Donor Profiles
Planned Gifts Put NCAS on Solid Footing for Generations to Come

Luella Fletcher has long believed in higher education’s potential to level the playing field for disadvantaged students and be a springboard for success.

In 1999, she acted on that belief by establishing the Robert Fletcher Memorial Scholarship Fund at NCAS/UCN, in honor of her deceased son, who had attended Rutgers-Newark. The scholarship was set up to help economically challenged high school students from urban areas in central and northern New Jersey to afford a college education.

Initially, Fletcher funded the scholarship with an annual contribution. But in 2001, she deepened her commitment with the first of two Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA) valued at over $100,000 each. (She set up the second CGA in 2009.) The reason for her choice was simple: Fletcher wanted to turn her annual scholarship into an endowment, ensuring it would be there for generations of NCAS/UCN students, while retaining income for herself and loved ones.

CGAs are considered a type of Life-Income Gift and are one of a handful of charitable gift options to Rutgers-Newark and NCAS/UCN that fall under the category of planned giving. Through planned giving, donors can have a meaningful, long-term impact on the college’s goals while taking steps to benefit their own financial situation.

“The CGAs enabled Luella to put her scholarship fund on more stable footing while offering income benefits to her during retirement,” says Marcel Vaughn-Handy, development director for NCAS/UCN.

Advantages of Planned Giving
The majority of donations made to NCAS/UCN come in the form of annual and major gifts, which play an important role in supporting the college. But the advantages of planned gifts are significant.

Depending on the type of planned gift, they include substantial tax savings; guaranteed steady income during one’s lifetime or for one’s heirs; the chance to memorialize a loved one; and the satisfaction of leaving a legacy, knowing that one’s gift will live on and help the college in perpetuity.

NCAS/UCN alumni and donors from across the spectrum are supporting the college in this way, choosing from a variety of planned-gift options and settling on the approach that best matches their situations and goals. Below, we profile two more supporters to help readers better understand the options available and the impact each can have on their lives, the lives of their loved ones, and the college.

Marge Derrick

Marge Derrick (NCAS ’71) received a letter back in 1975 seeking a donation to Rutgers-Newark. Four years out of school, Derrick was in a position to act: She was married and had a home, a child and security.

“They asked the right person at the right time,” says Derrick. “I thought, ‘Okay, I can do this.’ And it made sense. I’d gotten scholarships from Rutgers-Newark. It was time to start paying it forward.” She’s been paying it ever since, demonstrating a volunteer and financial commitment to her alma mater that has inspired countless alums to get onboard and join the effort.

Her list of appointments is impressive: NCAS Dean’s Cabinet, Rutgers-Newark Alumni Association Executive Committee, Rutgers University Board of Overseers Donor Relations/Stewardship Advisory Committee, Board of Governors Audit Committee, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. The list goes on. Derrick is also serving her first term on the Board of Governors as a trustee governor.

In 1998, Derrick and her husband, George, created the Derrick Family Award, a $2,500 per year annual scholarship that goes to NCAS undergradu-
From the Desk of the Dean of Arts and Sciences

This winter has brought us an extraordinary amount of snow, and an even more extraordinary new Chancellor, Nancy Cantor. The excitement she has generated on campus has more than made up for the bitter cold weather outside. She has engaged all of the faculty, staff and students in a strategic-planning process that is the embodiment of the democratic and inclusive values that have been the hallmark of her distinguished career as an educator and leader at Princeton, the University of Michigan, the University of Illinois and Syracuse.

In our next newsletter, I’ll be able to tell you about the plan that the campus is now putting together, but for now let me just report on some of the recent events and accomplishments at NCAS. In February, a standing-room-only crowd filled the newly refurbished Essex Room—or the multipurpose room, to those of you aren’t recent grads—for the 34th Annual Marion Thomp-son Wright Lecture. The legendary Civil Rights activist Robert Parris Moses gave one of the most inspiring and deeply patriotic talks I have ever heard.

Large crowds have also braved the wintry weather to hear best-selling authors Andrew Solomon and Edward P. Jones, as well as Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco and U.S. Poet Laureate (2012–2013) Natasha Trethewey, read from their works as part of the annual Writers at Newark Reading Series, produced by our MFA in Creative Writing Program. And a three-part “urban summit” based on the seminal HBO TV series The Wire is drawing attentive audiences from the campus and the greater Newark community this spring.

