

COLLAGE



Newsletter of Rutgers-Newark Office of Campus and Community Relations

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The featured CHEN banner was designed by OCCR and distributed to Newark high schools by the R-N Office of the Provost.



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A Message from the Executive Director

I am pleased to present our second issue of *Collage*. In 2005, Campus Information and Conference Services was renamed the Office of Campus and Community Relations (OCCR). The name OCCR reflects more accurately the department's increasing involvement in university-community partnership and outreach activities. OCCR has refined its mission to bring campus and community entities together in keeping with institutional efforts to strengthen ties between Rutgers and the Newark community. This issue of *Collage* highlights OCCR activities and accomplishments throughout the 2005-06 academic year. Our mission is incorporated into a new organizational structure that is mirrored in the articles presented in this edition. The units – Campus Information; Conference Services; and Community Outreach – each have distinctive goals and objectives that support the mission of OCCR and the university while remaining committed to involving students with the community. OCCR strives to provide essential support services to ensure successful partnerships with the community.



This edition acknowledges the hard work and commitment of OCCR students and staff. Their dedication and creativity continue to put us in the forefront of designing and administering top-notch programs that represent the university. This year, OCCR Administrative Assistant Yvette Beaumont-Ortiz was nominated by a student for Rutgers University's first annual Supervisor of the Year awards program. We thank all of the contributors at Rutgers-Newark and encourage them to keep up the great work within the community, throughout the state and internationally. We know you will enjoy this exciting issue, which highlights our experiences in our community.

OCCR Establishes Office of Commuter Services



in the Commuter Lounge. Both are located on the first floor of Paul Robeson Campus Center.

Did you know that over 90% of the Rutgers-Newark student population commutes? The Office of Commuter Services is one of several campus initiatives spearheaded by the Office of Campus and Community Relations to address the needs of this critical population. Commuter Services provides local and regional transportation and community resource information to the Rutgers-Newark community. One featured service is childcare information, which provides application forms for and personal referrals to local child care centers that are within close proximity to Rutgers-Newark. This service is available not only to commuter students but to faculty and staff members as well who are parents of preschool-aged children. Commuter Services also makes New Jersey Transit and other information available to the campus community at the Information Booth and

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OCCR Community Outreach



OCCR, Public Administration, Paul Robeson Gallery Host Newark High School Students for “Reinventing Newark” Exhibit



Marc Holzer, Ph.D., Chair, Graduate Department of Public Administration, speaks to seniors visiting from St. James Preparatory School in Newark.

During the months of November and December, the Office of Campus and Community Relations (OCCR), in collaboration with the Graduate Department of Public Administration and the Paul Robeson Gallery, piloted a “Visit the Exhibit” program for Newark area high school students to view the “Reinventing Newark: Visions of the City from the Twentieth Century” exhibit. Sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, the Rutgers-Newark Graduate Department of Public Administration, and the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies at Rutgers-Newark The exhibit, which opened on November 2, 2005, provided visitors with a rare glimpse of visions for the city of Newark that were never built or only partially built. The exhibit included unrealized designs for projects in Newark, including civic centers, sports arenas, recreation areas, and commercial districts. Approximately 80 high school students from St. James Preparatory School came to Rutgers-Newark to participate in the “Visit the Exhibit” program.

The Graduate Department of Public Administration solicited the community outreach expertise of OCCR to bring Newark area high school students to the exhibit. As part of the University Heights Civic Engagement Initiative, a project formalized through the Trinity College Institute on Urban Learning and Action, OCCR leveraged its relationship with St. James Prep to pilot the “Visit the Exhibit” program. The program’s collaborative implementation team consisted of Diane Hill, Executive Director of OCCR, who serves on the St. James Prep board; Rolando Herts, Assistant Director of OCCR, who served as the liaison between St. James Prep and team members; Daniel Veneciano, Director of the Paul Robeson Gallery, who made the gallery space available and offered greetings to the student groups; and Lois Redman-Simmons, Ph.D. candidate in Public Administration, who provided exhibit tours for the groups. Students completed an educational exercise with Ms. Redman-Simmons. OCCR also provided students with tours of the Paul Robeson Campus Center.

