni freed up their time and gave us their feedback was amazing. It was the first time we’ve had their input, and it meant a lot to us.”

In the Fed Challenge, teams of three to five students give a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation analyzing current economic conditions, forecasting trends and offering monetary-policy recommendations for the Fed. Teams are then grilled for 15 minutes by a panel of judges about monetary policy and macroeconomic theory.

To get to the nationals, the team had to beat out more than 30 schools in the New York District competition. When they accomplished that feat in 2006, they went on to place third at the nationals, followed by second- and fourth-place finishes in 2009 and 2010.

In addition to Castaneda and Singh, this year’s team consisted of senior Gaurav Pendse and juniors Michael Jen and Bryan Myers.

To prepare, they attended weekly meetings starting in July, then spent up to 20 hours a week keeping up with financial news, reading speeches from top economists and bank presidents, examining meeting minutes and data released by the Federal Reserve, and gathering to create and refine their presentation.

“These kids have worked hard. I was incredibly impressed with their knowledge, maturity and poise,” says James Buro (NCAS ’78), a certified public accountant and Wall Street speaking consultant. “They can’t help but give you a strong sense of pride and optimism.”

Rutgers-Newark team members are undergraduates majoring in economics, finance, accounting and mathematics. Many of them are hand-picked from an intermediate macroeconomics class taught by Professor John Graham, chair of the Economics Department and coach of the Fed Challenge Team.

Not only do the team members have a solid grounding in macroeconomic theory, but over the years Graham has modified the class to focus more on the Federal Reserve and monetary policy, forming a synergy that is at least partially responsible for the team’s success.

Continued on page 2
From the Desk of the Dean of Arts and Sciences

Welcome to all alumni and friends of the Newark College of Arts and Sciences/University College-Newark. We are going through quite a bit of change, making this an exciting time for our colleges. At the end of December, Dean Philip Yeagle became Interim Chancellor of Rutgers-Newark, and I became Acting Dean of the College. During the transition, we put the final touches on the agreements establishing our International Institute for Peace (IIP) as a Category 2 UNESCO institute, the only UNESCO institute at an American university. Interim Chancellor Yeagle and Department of Sociology/anthropology Chair Sherri Ann Butterfield joined the IIP co-founders, Professor Aldo Cricco (who was featured in the last issue of this newsletter) and Academy Award-winning actor Forest Whitaker, at the signing ceremony in Paris in early February. While in Paris, they met with UNESCO and U.S. State Department officials to discuss further collaborations. UNESCO and Rutgers-Newark: It’s the beginning of a beautiful relationship. We'll be sure to tell you more as this wonderful partnership develops.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of our Newsletter, my first as Acting Dean. All of the members of the NCA/UCN family you’ll see featured here carry on the tradition of excellence for which this campus is known. I hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Jan Ellen Lewis

Fed Challenge Team Finishes 2nd at Nationals with Alumni Support

“I’ve also learned a tremendous amount about these topics, especially in the last four years since the Fed has had to deal with the financial crisis,” says Graham. Bolstering the team’s preparation this year were alumni from the Rutgers-Newark Economics Department, some of whom took courses with Graham early on in his career.

In November, a week before the first round of the New York District competition, the team delivered a practice presentation to a panel of seven alumni, all of whom work with major companies in the financial-services industry. The event was hosted by Keith Banks (NCA ’77), president of U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management.

“That was pivotal,” says Castaneda. “It felt like the first round at the Fed Challenge, one week ahead of time, with folks who could have easily been judges. It really benefited the team.”

After the event, several alumni referred the students to speakers and other untapped resources to help them prepare further. Buro accompanied the team to both the district and national competitions, and helped them refine their presentation.

And Washington, D.C.-area alumna Allan Holt, Managing Director and Head of U.S. Buyout Group at the Carlyle Group, rolled out the red carpet the evening before the national competition, hosting the team in his office for a conversation about the political implications of economic policy, and saluting their continued success.

“The way our alumni stepped up was just fantastic,” says Brian Agnew, Assistant Dean of Advancement and External Relations at Rutgers-Newark. “It’s great to see the connections across generations of those from NCAS.”

In the end, however, after all the preparation and coaching from Graham and alumni involvement, it’s good of fashioned teamwork that carried the day.

“Team chemistry is the important part of my selection criteria when putting the team together,” says Graham. “I hope the students get along and work together makes all the difference in a competition like this. It is also an important part of the learning process for them. I’m happy to say this year’s team gelled together beautifully.”

Considering the results, that sounds about right.