Meanwhile, Biology Professor Jessica Ware and her graduate assistant Dominic Evangelista attracted international media attention when they confirmed the presence in New York City of a cockroach species never before seen in the U.S. Their work was even featured in the online gossip magazine Gawker, which is not where one typically goes to read about the latest research by entomologists.

If you live in the area or happen to be back for a visit, please come to one of our exciting programs. Or if you’re far away, just pick up a copy of your newspaper or click on the latest update of the gossip magazines to see what’s happening at NCAS.

Of course, these sorts of programs and cutting-edge research depend on the generosity of alumni and donors like you. Hence, this edition of our newsletter includes a piece about the importance of planned giving, highlighting the many benefits this approach brings to both donors and the students and faculty here at Rutgers-Newark.

So, on behalf of all of us at NCAS/UCN, thank you for all that you do for the college.

With best wishes,

Jan Ellen Lewis
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Newark

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Planned Gifts Put NCAS on Solid Footing for Generations to Come

ates demonstrating academic merit and financial need. That award, along with the Derrick Family Endowed Scholarship, enables students to pursue internships or focus on their studies or undergraduate research without the distraction of part-time jobs.

Derrick wanted to ensure the latter scholarship remains on solid footing for future generations of NCAS students. Not only did she set it up as an endowed scholarship, she recently pledged a $100,000 bequest in her will in support of the endowment.

“I received support from a lot of folks to help me attend Rutgers-Newark and graduate,” says Derrick, a retired credit counselor living in Montclair, N.J. “It’s important that I help to leave NCAS in even better shape than I found it.”

Ronald Blandon

Ronald Blandon (NCAS ’72, GSED ’77) remembers his time at Rutgers-Newark with great fondness. The politically charged environment of the late ’60s and early ’70s was an exciting time to be on campus. But for the future chemist and science teacher, one image stands out among the rest: a chemistry professor who worked tirelessly in the lab, even on weekends.

For Blandon, he was a true inspiration. “Whether you get a good or bad result, you’re always working toward something,” says Blandon. “That example focused my attention as a young person. I realized that dedication and work really mean something, and it’s all about the process and giving back to your field.”

Blandon, who worked in the pharmaceutical industry before teaching middle-school science for 28 years, knows something about giving back. He’d been
donating to Rutgers for years before establishing the Helen and Roberto Blandon Memorial Scholarship in honor of his parents.

He’s also been contributing to the Rutgers-Newark Alumni Association Endowed Merit Scholarship fund through three Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) he set up with the help of the Rutgers University Foundation.

Through his CGAs, Blandon receives a payment each quarter and a tax deduction on the original gifts, which makes this planned-gift option a great way to provide income for himself while supporting NCAS.

“I always wanted to give back to NCAS because Rutgers has given me so much,” says Blandon, who was born in Newark and lives in Little Silver, N.J. “So, this is my way of helping both myself and the next generation of students.”

Planned Gift Primer

Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)

FOR Donors who want to make a meaningful gift to NCAS/UCN but need to retain income for themselves and/or loved ones.

WHAT Donor gives cash or readily marketable securities and receives fixed payments for life at a fixed payout rate that depends on the number of recipients and their ages, and the current rates in effect.

WHO Payments go to any beneficiary over age 60 who wishes to make a gift of $10,000 or more.

OPTIONS Donors may also choose a Deferred CGA, which allows you to make a gift now and begin receiving payments later, with a guaranteed higher rate of return. Benefits include a larger immediate income-tax deduction. This is a great retirement-planning tool for younger donors.

Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)

FOR Donors who want to make a meaningful gift to NCAS/UCN but need to retain income for themselves and/or loved ones.

WHAT Donor gives cash or noncash assets and receives regular payments for life or a term of years.

WHO Payments go to any beneficiary who makes a gift of $100,000 or more.

OPTIONS Your income can be variable (charitable remainder unitrust) or fixed (charitable remainder annuity trust).

AND… When the trust terminates, the amount remaining is transferred to the university and used for a purpose designated by the donor. Benefits include quarterly income and a variety of possible tax exemptions and deductions.

Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)

FOR Donors who want to provide for the university in the near term, then provide for their heirs while significantly reducing gift and estate taxes.

WHAT The trust makes payments to Rutgers for a specific pre-determined period of time. When the trust term ends, the remaining assets are returned to the donor or distributed to the donor’s children and/or grandchildren.

