On Thursday, May 15, 2014 we will be honored to have Dr. David A. Robinson, Professor, Department of Geography, Rutgers University and New Jersey State Climatologist as our Guest Speaker.

Dr. Robinson earned a doctorate in earth sciences at Columbia University prior to arriving at Rutgers. He is a contributor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and to national climate assessments, and sits on the National Academy of Sciences’ Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate. Dr. Robinson is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, has been named an NOAA Environmental Hero, and is past president of the American Association of State Climatologists.

Robinson caught the weather bug during his first week of kindergarten in Tenafly in 1960, when New Jersey got hit by the remnants of hurricane Donna. The following winter, the state experienced record-setting snowfall. By the fourth grade, he had accumulated a cache of “weather kits” and hobby sets with rain collectors, barometers and gauges of all sorts. A self-described weather geek, he has for the last 22 years lived his childhood dream as the New Jersey state climatologist. He is the go-to guy for weather research and statistics for the governor, state agriculture, environment, transportation emergency management, farmers and even for the home gardener.

As professor of geography, he is responsible for collecting climatological data that can help with things like flood abatement, bridge elevations and storm preparations. In 3 weeks surrounding Sandy, he gave 90 interviews and appeared live on NJTV during the storm.

(Continued on Page 5)

RUTGERS FUTURE PUT INTO FOCUS

A five-year strategic plan designed to propel Rutgers into the upper echelon of the nation’s public universities was approved on February 11, 2014 by the school’s Board of Governors. The plan is said to touch on all aspects of the university – from faculty excellence and the student experience to infrastructure improvements and more aggressive alumni fundraising.

The first strategic blueprint adopted by Rutgers officials in 19 years, the plan encompasses the school’s campuses in Camden, New Brunswick, and Newark and contains an assessment of the university’s strengths and weaknesses in comparison to peer institutions.

Highlights of the priorities include: (1) an increase of 150 new tenure-track faculty members in selected disciplines over the next five years; (2) improved graduate programs while committing to a review of ones that currently exist; (3) creating and cultivating first-year honors colleges in Camden, Newark and New Brunswick; (4) conducting a detailed and immediate analysis of the use of new information technology platforms; (5) implementing improvements to student programs, from first-year housing assignments to career counseling, and including enhancements to student advising, housing, transportation, and logistics.

The plan presents five integrating academic themes designed to cut across disciplines and set the stage for new curricular priorities, including improving individual health and wellness locally and globally, implementing technology and innovation to enhance sustainability, and educating individuals to become effective leaders.

While the plan cites several construction projects already underway and others to be started within the next nine months, athletics projects such as the Rutgers Athletics Center are not involved in the capital construction program.

“As we prepare to celebrate Rutgers’ 250th anniversary in 2016, our strategic plan recognizes the university’s many strengths and acknowledges the challenges that we face,” President Barchi has stated.
Time-Honored Institution

The year 2016 marks the 250th anniversary of Rutgers’ founding, and preparations for the festivities are already underway. The university’s long history is one of its most extraordinary characteristics; Rutgers is one of only nine colonial colleges established before the American Revolution.

DNA Repository

Rutgers has the world’s largest repository of DNA and cell lines based at a university. These are crucial assets for biomedical research to cure diseases like schizophrenia, diabetes and alzheimer’s.

N.J. Legislature

The N.J. Legislature, consisting of the 40-member Senate and 80-member Assembly, has 18 Rutgers alumni serving in the State House in Trenton. Many of these public servants came to their calling after studying law or public policy at Rutgers; others chose to enter the political fray because of interests in women’s rights, health care reform, and environmental protection, among others, which were stoked while undergraduate and graduate students.

Rutgers’ Alma Mater

When the Alma Mater was written by two Glee Club members in 1873, Rutgers was an all-male college. And so the opening verse – “My father sent me to dear old Rutgers/And resolved that I should be a man” – made sense. Today, the university covers several campuses throughout the state, and 53 percent of its students are women. So, Patrick Gardner, Director of Choral Activities, wrote a more gender-neutral opening lyric. He believes the result – “From far and near we came to Rutgers/And resolved to learn all that we can” – accomplishes just that. This is not the first time the Alma Mater has undergone a slight modification. The last words of the chorus, “On the banks of the Old Raritan, my boys” was replaced with “my friends.” Though Gardner expects to hear critics who believe tradition gave way to political correctness, he believes it will not be long before the lyrics are generally accepted.

Fulbright Grants

Rutgers students and alumni received 26 Fulbright Grants this year, a record for the university.