Faculty Profile  Beryl Satter

Scholar Increases LGBT Visibility on Campus and in Newark

Professor Beryl Satter remembers when gay students and faculty had very little visibility at Rutgers-Newark. Only a short time ago, the campus had no LGBT Studies curricula, no LGBT Diversity & Resource Center, and no publicly admitted gay student groups. But thanks to the efforts of Satter and other faculty, administrators and students, those things have come to fruition in the last few years.

Rather than rest on their laurels, however, Satter and a handful of Newark activists have widened the circle to embrace Newark’s LGBT residents, culminating in two additional groundbreaking collaborations: the first-ever “Queer Newark: Our Voices, Our Histories” conference at Rutgers-Newark, and the emergence of the Queer Newark Oral History Project.

“LGBT life in Newark is incredibly vibrant and resilient,” says Satter. “It’s vitally important that these stories get told, and that we have a historical archive that future scholars and residents can draw on.”

Satter, who came to Rutgers-Newark in fall 1992, specializes in 20th-century U.S. history, women’s history, and cultural and urban history.

Her most recent book, Family Properties: Race, Real Estate and the Exploitation of Black Urban America (2009), chronicles the battles of her late father, civil rights lawyer Mark J. Satter, against racially discriminatory and predatory lending practices in Chicago a half-century ago.

The book was listed among the best books of 2009 by The New York Times and won numerous awards. Satter has also won several Rutgers awards for teaching and research over the years.

But it is her work on behalf of Rutgers-Newark’s LGBT community that has blazed a trail by opening doors for countless students on campus.

From 2007 to 2010, Satter, along with a number of other gay and straight scholars, led the charge to create an LGBT Studies minor within the Women’s and Gender Studies Department and hire new part-time faculty to teach related courses. The minor was implemented in fall 2010.

“We’ve been told this campus was too conservative for LGBT Studies. Now students are breaking down the doors for these classes,” says Satter.

“LGBT life in Newark is incredibly vibrant and resilient,” says Satter. “Yet there is one group whose undeniable contribution to the city’s life has been omitted: Newark’s LGBT community.”

While the oral-history project sat on the back-burner, the idea of a first-ever Queer Newark conference emerged last spring, and gained traction when Rutgers-Newark’s Institute for Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience threw its support behind the concept.

Satter, Moore and others started meeting last March to begin planning, involving a score of Newark activists and non-profit heads. “We wanted Newark’s LGBT residents to be full co-creators of this event so it would be relevant to them,” says Satter.

More than 300 people attended the event at Rutgers-Newark’s Robeson Campus Center in November, listening to three generations of LGBT Newark residents share their stories on an array of topics, including childhood, education, religion, families and parenting, sexual practices, friendship, and club and ball scenes.

According to Satter, the intergenerational dialogue was key.

“In most cultures, parents train children,” says Satter. “But in LGBT culture, that doesn’t happen nearly as much because of hostility against LGBT kids.”

The organizers used the conference to “kick off” the Queer Newark Oral History Project as well. The idea is to train members of the community to document each other’s lives. Meanwhile, Satter and others are working on logistics such as funding, hiring a professional archivist, and securing a physical space for the archives.

“The conference was a pivotal moment for gay Newark,” says Satter. “We’re still in the early stages of the oral history project, but we’re starting to build momentum, and we’ll get there.”
Donor Profile  David Sloan
Alumnus Makes Game-Changing Gift to Journalism Program

As an Emmy Award–winning executive producer at ABC News, David Sloan (NCAS ’76) has worked side-by-side with some of the biggest names in broadcast journalism, including Barbara Walters and John Stossel. Collaborating daily with industry heavyweights like these under constant deadline pressure requires confidence and assertiveness, qualities that Sloan struggled with early in life. He found them in college, however, and it opened up a world for him.

“Rutgers-Newark changed me. I became the kind of person I wanted to be: outgoing, present, a force in the room,” says Sloan. “It didn’t do so much teach you that as it unlocked it. It taught you who you were, and that’s why it’s so special.”

Last spring, Sloan decided to give back to his alma mater, unlocking the potential of Rutgers-Newark journalism students in the process. His donation of $30,000 to create a new digital-journalism lab. The gift is a game-changer for the Journalism Program.

“Now, because of the lab and the new multimedia journalism courses Rutgers-Newark can offer, students will have a solid knowledge of video, audio, podcasting, blogging, website building, and all of the other multimedia skills that are critical to succeeding in their field,” says Robin Fisher, director of the Journalism Program.

