

# SILVER KNIGHTS HERALD

2014  
FALL  
EDITION

A PUBLICATION OF THE RUTGERS STAFF RETIREES ASSOCIATION



*Dr. Thomas J. Molnar, Professor, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology*

On Thursday, October 16, we will be honored to have Dr. Thomas J. Molnar, Professor, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University as our guest speaker.

Molnar earned a doctorate in Plant Biology from Rutgers University. He is a *Member of Board of Directors and Chairman of Research, Improving Perennial Plants for Food and Beanery, Inc.; Secretary and Member of the Board of*

## “HAZELNUTS: DEVELOPING A NEW, HIGH-VALUE CROP FOR FARMERS IN NEW JERSEY AND BEYOND.”

*Topic of featured speaker Dr. Thomas J. Molnar, Professor, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology*

*Directors, Northern Nut Growers Assoc.*

It was a rare opportunity that landed Molnar at age 18 a summer job assisting the late Professor C. Reed Funk, the legendary plant breeder at Cook College.

In 1966 Funk turned his research from patent-winning grass varieties to nut-bearing trees. At that time, Molnar wanted to become a wildlife biologist. But after reading a book Funk gave him about the unexplored potential of trees to produce food, he reconsidered. “He opened my eyes, and I saw the potential to really make a contribution,” Molnar says.

Together, they launched an ambitious program to breed hardy, productive nut trees that could flourish on marginal land

in the same harsh climate of the Northeast. Hazelnut trees, which are uniquely capable of thriving on rocky hillsides, soon became their primary focus. When Funk retired in 2003, Molnar took over the breeding program.

Hazelnuts rank at or near the top of many important health categories. They are a rich source of protein, vitamin E, folate, B vitamins, and arginine. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a health claim that linked nut consumption to reduced risk of heart disease. Considering that hazelnuts continue to lead the way as a nutrition option, Dr. Molnar’s presentation at our luncheon should prove to be very interesting. 🍷

## IT’S A BIRD! IT’S A PLANE! IT’S A RUTGERS DRONE!

Rutgers is part of a consortium of universities that was chosen by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to test unmanned aircraft, commonly known as drones, in the skies over New Jersey. The test sites, which have yet to be determined, should help attract research money and startup companies to the state as businesses vie to develop commercial uses for drones

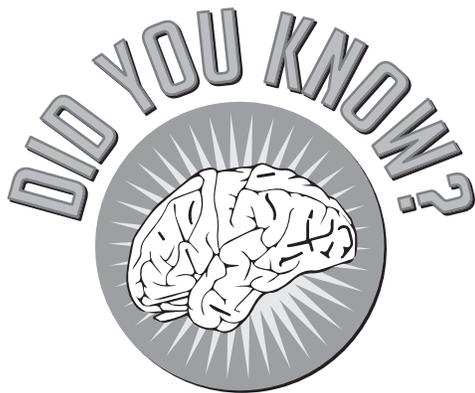
before the FAA opens airspace to unmanned flights to accomplish everything from spotting traffic jams to monitoring crops on farms.

“Unmanned air systems is one of the lead growth areas,” says Thomas Farris, Dean of the School of Engineering. Rutgers partnered with Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland on one of the

six winning applications. Rutgers and Virginia Tech are part of the

Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership, which comprises universities as well as government and industry groups that have run limited drone tests. 🍷





## FOUNDED IN 1766



Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is the only university in the United States that is a colonial college, a land-grant institution, and a leading national public research university.

**Students** – Rutgers’ 65,500 students come from every state in the nation and more than 115 countries. More than two-thirds of incoming first-year students at Rutgers are immigrants or the children or grandchildren of immigrants.

**Faculty and Staff** – Rutgers has more faculty than any New York metropolitan area institution and ties for fifth most in the world in the inaugural class of Fellows of the American Association for Center Research. There are more than 9,000 full and part-time faculty, and more than 15,400 full and part-time staff.

**Alumni** – With more than 450,000 alumni, Rutgers has one of the largest contingents of living alumni in the nation. Rutgers’ alumni live in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, in seven U.S. territories, and on six continents.

**Best for Vets** – “Military Times Magazine”, in its annual Best for Vets survey, ranks Rutgers fourth among U.S. four-year institutions for student veterans services.

## A PIONEER IN MEDICINE

Firsts, breakthroughs, and discoveries at Rutgers University and by its faculty and alumni.