OCCR Partners with Newark Public Schools for College Tutors Partnership Program

During the fall 2005 semester, OCCR partnered with the Newark Public Schools to initiate the College Tutors Partnership Program (CTPP). Rutgers-Newark is one of five other higher education institutions – including NJIT, Kean University, and Ramapo College – that participated in the program this year. The CTPP offered college students valuable work experience tutoring and preparing Newark high school students for the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA), a standardized test. Approximately 30 Rutgers-Newark students participated in the program during the 2005-06 academic year. OCCR worked cooperatively with the R-N Department of Urban Education to recruit half of the tutors.

OCCR Executive Director Diane Hill served as principle investigator for the \$30,000 grant to implement this initiative. OCCR Assistant Director Rolando Herts interviewed program candidates and conducted site visits. Yvette Ortiz-Beaumont served as the administration and payroll liaison between OCCR and Shabazz High School where the tutors prepared students for the HSPA.

Ms. Seesay-St. Paul, the site coordinator at Shabazz, says that having the student tutors is “advantageous” because it supplements what teachers are covering in class. However, tutors face a challenge in keeping the students’ focused on their work instead of surfing the Internet or listening to music. Guy St. Elme, a 22 year-old junior Finance major and Campus Information Service Representative with OCCR, is very proud of his participation as well as the benefits of his job. “The math tutoring I give them is helping to prepare them for college. The program keeps them off the streets after school, so that’s positive.”



R-N tutors completing their day of training at Technology High School in Newark.

OCCR Conference Services



OCCR Plans and Manages Newark Preschool Council 40th Anniversary Gala Celebration



From l. to r.: R-N Provost Steven Diner, Ph.D.
Beverly Lynn, Executive Director of NPC
Robert A. Altenkirch, Ph.D., President of NJIT

Photo courtesy of Newark Preschool Council

On Wednesday, November 2, 2005, the Newark Preschool Council (NPC) hosted its 40th Anniversary Gala at Nanina's In 'The Park, an elegant special events facility in Belleville, NJ. Over 200 invited guests from throughout the Greater Newark area – including state and federal legislators, parents, community and corporate supporters – attended the Gala.

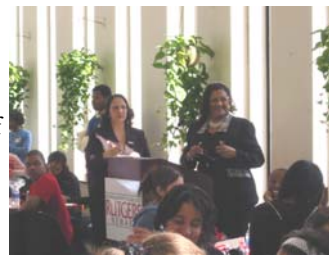
As part of its community outreach mission, OCCR provided special event management expertise to the NPC to ensure the success of the Gala. OCCR worked with NPC's Gala Planning Committee to select signature event décor and to develop floor and seating plans, an integrated mailing database for invitations, and special

correspondence to distinguished honorees, including Kraft Foods Inc., The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, Rebecca Doggett, and the Association for Children of New Jersey. OCCR also booked Newark-native Anwar Robinson of American Idol fame as the featured performer and Rutgers-Newark's Mosaic Jazz Ensemble for reception and dinner entertainment. Pat Battle from WNBC emceed the event.

Established in 1965 as one of several anti-poverty programs, the NPC has been a catalyst for changing thousands of lives by offering Newark youth an opportunity for a solid educational foundation. Continuing its strong tradition of service to underprivileged communities, the agency currently possesses a staff of over 550 professionals working in over 45 facilities throughout the city of Newark that work with approximately 2,500 children ages three and four annually.

OCCR Collaborates to Plan and Manage Job Shadowing Program

On Monday, February 27, the Office of the Provost and the Office of Campus and Community Relations teamed up with the Newark Public Schools to host the Newark Public Schools Job Shadowing Program. Seventy-one high school students joined 40 staff members from 25 departments to “shadow” them for part of their workday. Diane Hill, Executive Director of OCCR, and Yvette Ortiz-Beaumont, OCCR Campus Information Coordinator, managed the program. Staff members from various departments – including the Academics Foundations Center, the Office of Student Life and Leadership, the School of Criminal Justice, as well as OCCR – participated in the program. Sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Gerald Massenberg served as program coordinator in previous years. OCCR will be responsible for future programming.



Beaumont (left) and Hill (right)
greet program attendees during the
opening session

Two students shadowed OCCR staff members Rolando Herts and Yvette Beaumont. One of the students, Jasmine Mans, a freshman TV production major at Newark Arts High School, said, “The shadow program really opened my eyes to what Rutgers-Newark is really about. I really want to apply to the school, because I see that there are people there who really care.” As part of her experience, Jasmine learned about student employment and student life at Rutgers-Newark from Erica Roberson, an OCCR Team Leader, and Daphne Devalie, an OCCR Office Assistant. Said Jasmine, “Daphne and Erica made me really want to be a part of the Rutgers family.”