Sloan is grateful that he’s in a position to help. In a way, he’s come full-circle, given that his journey to the top of the broad-
cast media world started in Newark.

The first of two boys raised in Fairlawn, N.J., Sloan came from what he calls “simple circumstances.” His mother was a waitress, his father a roofer. He chose Rutgers-Newark because of financial considerations. Like many students in the same situation, he was the first in his family to attend college. And in 1972, he took advantage of the opportunity.

As a political-science major, Sloan enjoyed his classes, especially the writing courses. But his real education and growth came from joining the staff of The Observer, the school newspaper. It connected him to other students, made him part of a community and taught him a trade.

“I was painfully shy. That was the hallmark of my childhood and young adulthood. And I didn’t want to be,” says Sloan. “I wanted to be the kind of person who could go up to anyone and talk about anything. I said, ‘How can I do this? Join the school newspaper.’ And there I found my profession. It was that simple.”

He was a reporter for The Observer for three years, serving also as editor of The Gallery, the campus literary magazine, and as editor of the yearbook, Community Today. Communi-
ting 45 minutes to campus each day, he stayed from morning till evening doing everything from selling advertising to being part of a vibrant campus community.

After graduating and being named Outstanding Student of 1976 by the Rutgers-Newark Alumni Association, he stayed on as a writing instructor for the Academic Foundations Department for two years while serving as first a teaching assistant, then member, of the Alumni Association.

He eventually left Rutgers-Newark to get a masters degree in journalism at NYU. While there, he freelanced for The Star-
Ledger. It was during this time that he got a call from a friend working as a researcher for ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

The rest is history. Sloan began as a freelance researcher at “Good Morning America” and stayed, and stayed, and stayed. Through much of the ’80s he moved up the ranks of the show, serving as consumer producer for John Stossel and managing special overseas projects. In 1989, he joined “20/20” as a producer, working with multiple correspondents and winning an Emmy and a GLAAD Award for a 1992 report on gays in the military with Stossel. He also won a Pea-
body Award during the ’90s for a series of specials on actor Christopher Reeves with Barbara Walters.

In 2000, he became named executive pro-
ducer of “20/20,” and currently holds the same titles for “Primetime,” a nightly new series he just developed called “I-Caught,” and all of Walters’ news specials. In the process, he’s done something virtu-
ous: He’s become a role model for the next generation. That’s the hallmark of making people’s lives better and really affecting change that is meaningful,” says Sloan.

“It was during this time that he got a call from a friend working as a researcher for ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

The rest is history. Sloan began as a freelance researcher at “Good Morning America” and stayed, and stayed, and stayed. Through much of the ’80s he moved up the ranks of the show, serving as consumer producer for John Stossel and managing special overseas projects. In 1989, he joined “20/20” as a producer, working with multiple correspondents and winning an Emmy and a GLAAD Award for a 1992 report on gays in the military with Stossel. He also won a Pea-
body Award during the ’90s for a series of specials on actor Christopher Reeves with Barbara Walters.

In 2000, he became named executive pro-
ducer of “20/20,” and currently holds the same titles for “Primetime,” a nightly new series he just developed called “I-Caught,” and all of Walters’ news specials. In the process, he’s done something virtu-
ous: He’s become a role model for the next generation. That’s the hallmark

“I can just walk into a renowned professor’s office, get to know them, then become his or her research assistant—that’s one of the things that makes Rutgers-Newark so great.”

Now in his sophomore year, Baptista has a 4.0 GPA while carrying a 19-credit course load as part of the Honors College. He is also involved in undergraduate research with two professors, and has already presented papers at various academic conferences.

“The fact that, as an undergraduate, I can just walk into a renowned professor’s office, get to know them, then become his or her research assistant—that’s one of the things that makes Rutgers-Newark so great.”

“I can just walk into a renowned professor’s office, get to know them, then become his or her research assistant—that’s one of the things that makes Rutgers-Newark so great.”

“I can just walk into a renowned professor’s office, get to know them, then become his or her research assistant—that’s one of the things that makes Rutgers-Newark so great.”

“I can just walk into a renowned professor’s office, get to know them, then become his or her research assistant—that’s one of the things that makes Rutgers-Newark so great.”

“I can just walk into a renowned professor’s office, get to know them, then become his or her research assistant—that’s one of the things that makes Rutgers-Newark so great.”
For Professor Charles Russell, who retired last year after 34 years of service, leaving a legacy at Rutgers-Newark is all in a day’s work. As a scholar of 20th-century American and French avant-garde literature—and of 20th-century “outsider” art—he created a body of work that has resonated in his various fields. As an administrator who wore many hats during his long tenure, he helped implement many of the changes that have catapulted the campus into the modern era, making Rutgers-Newark a world-class research institution while deepening its connections to the city of Newark and expanding opportunities for low-income students.