- First and most respected medical, dental, and pharmacy schools in New Jersey

- First cure for tuberculosis (streptomycin)
- First connection between smoking and lung cancer
- Identification of AIDS
- Discovery of pediatric AIDS
- Management of first baby born through in vitro fertilization in New Jersey
- First clinical trial testing effect of AZT on HIV mother-to-child transmission
- Development of interferon, a breakthrough drug for treating cancers, multiple sclerosis, and other diseases
- First diagnostic test for ulcerative colitis
- First test to detect early-stage Lyme disease
- Discovery of one of the first Autism Spectrum Disorder-susceptibility Genes
- First pilot program to collect dental data on athletes at the Special Olympics Summer Games, leading to worldwide collection at annual events and increased access to dental care for this population



## STANDOUT CANCER CARE

Together with its network of 16 hospitals across the state, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey provides cancer care to more than one-third of New Jersey’s cancer patients. The institute is the only National Cancer Institute designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in New Jersey and the only New Jersey cancer institute in the Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium.

More than 120 doctors from Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Jersey Medical School, and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School consistently appear in the major rankings of top doctors in America, the New York metropolitan region, and New Jersey.



# SPORTS

## R BIG TOUR

(By Sue Beaudrow)

If you are still not aware that Rutgers has joined the Big Ten Athletic Conference, then you certainly were not in attendance at any of the 145 R Big Tour stops this past spring and summer. The idea behind the R Big Tour was to get the word out about Rutgers’ Athletic Teams and their new membership in the prestigious Big Ten Conference. Head coaches, athletic department staff members, cheerleaders, the Scarlet Knight mascot and even band members spent time traveling throughout NJ plus six prime locations from NYC to Washington DC to get the word out about Rutgers Athletics and to recruit the citizens of NJ to get behind their state University’s athletic teams. For a nominal registration fee, fans were able to mingle with head coaches, pose for pictures with them and listen to stories from their past coaching experiences and get insights into what becoming a member of The Big Ten will mean to their teams and to Rutgers in the future. In addition to receiving a commemorative R Big Tour t-shirt, attendees also enjoyed drinks and the camaraderie of other RU fans.

The stop in Atlantic City was at The Landshark Bar & Grill @ Margaritaville on a beautiful sunny day in May. Head coaches, C.Vivien Stringer (Women’s Basketball), Kyle Flood (Football), Eddie Jordan (Men’s Basketball), Laura Brand (Women’s Lacrosse) and Scott Goodale (Wrestling) all took to the

*(Continued on next page)*

# SHORTS

microphone speaking to a large contingent of Scarlet Knight fans. Even people who just happened to be in the bar got into the fun when the Scarlet Knight worked the room and the cheerleaders and band went into their routines.

Riding around on the R Big Tour bus allowed for head coaches, who may not have the time to interact with other sport coaches, to get together and learn about their colleagues and their sport teams. Riding on the bus from Piscataway to

their next stop on the tour gave them time to swap stories, bond and brainstorm ideas for recruiting, keeping their teams academi-



cally sound and other issues pertaining to running a comprehensive Division 1 program. Coaching a Division 1 sport team is not just an “in season” coaching commitment, it involves the entire year which doesn’t leave much time for supporting other coaches and their respective teams. Traveling on the tour bus allowed staff members to take some time off from their respective team commitments (and probably interfered with some of their personal time) and offered them the opportunity to spend some quality time with others who they may not have even spoken to in the past.

The R Big Tour was one heck of a marvelous idea. Whoever thought of this Public Relations activity, which was primarily aimed at recruiting a new fan base and uniting old fans throughout the state, also succeeded in uniting staff members as has never been done before.

## R BIG PARTY

(by Sue Beaudrow)

Were you there? You were invited! If you missed it, you missed out on the “we’re officially in the Big Ten” celebration party held on July 1, 2014 in the High Point Solutions Stadium. July 1st started out at 12:01am with the raising of the Big Ten flag above the stadium and culminated with a spectacular fireworks display. In between, fans came out to High Point Solutions Stadium to celebrate what some people say was an event “a long time coming”, Rutgers officially becoming a member of The Big Ten Athletic Conference. Entry to the R Big Party was free and the first 1000 fans to pre-register online received a Rutgers beach towel. Prior to the fireworks, fans were treated to free giveaways, opportunities to meet and pose for pictures with coaches and athletes and all kinds of free games in a modified kid’s zone area. There was also a silent auction where the highest bidders had opportunities to win tickets to be on the sideline for home games and numerous other big ticket items.