SELECTED OCCR MANAGED/ CO-SPONSORED EVENTS AND PROGRAMS 2005-2006

NJ Homeownership Conference
NJ Institute for Social Justice
Held at Rutgers-Newark
Center for Law and Justice
Friday, July 15, 2005

Newark Youth Leadership Program
New Community Corporation
Held at Rutgers-Newark
Friday, August 12, 2005

WBGO Board Meeting
WBGO Jazz 88.3
Held at Rutgers-Newark
Monday, September 12, 2005

Rutgers-Newark Homecoming
Friday, September 30, 2005-
Monday, October 2, 2005

Intelligence Program for Police Executives
Sponsored by Rutgers-Newark
School of Criminal Justice
Thursday, December 8, 2005

NJ Technology Council Conference
featuring Thomas Friedmann, author,
The World is Flat
Held at Rutgers-Newark
Paul Robeson Campus Center
Friday, April 7, 2006

Rutgers-Newark Commencement
May 17-19, 2006

College and Career Fair
Sponsored by Office of
Congressman Donald Payne
May 22, 2006

OCCR Student Staff Spotlight

OCCR Student Staff Leadership: Top 10 Student Employee, R-N Ambassadors



Tamara (left) working with two students on vocabulary skills

On Monday, April 10, 2006, in recognition of National Student Employment Week, OCCR America Reads Student Coordinator Tamara Casseus was honored as one of Rutgers' Top Ten Student Employees of the Year. About 80 student employees from the Newark, New Brunswick, and Camden campuses were nominated.

A university-wide committee reviewed the nominations and, after a competitive review using national criteria, Tamara ranked among the top ten nominees university-wide. After discussing student nominations with the OCCR staff, OCCR Assistant Director Rolando Herts nominated Tamara for this honor. "Tamara is a valued student employee in our department. She will graduate Rutgers-Newark next year, and while we are prepared to wish her the best, we will be sad to see her go as she has been a tremendous asset to the department," said Herts. During her freshman year, Tamara was recruited by OCCR Executive Director Diane Hill to work in the department and later was promoted to America Reads Student Coordinator status.

OCCR also has cultivated student leadership through its involvement with the Student Ambassadors program in collaboration with the R-N Office of the Provost. Five students who have worked or are working with OCCR were nominated and accepted into the Student Ambassadors program: Tamara Casseus, Kerby Dort, Cathleen Henriquez, Brandan Lawrey, and Faisal Mohed.

OCCR Team Leaders met regularly throughout the 2005-06 year. In April, they received sporty new jackets for all of their hard work. Congratulations!!



OCCR Student Staff Participate in Read Across America Day



OCCR Office Assistant Daphne Devalie (above) and OCCR Team Leader Erica Roberson (below) read to youngsters at a nearby Newark Preschool Council site.

On Thursday, March 2, 2006, OCCR participated in Read Across America Day. Sponsored by the Newark Preschool Council, Read Across America Day — also known as Dr. Seuss' birthday — is a nationwide celebration of the delights of reading. Although the program began in 1998 as a one-day event, in 2006 National Education Association board members decided to expand the program to encourage students to read.



OCCR Executive Director, Diane Hill, and Rolando Herts, OCCR Assistant Director, enlisted the help of two OCCR student employees — Team Leader Erica Roberson and Office Assistant Daphne Davalié — to read to enthusiastic preschoolers in celebration of the day. Inspired by a classic Dr. Seuss theme, the readers wore hand-made Dr. Seuss hats to enhance the children's reading experiences. Ms. Hill currently serves on the Newark Preschool Council board.

How did you spend your winter holiday?



"I got a jump on the semester."

Faisal Mohed, Junior
Campus Information
Team Leader
East Orange, NJ



"I had a gathering with my family."

Ka Hei Hui, Junior
Campus Info Service Rep
Hong Kong, China

What are your plans for the summer?



"I will do a lot of traveling and a lot of working!"

Geoffrey Marshall, Senior
Team Leader/Comp Info Tech
Englewood, NJ



"I will be making final preparations to become a school teacher."

Chas Denono, Senior
Campus Info Service Rep
Bronx, NY



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