It’s not surprising, then, that Russell and his wife, Alison Weid, former director of the Paul Robeson Art Gallery, decided to leave a different kind of legacy: a bequest of nearly a quarter of a million dollars to Rutgers-Newark, whose effects will be felt for generations. Their bequest commits $100,000 to create student fellowships in the American Studies graduate program and $100,000 to the Clement A. Price Endowment for the Humanities, with the remainder going to the John Cotton Dana Library Endowment Fund and the Paul Robeson Gallery.

“We have no children and have saved some money. What do you leave behind?” says Russell. “What’s been personally engaging for us? It’s been this place, Rutgers-Newark. I’ve loved working here and watching it grow.” Russell has done more than watch. After arriving on campus in 1977, he became a key player in the enormous expansion of research and academic programs on campus during the last 30 years. From the early 1980s til the mid-90s, Russell served in three posts under Provost Norman Samuels: Director of Grants & Foundation Services, Assistant Provost for Research and Program Development, and Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. During the same period, he also did a three-year stint as Associate Dean for Research and Development for the College of Arts & Sciences. In these capacities, Russell helped faculty across the campus secure external research funding, and brought in more than $7 million in grants in his own right. He was essential in helping modernize the school’s science labs and making Newark the first fully computer-networked campus in the Rutgers system. He oversaw the development of three Ph.D. programs (Public Administration, Applied Physics and Mathemati- cal Sciences), established the Center for Pre-College Education, helped develop new undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences, and built collaborations between Rutgers-Newark and NJIT. In 1994, after 11 years in administration, Russell lobbied to return to his own research and teaching. He did for a short time, delving into the history of American self-taught, “outsider” artists.

“The irony is, when I left the administration to focus on scholarship, I never really got away from administration,” says Russell. “It’s like the scene in Godfather III. Every time I try to get away, I’m pulled back in.”

The call came in 1998 from then-FAAN Dean Steven Diner, whose vision of making Rutgers-Newark as an urban campus integrally linked to the city mirrored that of Samuel Diner, an urban historian with a passion for urban scholarship, asked Russell to do three things: create an American Studies Ph.D. program, something Russell himself had proposed several years earlier; help develop the Institute of Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience with Professor Clement Price; and merge the Department of Education and the Department of Academic Foundations into one department.

Over the next 12 years, Russell ended up directing, co-directing or chairing three: He also chaired the English Department for three years in the early aughts, and helped develop the campus-wide Writing Across the Curriculum program. If that weren’t enough, he brought his passion for art, administration and public scholarship directly into Newark by sitting on the board of WRGO-Radio for 30 years, acting as board spokesperson for Alija, A Center for Contemporary Art by the end of the decade, Russell started looking toward retirement. He had handed off all of his responsibilities to other talented faculty members and used his last year, in 2010, to write the monograph he’d been planning for some time: A 20th-century history of self-taught American artists.

It was a fitting way to end his academic career, as was leaving a legacy in the form of a bequest.

“The Institute [of Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience] is a unique place. Long after Clem [Price] and I are gone, I’d like to support its work,” says Russell. “And the American Studies program was 19 years in the making,” he says. “I loved working with the graduate students, and I believe every Ph.D. program should give its students full four-year support. I just felt we needed to do that.”

The Donor Profile

Charles Russell
Retired Scholar Caps Off Legacy with Major Bequest

For Professor Charles Russell, who retired last year after 34 years of service, leaving a legacy at Rutgers-Newark is all in a day’s work. As a scholar of 20th-century American and French avant-garde literature—and of 20th-century “outsider” art—he created a body of work that has resonated in his various fields. As an administrator who wore many hats during his long tenure, he helped implement many of the changes that have catapulted the campus into the modern era, making Rutgers-Newark a world-class research institution while deepening its connections to the city of Newark and expanding opportunities for low-income students.

It’s not surprising, then, that Russell and his wife, Alison Weid, former director of the Paul Robeson Art Gallery, decided to leave a different kind of legacy: a bequest of nearly a quarter of a million dollars to Rutgers-Newark, whose effects will be felt for generations. Their bequest commits $100,000 to create student fellowships in the American Studies graduate program and $100,000 to the Clement A. Price Endowment for the Humanities, with the remainder going to the John Cotton Dana Library Endowment Fund and the Paul Robeson Gallery.