The thousands of fans in attendance listened to speeches by Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delaney, Rutgers President Robert L. Barchi, Director of Athletics Julie Hermann and Head Football Coach Kyle Flood. A representative from The Big Ten Television Network also told the crowd that the network had solidified deals with local cable companies so that most in attendance should be able to view Big Ten sports on TV. Additionally, Athletic Directors, Presidents and Mascots from a number of fellow Big Ten Universities also came out to “The Banks of The Raritan” for this historical event.

The weather was beautiful, the fireworks were spectacular and all in attendance had a grand time celebrating this monumental event in Rutgers Athletics history.



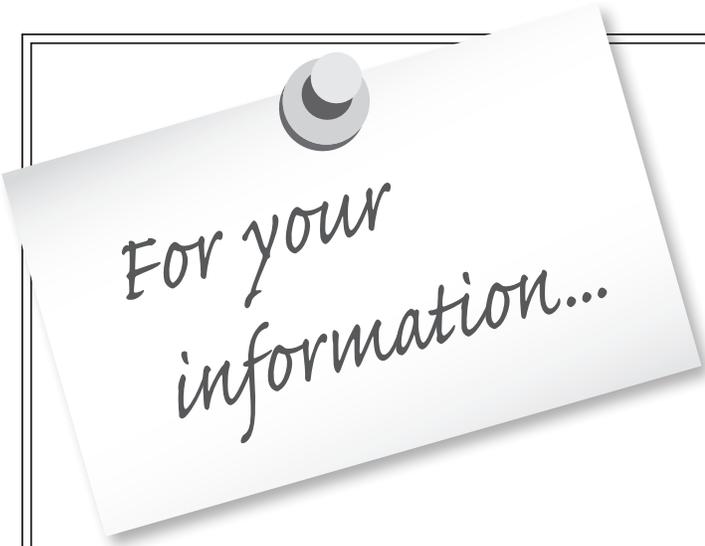
## ASK R TOM

First the University had Ask Colonel Rutgers, now it has Ask R Tom. Tom Luicci, former veteran sports reporter for the Star Ledger, has joined the athletic staff of Rutgers as Senior Director of Digital Media and he hosts a column on the ScarletKnights.com website where he answers questions asked by fans. In addition to answering questions, he also reports on practices, he writes player features and writes about highlights of the various athletic teams. If you have a question regarding Rutgers Athletics feel free to email Tom at [tluicci@scarletknights.com](mailto:tluicci@scarletknights.com)

## WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM HONORED BY STATE SENATE

The Rutgers Women’s Basketball team was honored by the NJ State Senate with a resolution recognizing the team for their end of the season championship run during which they won the WNIT Tournament. The resolution was sponsored by Senator Raymond Lesniak (D-Union) a 1971 graduate of Rutgers College.





For your  
information...

## RETIREE GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)** Retiree group life insurance is in effect only if you have 10 years or more of pension credit. Benefit is 3/16 of last 12 months of salary.

**Alternate Benefit Program (ABP)** Retiree group life insurance is in effect only if the member retires at age 60 or older with 10 or more years of pension credit. Benefit is ½ of annual salary.

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

**Changing Beneficiary:** To verify, update or change beneficiary information, you must contact the Division of Pensions & Benefits by writing to the Division of Pensions and Benefits, PO Box 295, Trenton, NJ 08225-0295 or calling the Office of Client Services at 609-292-7524. Beneficiary forms are available on the Division's website [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pension](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pension).

**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:

- full name of the deceased
- deceased's social security or pension membership number
- date of death
- name, mailing address, telephone number of the person handling the deceased's affairs

## UNIVERSITY CONDOLENCE FUND

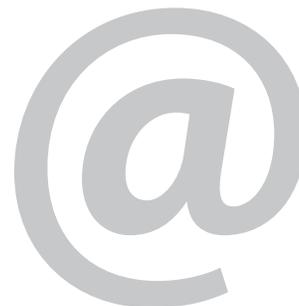


This special fund made up of voluntary contributions is used to express sympathy on the passing of active or retired employees. In addition to sending memorials to honor and remember the deceased, the university flag on Old Queen's Campus is flown at half-staff and a sympathy note on behalf of the university community is sent to families. Notification of a colleague's death and information on arrangement for the service may be made by calling the Office of the Secretary at 848-932-7434.

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## EMAIL RENEWAL

Your Rutgers guest email account expires on September 30 every year. Please make sure to submit the RCI Guest Account Application/Renewal Form when you receive the email from the RCI Account Office.