OPTIONS Annual payments to Rutgers can be fixed or variable or determined when you fund your gift. The donor may establish the trust with either a preferred trust company or named individuals serving as trustees.

AND… Benefits include tax deductions and savings, and the assurance that your family or heirs are taken care of after your lifetime.

Real Estate

FOR Donors who want to support Rutgers in a meaningful way while receiving tax benefits. Gifts of real estate also lift the burden of having to sell personal properties yourself.

WHAT Donate property outright, create a life estate, place it in a trust, or leave it in your will.

AND… Using real estate—whether it is your primary residence, vacation home, farm or commercial property—to fund a gift allows you to preserve your cash assets, receive significant tax and income advantages, and make a larger charitable gift than anticipated.

Bequest

FOR Donors who want to leave a legacy at Rutgers by designating a gift in their will or other estate-planning document.

WHAT Donors leave a specific asset, a specific amount, or a percentage of the remainder of their estate, after taking care of any family obligations.

AND… Giving by bequest costs nothing now, yet it may give you a great deal of satisfaction knowing that your future gift will live on. The lasting impact of bequests—both large and small—has played a very large role in helping to shape Rutgers today.
Rutgers-Newark has been synonymous with world-class research for decades. Soon it will be known for its world-class advanced computing.

Thanks to a state bond referendum approved by New Jersey voters in November 2012, the Newark campus is about to add a $700,000 High-Performance Computing Cluster (HPCC) to its arsenal, which will in turn bolster research efforts in an array of disciplines for years to come.

Soon it will be known for its world-class research for decades.

The Power of the Cluster

As the PI on the grant, Pavanello received input from a group of Rutgers-Newark science faculty on their research and teaching needs, then came up with a suitable computer architecture to fulfill those needs and incorporated it into the grant proposal.

An assistant professor of theoretical chemistry, Pavanello is an ardent proponent of high-performance computing, which lets researchers perform advanced modeling using complex sets of raw data. So is Professor Bart Krekelberg, of Rutgers-Newark’s Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience (CMBN). He studies how the brain sees, and says that to map brain activity, modern techniques require whole arrays of electrodes to record hundreds of neurons at the same time, generating an enormous amount of data.

“The more areas of the brain we can record simultaneously, and the more electrodes we use, the better picture we get of how it works,” says Krekelberg. “The technology to record brain activity this way is fairly new, and it requires immense computing power to process it, because even sophisticated desktops no longer cut it. They simply take too long to do the job.”

In leveraging the power of the HPCC, regardless of the discipline, the process would be the same, says Pavanello.

“Input raw data. Process it. Output it,” he says. “With the cluster, it happens very quickly. The processed data output is much smaller than the original raw data. And that is then ported to a desktop, where researchers can analyze it—or visualize it with a graphical-user-interface.”

To understand what Pavanello means by “very quickly,” consider this: One of Krekelberg’s brain-mapping sessions involving hundreds of electrodes generates about 50GB of data, which takes 12 hours to pre-process on his current servers. NM3 will process that same data in about an hour.

“We can go an order of magnitude larger now and record brain activity with 10 times the number of electrodes,” Krekelberg says. “And soon, recording techniques will let us use even more.”

Pavanello frames this from a chemist’s perspective.

“We’ll be able to do much faster and scaled-up simulations, which provide insights that you can’t get from single experiments,” he says. “The strong simulation side expedites the science.”

Build It and They Will Come

The new HPCC will be housed in the current Rutgers-Newark Data Center, a 1,000-square-foot room in Engelhard Hall that is home to the campus’ computer infrastructure. There will be enough space in the facility to triple the new cluster’s size as more grant funds come in.

Pavanello is heading up a committee that recently reviewed bids from six HPCC vendors. The hardware will arrive in late April, software uploading and testing will take place in May and June, and NM3 is scheduled to come online in fall 2014.

The Psychology, Chemistry, and Earth & Environmental Science departments are expected to use the system most intensively, though many other departments across the campus may take interest, including Biology, Criminal Justice and Urban Planning, to name a few.

Rutgers-Newark faculty and graduate students will have priority access to NM3 initially; researchers at other Rutgers campuses will submit proposals to a formal NM3 leadership committee and be slotted in as time permits.

Pavanello’s goal is to expand NM3’s size and share the cluster openly and democratically among all three Rutgers campuses. “I’d like us to create a true university community around this so that everyone can have access,” he says.