“We have no children and have saved some money. What do you leave behind?” says Russell. “What’s been personally engaging for us? It’s been this place, Rutgers-Newark. I’ve loved working here and watching it grow.” Russell has done more than watch. After arriving on campus in 1977, he became a key player in the enormous expansion of research and academic programs on campus during the last 30 years. From the early 1980s til the mid-90s, Russell served in three posts under Provost Norman Samuels: Director of Grants & Foundation Services, Assistant Provost for Research and Program Development, and Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. During the same period, he also did a three-year stint as Associate Dean for Research and Development for the College of Arts & Sciences. In these capacities, Russell helped faculty across the campus secure external research funding, and brought in more than $7 million in grants in his own right. He was essential in helping modernize the school’s science labs and making Newark the first fully computer-networked campus in the Rutgers system. He oversaw the development of three Ph.D. programs (Public Administration, Applied Physics and Mathematical Sciences), established the Center for Pre-College Education, helped develop new undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences, and built collaborations between Rutgers-Newark and NJIT. In 1994, after 11 years in administration, Russell lobbied to return to his own research and teaching. He did for a short time, delving into the history of American self-taught, “outsider” artists.

“The irony is, when I left the administration to focus on scholarship, I never really got away from administration,” says Russell. “It’s like the scene in Godfather III. Every time I try to get away, I’m pulled back in.”

The call came in 1998 from then-FAAN Dean Steven Diner, whose vision of making Rutgers-Newark as an urban campus integrally linked to the city mirrored that of Samuel Diner, an urban historian with a passion for urban scholarship, asked Russell to do three things: create an American Studies Ph.D. program, something Russell himself had proposed several years earlier; help develop the Institute of Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience with Professor Clement Price; and merge the Department of Education and the Department of Academic Foundations into one department.

Over the next 12 years, Russell ended up directing, co-directing or chairing three: He also chaired the English Department for three years in the early aughts, and helped develop the campus-wide Writing Across the Curriculum program. If that weren’t enough, he brought his passion for art, administration and public scholarship directly into Newark by sitting on the board of WRGO-Radio for 30 years, acting as board spokesperson for Alija, A Center for Contemporary Art by the end of the decade, Russell started looking toward retirement. He had handed off all of his responsibilities to other talented faculty members and used his last year, in 2010, to write the monograph he’d been planning for some time: A 20th-century history of self-taught American artists.

It was a fitting way to end his academic career, as was leaving a legacy in the form of a bequest.

“The Institute [of Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience] is a unique place. Long after Clem [Price] and I are gone, I’d like to support its work,” says Russell. “And the American Studies program was 19 years in the making,” he says. “I loved working with the graduate students, and I believe every Ph.D. program should give its students full four-year support. I just felt we needed to do that.”
Lynch will also play a key role in implementing the new curricula, which he believes is a complex and essential undertaking. “It will no doubt have a ripple effect on student advising and other functions of the college, but in the end it’s a very good thing.”

Gretchen Van de Walle
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, NCAS-UCN

Gretchen Van de Walle replaces John Gunkel as the new Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education. A developmental psychologist specializing in infants and toddlers, she arrived at Rutgers-Newark in 2000 and, after receiving tenure in 2005, began establishing her administrative credentials. That year, Van de Walle took over as the Psychology Department’s undergraduate coordinator, advising nearly 500 students. (Psychology is the second largest NCAS major, next to Biology.) Soon thereafter, she began extending the department’s reach by creating a joint-degree psychology program with Brookdale Community College; setting up a psychology major at Western Monmouth Higher Education Center, Rutgers’ satellite campus in Freehold, N.J.; and creating a second satellite program at Raritan Valley Community College.

In her current role, she’ll oversee the Writing Program, Honors College, Rutgers Learning Center, Program in American Language Studies, Career Development Center, Office of International Student and Scholar Services, and Academic Foundations Center. She’ll also administer all NCAS-UCN scholarships.

Van de Walle intends to use her position to streamline the process and improve communication between departments, Student Affairs and the Registrar’s office. “It’s all about the students,” says Van de Walle. “Cutting down on bureaucracy and giving the most effective advising possible is crucial if we’re to give them the best possible experience at Rutgers-Newark.”

“Cutting down on bureaucracy and giving the most effective advising possible is crucial.”

Continued from page 7

New Team Leads Newark College of Arts and Sciences

I’m a HENRY.
RU?

Leave an indelible mark on Rutgers’ future.

Find out how at ruahenry.rutgers.edu

{Jennifer Joern RC’88}