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## RETIREE PARKING PERMIT

All retired New Brunswick faculty and staff members are eligible to receive a Retiree Parking Permit at no cost. Remember your retiree permit must be renewed every two (2) years. For more information, please call 848-932-7744 or email [rupermits@aps.rutgers.edu](mailto:rupermits@aps.rutgers.edu).

# SENIOR HUMOR

## ONE FOR THE LADIES

One day my housework-challenged husband decided to wash his sweatshirt. Seconds later he stepped into the laundry room and shouted to me, "What setting do I use on the washing machine?" "It depends," I replied, "What does it say on your shirt?" He yelled back, "University of Oklahoma." And they say blonds are dumb!!!!



## PEARLY GATES

St. Peter is sitting at the Pearly Gates when two guys wearing dark hoodies and sagging pants arrive. St. Peter looked out through the gates and said, "Wait here. I'll be right back." St. Peter goes over to God's chambers and tells him who is waiting for entrance. God says to Peter: "How many times do I have to tell you? You can't be judgmental here. This is heaven. All are loved. All are brothers. Go back and let them in!"

St. Peter goes back to the Gates, looks around, and lets out a heavy sigh. He returns to God's chambers and says, "Well, they're gone." "The guys wearing hoodies?" asked God. "No, the Pearly Gates!"

## DEFINITION OF OLD

I very quietly confided to my best friend that I was having an affair. She turned to me and asked, "Are you having it catered?" And that, my friend, is the definition of 'OLD'!

# INTERESTING FACTS

According to AARP, people over the age of 50 are 100 million strong. They will soon control more than 70 percent of the disposable income in this country. They buy two-thirds of all the new cars, half of all the computers, and a third of all movie tickets. They spend \$7 billion a year shopping online. More than 80 percent of all the premium travel dollars flow from their credit cards. The population of 50-plus consumers is projected to grow by 34 percent between now and 2030.



Research into men's and women's brains finds men have more connectivity front to back, while women have

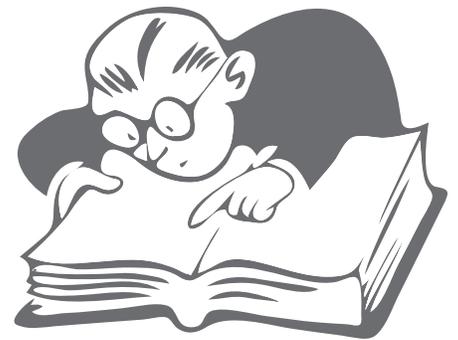
more connectivity between the two hemispheres. That helps explain why men are better at performing a single task and women have better multitasking and social skills.



Scientists believe older people do not decline mentally with age; it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains. It has been suggested that, much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets filled up, so do humans take longer to access information. Researchers say this slowing down is not the same as cognitive decline. "The human brain works slower in old age," said Dr.

Michael Ramscar, "but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more."

SO THERE! WE'RE BRILLIANT!



# SILVER KNIGHTS ACTIVITIES

## IT WAS A SPECTACULAR DAY TRIP

*By Dot Gwozdziejewicz*

The Silver Knights had another successful trip on Friday, May 30th, to the Hyde Park/Hudson Valley area of New York. The bus was ready and waiting, and everyone was so friendly and happy to be out for a fun day. We even had an entertainment celebrity, Joseph Cardone, telling jokes before the trip. Among the highlights was a visit to the Culinary Institute of America. The grounds were beautiful, the lunch just wonderful, and the service and dining spectacular. Lunch was in the Ristorante Caterina De Medici, making you feel that you were in a beautiful part of Italy. The variety of breads on the table was enough reason for the trip, and our table enjoyed them all. Our meal included a salad, Insalata Di Pomodoro, our entrée was Spalla Di Vitello, roasted veal with mixed seasonal vegetables and potatoes, and dessert, Tiramisu, mascarpone cream layered with lady fingers soaked in coffee. The trip featured a 2-hour boat cruise aboard "The Pride of The Hudson," departing out of Newburgh, NY. Just riding through this old town, seeing the area and the diversity of the stores and restaurants, was exciting. The day was full of sunshine, scenery and blue skies, just the type of day you want to spend on the Hudson River. The narration of the sights along the River was a history course in itself, learning about the area and of the strategic importance of the Hudson River during



*Seated L to R - Ed Byrne, Ruth Byrne, Ednamay Hirschman, our bus driver.  
Standing L to R - Harold Hirschman, Pat Compansano, Pat McDonald.*

the Revolutionary War. George Washington chose Thaddeus Kociuszko for the design of the fortifications for Freedom West Point, and it was here that George Washington had his headquarters in 1779. We learned about the history of West Point and some of the many buildings. We saw many of the beautiful sights along the River, including descriptions and information from the Captain about the houses, towns, and landmarks. It was a good day to be out and about and a great memory for the Silver Knights.