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Student Profile

Service-Learning Program Sparks NCAS Student’s Love of Medicine

During the 2013-14 winter break, while most students were relaxing with family and friends, NCAS sophomore Jeetanjali Sawh helped install a solar panel at a municipal-hospital’s maternity clinic in rural Rio Blanco, Nicaragua.

“The hospital’s electricity had gone down that week, but the doctors had used candles to deliver three babies during that time,” says Sawh. “So, when the lights started working after we installed the solar panel, it was amazing to know we had brought light to them. It was a life-changing experience for us.”

Sawh, who is part of the Honors College, was one of five female undergraduates from Rutgers-Newark who traveled to the Central American country as part of a service-learning project sponsored by the campus’ Office of Service Learning and Student Development.

The trip was one of many valuable experiences that she’s had during her short time at NCAS. “I’ve loved my time here so far,” says Sawh. “The next two years should be even better.”

“Rutgers-Newark gives opportunities to students with a lot at stake at home.”

Sawh never imagined it would be this way. Rutgers-Newark was not at the top of the Jersey City, N.J., native’s list when applying to colleges. But the school offered her the most scholarship money, letting her and her family avoid burdensome loans.

She got to know the campus and quickly fell in love with it, throwing herself into all that Rutgers-Newark has to offer her: the Honors College curriculum, on-campus jobs as a peer advisor, and research and internship opportunities, not to mention the service-learning project in Nicaragua.

“The level of support here has been amazing,” says Sawh. “The support from deans who have given me individual guidance, from other students from urban environments, from the professors, it’s all been great.”

Sawh is one of two children of parents born in Guyana who emigrated to the U.S. as teens. Her mother is a dental assistant, her father a maintenance supervisor at a high school in Jersey City. Both went to trade school. Sawh’s older brother and she are the first generation from her family to attend college.

She entered Rutgers-Newark as a biology major, then realized she’s also good at math and added that as a second major. Both majors require a total of four computer-science courses. She needed only two more for a minor. So, she’s added that to the mix.

Sawh works 10 hours per week as a peer-advisor coordinator for the Office of Academic Services, managing a staff of advisors helping first-year students transition to college life at Rutgers-Newark. She has also been a peer mentor for the Office of International Student and Scholars, helping international students adjust to their new environment. And she works 15 hours per week at a retail clothing store for extra money to help with expenses—this in addition to a full Honors College course load.

“This way I don’t have to rely on my parents,” says Sawh. “And if I make enough, I can perhaps even provide them with some money.”

Sawh looks forward to doing an internship that lets her take her mathematics skills into a business environment, perhaps culminating in training as a business analyst, an area in which her older brother works and where she’ll be able to put her computer-science minor to use.

She’s also looking for an undergraduate research opportunity in the lab of either a biology or psychology professor on campus.

Ultimately, she hopes to get into medical school after she graduates from NCAS and become a doctor, an aspiration further fueled by her trip to Nicaragua. If that doesn’t work out, her backup plan is to go into business.

Either way, Sawh is sanguine about the future and grateful for her college experience.

“Rutgers-Newark gives opportunities to students with a lot at stake at home,” she says. “This is a very special place.”
Last December—the 9th to be precise—two Rutgers-Newark insect biologists set the world abuzz when they published an article in the Journal of Economic Entomology. They had identified a cockroach species never before seen in the U.S.—in New York City of all places.

The news ricocheted around the Web and was picked up by an array of mainstream media outlets, including Reuters, the L.A. Times and New York Magazine. It also made it into a British paper.

“We had no idea it would make such a splash,” says Rutgers-Newark Biology Professor Jessica Ware, whose lab made the positive ID. “But I guess we should have, given that species was found in New York.” Ware and Dominic Evangelista, a doctoral student working with her, confirmed the species as Periplaneta japonica, a variety native to China, Japan and southeast Russia that can survive not only indoors where it’s warm but also outdoors in freezing temperatures and in snow.

And while the presence of a never-before-seen species in New York City was enough to attract international attention, the story of how it landed on Evangelista’s lab bench, why he of all people was able to ID it, and who broke the news to the world are equally compelling.

That odyssey spans one-and-a-half years from the time of discovery to publication of findings and involves a cast of characters worthy of a science-thriller movie.

