

NCAA Publicly Recognizes Rutgers for Continued Academic Success

Three Rutgers teams - football, gymnastics and women's soccer received recognition from the NCAA for top academic performance for their multi-year Academic Progress Rate scores. It marked the fifth consecutive year that the Scarlet Knights football program was cited by the NCAA.

The awards are given each year to teams scoring in the top 10 percent in each sport with their APRs. The APR provides a real-time look at a team's academic success each year by tracking the academic progress of each student athlete on scholarship. The APR counts for eligibility, retention and graduation and provides a measure of each team's academic performance.

The Rutgers football program was the lone state university on the list to be ranked in the top 10 percent nationally for the fifth consecutive year. In addition, Rutgers was the lone institution to win four bowl games while earning the APR honor in the top 10 percent over the previous five-year span. The Scarlet Knights continue to be one of the leaders nationally in both production on the field and in the classroom. Last year, Rutgers football team achieved the nation's number two ranking in Academic Progress Rate while earning the nation's number one mark in 2010.

Rutgers is one of only 12 Football Bowl Subdivision programs to be ranked in the top ten percent in the APR scores.

"Our focus every year is to compete in the classroom with the same intensity and commitment that we compete on the field and these programs continue to excel in both," said Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Tim Pernetti. "Our department takes pride in the environment of excellence that we've created for our student-athletes to earn degrees, become leaders and win championships. This is a well-deserved honor for our coaches, academic advisors and student athletes.

The gymnastics program continued its impressive team and individual performances in 2011-12 under first-year head coach Louis Levine. The

highlight of the year for the 13-11 Scarlet Knights was the team performance at the EAGL Championships. RU broke the program record for its team score at the event, passing the mark of 193.625 set just one year ago. The team continued its excellence in the classroom, as 15 student-athletes were named to the EAGL All-Academic Team tied for the most in the league.

The Rutgers women's soccer team built upon its strong foundation in 2011, as the Scarlet Knights reached their 12th-straight Big East Championship - the longest streak among conference members. Rutgers has had at least one player named to the All-Big East Team in each of its 7 seasons and the trend continued this year as Shannon Woeller was named to the all-conference third team. Rutgers finished with an overall record of 8-8-3, including a 3-5-3 mark in conference action, and was led offensively by Jonelle Filigno with 13 points through just 7 games. □

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university's presence in Newark, New Brunswick and Piscataway

Richard L. Edwards, interim University president indicated that the blending of Rutgers and UMDNJ faculty and staff will produce an extraordinarily talented and vibrant university community. "The strategic integration of UMDNJ into Rutgers will leverage our combined biomedical research strengths to create a major academic and health science powerhouse with newly energized campuses in Camden, Newark, New Brunswick and Piscataway," he noted.

Most of the provisions in the legislation are scheduled to take effect July 1, 2013. Representatives of Rutgers and UMDNJ have formed joint integration teams to facilitate the transition. Meanwhile, the Rutgers University Board of Governors and Board of Trustees continue to review the legislation to ensure that it provides adequate financial safeguards, preserves the autonomy of Rutgers and strengthens the university. The governing boards will continue to work with the administration, the

Legislature and colleagues at UMDNJ to bring about a successful integration. □

Joe Cardone
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program for children entitled "Humor for Anger Management."

Joe was a comedian in the late fifties and later entered the field of education for thirty-eight years as a teacher and supervisor on both the secondary and college levels, constantly using humor to make learning exciting and enjoyable.

Joe has a BS Degree from Wilkes University, a MS Degree from Temple University and Supervisory Certification from Montclair State University. He is a member of the National Speakers Association [NSA], New Jersey Chapter of NSA, and Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor.

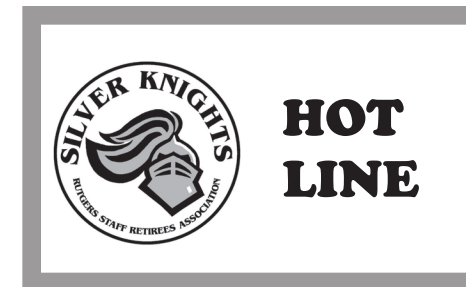
Joe's current presentations include *The Magic and Power of Humor*, *Yes, You Do Have a Sense of Humor*, *Mind and Body Rejuvenation Through Laughter*, *Humor, Happiness and Quality of Life*, *Laughing Yourself Out of Life's Absurdities* and *So You Want to Be Funny*. □

Rutgers Gymnastics Receives Perfect Score in Academic Progress Rate for Third Straight Year

For the third consecutive year, Rutgers women's gymnastics program received a perfect score and a number one national ranking in Academic Progress Rate, according to the latest multi-year figures released by the NCAA.