A Groundbreaking Development

The College Avenue Redevelopment Initiative – a $300 million project that will transform the College Avenue Campus by featuring a new academic building, university apartment housing, and a residential honors college – officially began on September 19, 2013 when New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and President Robert Barchi greeted the communities of Rutgers and New Brunswick at a groundbreaking ceremony at Seminary Place. Also in attendance was Chris Palladino, the president of the New Brunswick Development Corporation, the nonprofit developer that is again partnering with Rutgers in one of the largest public-private partnerships in New Jersey’s history. The project will be completed by fall 2016.

Condoleezza Rice Named Rutgers Commencement Speaker

Former Secretary of State, the Honorable Condoleezza Rice will be the Keynote Speaker at Rutgers’ 248th commencement on May 18, 2014. Rice, who served

(Continued on next page)
from January 2005 to 2009 under President George W. Busch as the nation’s 66th Secretary of State, will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Office of the Secretary is seeking volunteers for the Rutgers University Commencement on Sunday, May 18, 2014. Please join us as a Rutgers University Commencement Ambassador and invite your friends, neighbors, and family members to volunteer too! All Ambassadors will receive event training, a Commencement t-shirt, a thank-you gift, a breakfast reception before Commencement, entry into a volunteer raffle, and the satisfaction of making the day even better for our newest alumni. A few hours of your help will make a big difference! To learn more or to register as a Commencement Ambassador, visit http://commencement.rutgers.edu/information/instructions-volunteers.

Retiree Faculty and Staff Center

The Retiree Faculty & Staff Association (RFSA) Center’s formal grand opening was on February 28, 2014. The RFSA Center is located in the ASB II Bldg., 57 US Highway 1, New Brunswick, NJ (adjacent to Sears). Executive Vice President Richard L. Edwards was the guest speaker and Professor Emeritus Todd Hunt, founding Director of the Retired Faculty Association, was presented with a plaque honoring him for his vision and tenacity, along with his financial support, which helped turn the dream of a facility such as this into reality. The Faculty & Staff Advisory Council, along with the University Human Resources staff, were also thanked for all of their endeavors in helping to develop the RFSA Center. The RFSA Center’s new full-time Human Resource staff associate, Danielle Bechta, was introduced and can be reached at 848-932-3580 or email dbechta@hr.rutgers.edu.

In addition, to better serve the Rutgers retiree community, University Human Resources has begun to develop a stand-alone retiree website linked to University Human Resources, which will serve as one-stop for information relevant to Rutgers retirees. This site will be phased in over the next few months. The site will allow retirees to:

- update their email address on-file with the university.
- opt-in to receive the Faculty & Staff Bulletin, Rutgers Today and other publications.
- find information about the benefits and privileges extended to retirees.
- stay involved with the Rutgers community through voluntary opportunities, the university’s Speakers Bureau and regular retiree programming.

We will continue to keep you informed about the Center’s activities.

Sports Shorts

Headed For The Big Time

In July, Rutgers joined the Big Ten, a conference known for its academic and athletic prowess. The move brings a new national visibility and membership in the elite Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), an academic consortium that fosters collaborations with world-class research institutions.

True Grit

When the Rutgers women’s ice hockey team pulled off its stunning defeat of the University of Pennsylvania last winter to claim the Delaware Valley College Hockey Conference (DVCHC) women’s championship, the improbable victory went largely unnoticed. The Lady Ice Knights had now won the Division II Club hockey championship for the second straight year. Because of its success, the hockey team was upgraded during the off season and has been competing this winter in Division I of the DVCHC. Home ice for the Lady Ice Knights is Proskate, a rink down Route 1 from New Brunswick in Monmouth Junction, N.J. where they hold practices late Tuesday and Thursday nights and also host weekend games. For away games, the women pile into two SUVs jammed with their sticks and oversized bags of hockey gear for high-jinx forays along the roadways of the mid-Atlantic region.

Fred Hill Retires After 30 Years As Coach

Fred Hill, baseball coach at Rutgers for the past 30 years, recently announced his retirement after amassing 1,089 victories in 37 seasons for the Scarlet Knights. He was adept at preparing players for the professional ranks, helping 72 of his charges sign professional contracts during his career, including 33 over this past decade. The 79-year-old Verona native had planned to return for his 31st season, hoping to build on a career win total that ranks him 32nd in college baseball coaching history, but a mild stroke suffered in September detailed the challenge of his coaching into his 80s. The Silver Knights extend best wishes to Fred on his retirement.
Healthy You

Your Brain on (Hot) Chocolate – That yummy cup of cocoa might do more than warm you up. A new Harvard University study found that drinking two cups of cocoa a day for 30 days significantly improved memory in older adults. Lead researcher Farzaneh A. Sorond, M.D. says her team found cocoa drinking boosted blood flow to the brain, particularly in those whose flow was impaired.