They include insect experts up and down the East Coast chasing after an elusive positive ID; a New Jersey–based exterminator bound to confidentiality yet trying to publicize the discovery; entomologists at the Smithsonian Institute; a University of Florida researcher whose legwork proved pivotal; and, of course, Evangelista and Ware.

Enticed by the unknown and intent on solving the mystery, he gathered samples to take back to his office in Fairfield, N.J., where they landed on the desk of Ken Schumann, an entomologist and technical operations manager at Bell.

Schumann, who thought it might be a species known as the Oriental cockroach, ruled out that possibility when he noticed that both the males and females had wings. (The Oriental females lack wings.)

What he did have was an unknown roach on his hands. And that was a big deal, not only entomologically speaking but because it was an invasive species. Nevertheless, he had to stay quiet because of a non-disclosure agreement Bell had with the High Line, which is common practice between clients and their exterminators.

Soon thereafter, he showed it to his mentor Austin Frishman, one of the most prominent pest-control experts in the country. Frishman, too, was stumped.

He contacted the Smithsonian’s Entomology Department, only to discover they no longer have a roach expert on staff. He spoke to Collections Manager David Furth, who knew exactly whom to refer

“We had no idea it [our discovery] would make such a splash.” – Jessica Ware

They sent a sample to Entomology Professor Rebecca Baldwin at the University of Florida, who also was unsure of the species and passed it on to her colleague Lyle Buss, who runs the U of Florida Insect ID Lab. It was now December of the same year, and six months had passed without a positive ID.

Buss tried various ID keys—or step-by-step identification “ladders” that entomologists use to narrow the field—to no avail. He then looked at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, a top-10 U.S. collection housed at Florida State Department of Agriculture, to get a match with specimens that had been positively identified.

Again, no match.

“Not seeing it there led me to believe it might be new to the U.S.,” says Buss, who then pivoted to a U.S. Department of Agriculture publication that identifies insects that get into food. It was there that he first encountered the name, along with diagrams, of Periplaneta japonica.

“The male and female have different-length wings and are sexually dimorphic, or different, but the spine patterns on their legs and other features were the same,” says Buss. “I suspected it was japonica but couldn’t make a positive ID because it’s not a species in the United States. I needed confirmation.”
Buss to his longtime colleague and friend Jessica Ware, at Rutgers-Newark.

Since 2011, Ware and Evangelista had made several research trips to the British Guyana rainforests with Furth and his Smithsonian team as part of the Institute’s Biodiversity in Guyana Shield Project.

“I recommended Jessica because I know her and her work on roaches and related orders of insects, and I hold her in very high regard,” says Furth.

Light at the End of the Tunnel

In January of last year, Buss reached out to Ware and emailed her photos of the species. Ware immediately turned the project over to Evangelista, who received samples from Buss shortly thereafter.

“Dominic was the perfect choice to work on this. I’m an evolutionary biologist who is interested in cockroaches, but my real focus has been on dragonflies and termites,” says Ware. “Dominic is a true expert on roaches.”

According to Ware and Evangelista, while insects have gotten the lion’s share of attention from taxonomists over the last 300 years, cockroaches have been sorely neglected. In fact, not only is there just a handful of cockroach experts throughout the world, they say, but there are even fewer who work on the genetics of roaches.

“Dominic’s one of the only people doing this work with cockroaches, combining traditional morphology with DNA barcoding and other genetic ID methods,” says Ware. “And we know the other researchers. It’s a tiny community not only in the U.S. but globally.”

So when Evangelista received the samples from Buss, he wrapped up another project as soon as he could, then got straight to work on the New York City cockroach mystery, using Buss’ work as a springboard.

Evangelista acknowledges Buss’ critical contribution, saying it helped to have a starting point because it made the DNA barcoding quicker.

“Had Lyle had no idea of the species, I would have had to get the barcode sequence for the specimen and compare it to all known cockroaches,” says Evangelista. “This way I could compare to a select few and speed up the work significantly.”

At the end of March last year, Evangelista made a preliminary ID. By the end of May, he confirmed the species. In September, the paper co-authored by Evangelista, Buss and Ware was submitted the Journal of Economic Entomology, which is published by the American Entomological Society. On December 9, the article came out and news of New York City’s newest resident went viral.

Unfinished Business

That was not the end of the story, however.