The Scarlet Knights achieved a multi-year figure of 1,000, which represents a perfect score, for the third straight year. Rutgers was one of 15 women's gymnastics programs in the nation to receive a perfect score and one of just six women's gymnastics programs with a perfect score each of the last three years. Its four-year APR score of 1,000 covered the academic years of 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The APR provides a real-time look at a team's academic success each semester or quarter by tracking the academic progress of each student-athlete. The APR includes eligibility, retention, and graduation in the calculation and provides a clear picture of the academic culture in each sport. □



PENSION NEWS DIVISION'S CALL CENTER HOURS EXPANDED

The hours of service for the Division of Pensions Call Center have been expanded. Telephone representatives are now available to take calls from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

NUMBER FOR THE AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEM AND CALL CENTER NOW THE SAME

Now you can dial the same telephone number to reach both the Division of Pensions and Benefits Automated Information System and the Division's Call Center. As of August 1, 2012 use (609) 292-7524 to contact the Center or to access your personal account information and use any of the applications offered over the Automated Information System. All calls to this number will be placed in a queue, where they will be directed to the system you wish to use, based on the prompt you choose.

Remember, the Automated Information System is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and it is now enhanced with Interactive Voice Response technology, so its functionality has been expanded. It allows you to revise your tax withholding information, request a duplicate Form 1099R, update your direct deposit information, access your retired account information, update your mailing your address, request specific letters about your pension account and additional information for members of the State Health Benefits Program.

RETIREE GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Public Employees Retirement System Program (PERS) ...Retiree group life insurance only in effect if you have 15 or more years of pension service. Benefit is one-half times last 12 month's salary.

Alternate Benefit Program (AZBP) Retiree group life insurance only in effect if the member retired at age 65 or older with 10 or more years of pension service. Benefit is one-half times last 12 month's salary.

Note: The retiree's group life insurance is only in effect if the member had group life insurance coverage while in active membership.

UPDATING YOUR BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

If you are unsure of your beneficiary designations, you must write to the **Division of Pension and Benefits, Box 295 - Trenton, NJ 8265 -0295**. To change your beneficiary forms are available on the Division's website. www.state.nj.us/treasury/pension or call the office of Client Services at (609) 292-17524.

HOW TO REPORT A DEATH TO THE DIVISION OF PENSIONS BENEFITS

When the death of a member of one of the New Jersey State administered retirement systems occurs, the member's family or survivors should notify the Division of Pensions and Benefits at (609) 292-7524 and provide the following information:

- ...the name of the deceased
- ...the deceased's Social Security, pension membership, or retirement number
- ... the name, mailing address and telephone number of the person handling the deceased affairs

Institute of Jazz Studies to Unveil Collection of Women in Jazz

Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers-Newark was awarded a grant of \$165,000 to unveil and catalog five separate archival collections of prominent women in jazz: Ella Fitzgerald, Abbey Lincoln, Annie Ross, Victoria Spivey and Wilma Dobie. This funding, granted by the Council on Library and Information Resources, will be provided under the "Hidden Special Collections and Archives Program." The project is intended to serve as a resource for scholars, filmmakers, arts organizations, and others who are redressing the previous neglect of women's contributions to the art form.

Professor Endre Szemerédi Visionary, Innovator Abel Prize Winner

Endre Szemerédi, The State of New Jersey Professor of Computer Science and an associate member of the Department of Mathematics in the School of Arts and Sciences, received the very prestigious Abel Prize for his contributions to the understanding of mathematics and computer science. The committee issuing the award, which comes with a gift of \$1 million, cited Szemerédi for providing fundamental contributions to discrete mathematics and theoretical computer science. The prize, created in 2003 and issued by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, is given each year, making Szemerédi the 10th recipient of the prize he received during a ceremony in Oslo Norway.

SILVER KNIGHTS ACTIVITIES

Volunteers Honored

Thn Francis E. Parker Home Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held April 3, 2012 at the *Imperia* in Somerset. Members of the Silver knights recognized that evening were Virginia Kwiatkowsdki, Clare Laskoski, Irene Wanzie, Dee Sherwood, Eileen Roberts, Marie Short and Joan DeBoer. A number of Silver Knights volunteer in various capacities at the Parker Homes in New Brunswick and Highland Park. Interested individuals should contact Catherine Martino, Volunteer Coordinator at 732-5652.

Spring Day Trip

Approximately 40 individuals enjoyed a day trip to the Culinary Institute and Wheaton Village in Mays landing and Millville on April 17, 2012. A delicious banquet lunch was served at the Atlantic Cape Community College's Culinary Arts Restaurant *Careme's*, and the group watched glass art created in the Glass Studio in Wheaton Village and toured the Museum.

Reunion Weekend

On May 14, 2012 members of the Silver Knights joined in participating in the All-Alumni Parade down College Avenue in New Brunswick. This has become an annual event for the Silver Knights and members are encouraged to join in this activity each year which offers an exciting variety of fun and activities for all.

CONTACT US

We welcome your comments, concerns and suggestions regarding Silver Knights issues. Please also inform us if your e-mail or mailing address changes. Contact us via e-mail at sknights@rci.rutgers.edu or by mail at . . .

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VISIT THE SILVER KNIGHTS WEBSITE

Our website is an ideal source of information concerning coming events, obtaining forms, viewing *The Herald* and accessing links to the University, NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits, Social Security, State of New Jersey, and many other things of interest to retirees. Visit then website at . . .

<http://silverknights.rutgers.edu>