## REUNION WEEKEND PARADE

Members of the Silver Knights participated in the All-Alumni Parade on Saturday, May 17, 2014. One of Rutgers' oldest traditions, members

followed the Alumni Band in a parade down College Avenue to the reviewing stand. This has become an annual event for the Silver Knights.

## PARKER VOLUNTEERS HONORED

The Francis E. Parker Annual Volunteer Recognition Reception was held on April 10, 2014 at the Imperia in Somerset. "You are the Icing on our Cupcake" was the theme of the event, and volunteers received certificates of appreciation and cupcakes. Members of the Silver Knights honored that evening were Clare Laskoski, Eileen Roberts, Dolores Sherwood, Marie Short, Virginia Vetrecin, and Irene Wanzie.

# RESERVATION FORM

## AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE'S PRODUCTION "THE 2014 CHRISTMAS SHOW" WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014

The Silver Knights offer a Spectacular Trip on November 5th to the American Music Theatre's Production "The 2014 CHRISTMAS SHOW". The trip includes round trip transportation by motor coach, a complete luncheon at **Good 'n Plenty Restaurant** (delicious, authentic, family style Pennsylvania Dutch cooking) and the critically acclaimed Christmas Show that has become a tradition for many, and is renowned as Lancaster's most beloved holiday show. Awe-inspiring music and dance, incomparable voices, and light-hearted holiday humor are the ingredients for this season's all-new extravaganza.

*The total cost of the trip (which includes tax) is \$105.00.* Bring a relative or friend. The motor coach will depart from Lot #76 on the Douglass-Cook Campus, New Brunswick at 10:00 a.m. and return approximately 7:30 p.m.

**ACT NOW!** Note that reservations will be honored on a first-come/first served basis. Please fill out this form by **October 22, 2014**. If you have questions call Mary Rueshoff @ 732-329-3779 or Sally Kitzi @ 908-295-8947.

**PLEASE PRINT:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$105.00 each.

**Make checks payable to Silver Knights and mail to:**

SILVER KNIGHTS  
c/o Mary Rueshoff  
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY HUMAN RESOURCES  
57 US Highway 1  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901



CLIP HERE AND MAIL

# REGISTRATION FORM

## SILVER KNIGHTS FALL LUNCHEON – OCTOBER 16, 2014



You are invited to attend the Silver Knights Fall Luncheon which will be held **Thursday, October 16, 2014** at 12:00 noon in Neilson Dining Hall on the Douglass - Cook Campus, New Brunswick.

**ACT NOW!**

Fill out this form and return it by **Oct. 10, 2014** so that we may plan for the number attending and for updating the retiree membership list and data bank.

**PLEASE PRINT:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed my check or money order for \$20.00.  
Sorry no refunds.

**Make checks payable to Silver Knights and mail to:**

SILVER KNIGHTS  
Rutgers Staff Retirees Association  
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY HUMAN RESOURCES  
57 US Highway 1  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

## VISIT THE SILVER KNIGHTS WEBSITE

Our website is an ideal source of information concerning upcoming events, obtaining forms, viewing The Herald, and accessing links to University, N.J. Division of Pensions/Benefits, Social Security, State of New Jersey, and other things of interest to retirees. Visit the website at <http://silverknights.rutgers.edu>.

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## CONTACT US

We welcome your comments, concerns, and suggestions regarding Silver Knights issues. Please also inform us if your email or mailing address changes. Contact us via email at [Sknights@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:Sknights@rci.rutgers.edu) or by mail at Silver Knights, c/o Human Resources, Rutgers, The State University, 57 US Highway #1 South, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Also feel free to visit the Rutgers Retiree Faculty and Staff Association Center (RFSA) located in the ASB II Building, 57 US Highway 1, New Brunswick, NJ. The Center's Human Resource staff associate, Daniella Bechta, can be reached at 848-932-3580 or email [dbechta@hr.rutgers.edu](mailto:dbechta@hr.rutgers.edu). Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.



### Looking for Information

*We are trying to add articles of interest to future editions of The Herald. So if you would like to share a favorite recipe, vacation spot, senior deal, event, hobby or anything else that you think would be of interest to your fellow Silver Knights or something we might enjoy reading about, please e-mail the info/article to [sknights@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:sknights@rci.rutgers.edu).*

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