Right after Evangelista had made his preliminary ID, Ken Schumann, from Bell Environmental Services, decided to write an article for a pest-control trade magazine at the suggestion of his mentor Austin Frishman. The piece told the entire story, starting with the Bell technician’s discovery and ending with Evangelista’s positive ID. Schumann submitted it at the end of May as Evangelista positively ID’d the species.

But the magazine sat on the article—held a story that would have taken the world by storm perhaps five months earlier than it did. Schumann was incredulous.

“This was a big deal to have an invasive species in New York City. They usually appear down in places like Florida, where lots of produce gets shipped in,” says Schumann. “The magazine said they liked the piece. I was very surprised that they didn’t follow up. It was a great story for them.”

Meanwhile, Evangelista, Buss and Ware began drafting their journal article, a technical paper that was much narrower in scope and focused on the process they used to perform the positive ID.

The Rutgers-Newark team was unaware that Schumann, an industry guy, had ambitions to publish or had submitted an article. Meanwhile, Buss had sent Schumann an early draft of his group’s manuscript, and the Bell entomologist liked their narrow scientific approach.

Nevertheless, Schumann was surprised a few months later when he realized their article would come out first. “They beat me to the punch!” he says.

Ware’s team gave credit to Schumann for discovering the species in the acknowledgments section of their article. Ware says they also would have given him an author credit had they been in direct contact with him and known he was interested in publishing.

But Schumann dismisses that idea.

“It was nice that they acknowledged my contribution, but I don’t think I should have gotten an author credit,” he says. “I didn’t participate in the DNA coding and confirmation of the species, and that’s what their article was about.”
The John Cotton Dana Library, at Rutgers-Newark, is already a ‘hot spot’ on campus for diversity research, the study of jazz, and wide-ranging academic support. Now the library boasts two major upgrades that are certain to attract broad interest: a new expanded open-computing lab and two new group-work rooms equipped with state-of-the-art multimedia technology.

The open-computing lab, located on the library’s first floor, is outfitted with 100 all-in-one PCs, a designated work space for personal mobile devices, and three black-and-white and one color printer. This represents a nearly five-fold increase over the former lab’s 22 PCs and a doubling of printing capacity, along with the introduction of color printing—all in the same space.

This was made possible with better layout design, modern computer furniture, and PCs that occupy a much smaller footprint, leaving more desk real-estate for students to open up research material and texts while working. There’s also a more efficient electrical-outlet layout, providing extra plug-ins for additional devices.

“This expansion will make a huge difference at the campus’ most centralized open-computing lab,” says Stacia Zeilick, director of Rutgers-Newark’s Office of Information Technology (OIT).

And there’s more.

Adjacent to the lab is a dedicated mobile-device work area with ample outlets for laptops, tablets and phones.

“Students predominately carry mobile devices around campus now,” says Zeilick. “So, it was very important that the new plan included this.”

In addition, a new PC reservation system is being piloted at the Dana Lab, replacing the first-come, first-served procedure that had been in place for years. Initially, students will have to sign up for a PC at the lab, but eventually they’ll be able to reserve one remotely on any computer or mobile device.

Finally, Dana Library also has added two multimedia group-study spaces near the first-floor reference desk and new computing lab.

One group-study space is set up for multimedia production, with a widescreen LCD panel and workstations with multimedia authoring and editing software for digital productions. The other room is set up for collaborative teamwork, with a SMARTBoard and workstations with business-presentation software for collaborative presentation design. Both rooms will boast comfortable furniture, easily accessible power and data ports, and cutting-edge computer equipment.

The upgrade and expansion of the Dana Library Lab is part of a campus-wide push to consolidate computing labs into two buildings, Dana Library and Engelhard Hall, thereby opening up instructional and testing spaces in other buildings such as Hill Hall. It was funded by a partnership between several Rutgers entities, including the university library system and the Rutgers-Newark Chancellor’s Office.

The multimedia group-study rooms were funded by a $180,000 grant from the Booth Ferris Foundation, based in Dallas, TX. The grant to the Dana Library is the first award Rutgers has received from this foundation in more than 20 years and only the second grant ever received from the foundation at the university.

Jeanne Boyle, interim director of Dana Library, is sanguine about the expansion and upgrades.

“Dana Library sits at the heart of the campus and is a crossroads for people working in different disciplines,” says Boyle. “It was the heaviest-used computer lab on campus with only 22 PCs, and it now has 100 plus the two multimedia rooms. This building is humming. So, expanding and modernizing these labs pushes us in the right direction.”

Contributors
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