Happy Genes – It’s well-known that “making a difference” makes us happier and healthier. People who volunteer live longer. Now a new study finds that your body might know this on a molecular level. The specific type of happiness you derive from pursuing a greater purpose positively influences the genes in your immune system. “People whose happiness comes primarily from doing good for others, rather than from hedonistic self-satisfaction, show a much more favorable gene profile, with less inflammation and better antibody and antiviral activity,” says lead researcher Steven W. Cole, Ph.D., professor of medicine at UCLA.

Interesting Facts

- Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!
- Gold is the only metal that doesn’t rust, even if it’s buried in the ground for thousands of years.
- If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.
- Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.
- The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.
- In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed.

Seniors Humor

Sometimes Kids Are The Only Ones Who Make Sense!!!

A three-year old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, “There were two boy and two girl kittens.” “How did you know?” his mother asked. “Daddy picked them up and looked underneath,” he replied. “I think it’s printed on the bottom.”

An acquaintance of mine who is a physician told this story about her then four-year-old daughter. On the way to preschool, the doctor had left her stethoscope on the car seat, and her little girl picked it up and began playing with it. Be still, my heart, thought my friend, my daughter wants to follow in my footsteps! Then the child spoke into the instrument: “Welcome to McDonald’s. May I take your order?”

At the Bar The Other Night

I was at the bar the other night and overheard three very hefty women talking. Their accent appeared to be Scottish, so I approached and asked, “Hello! Are you three lassies from Scotland?” One of them angrily screeched, “It’s Wales. Wales, you bloody idiot!” So I apologized and replied, “I am so sorry. Are you three whales from Scotland?” And that’s the last thing I remember.

Who Was Mr. Gorsky?

On July 20, 1969 as Commander of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon. His first words after stepping on the moon, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,” were televised to earth and heard by millions. But just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark “Good Luck, Mr. Gorsky.” Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival Soviet cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs. Over the years, many people questioned Armstrong as to what the “Good Luck, Mr. Gorsky” statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled. On July 5, 1995 in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering questions, a reporter brought up the question about Mr. Gorsky to Armstrong. Here is the answer.

In 1938, when he was a kid in a small mid-western town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit the ball, which landed in his neighbor’s yard by their bedroom window. His neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky, “Sex! You want Sex?” You’ll get Sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!”

Mark Your Calendar

Where else can you enjoy parades and performances, make friends with a farm animal, participate in hands-on science experiments, cheer as the Scarlet Knights compete, and receive health and wellness tips? All in one place. All on one day. All are welcome. Experience Rutgers Day on Saturday, April 26, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free admission and parking. Rain or shine. Activities are on the Busch, College Ave, Cook/Douglass Campuses.
Tailgate Party

On September 7, 2013 Parker Home saluted the Silver Knights at a Tailgate Party prior to the first home football game of the season. Attendees were treated to a pre-game barbeque and tour of the facilities. Additionally, for those who had tickets to attend the game, courtesy bus service to and from the stadium was provided. It was a great way to start the Rutgers season and to see Parker and Rutgers teaming up and bringing the Scarlet Knights together for the kickoff game.

On September 6, 2014 Parker Home will again salute the Silver Knights by hosting a Rutgers Day celebration at their facility. Plans are currently being discussed for a variety of events and will be forthcoming. MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

November Trip to Radio City Music Hall

By Dot Gwozdiewicz

The Silver Knights had a bus trip on November 8, 2013, to Radio City Music Hall, NYC. It was a chance to begin the holiday season with an exciting and inspiring show. The day was sunny and crisp and the group was ready for a trip down memory lane, to see the show, hear the organ, see the Rockettes, enjoy the pageantry of the show and see Santa and the sights and sounds of the city.

The bus was parked and ready for passengers when we arrived at the lot at 9:00 am. The driver was cheerful and pleasant and soon we were on our way for a "retirees adventure". The chatter on the bus just added to the anticipation to experience Radio City Music Hall and New York City. We were dropped off near the entrance of the theater and our driver informed us he would be in the same spot when we returned, told us the bus number and the name of the bus company.

After a short wait in line, we were at the entrance and they were checking the contents of purses, just like at the rock concerts I attended years ago, but now they were checking for water bottles and not alcohol.

As usual, arrangements were fantastic. Our seating was great, the organ music, the beauty and lighting of the theater all adding to the excitement of looking forward to the actual show. I felt like I could have left then and still had a great day, great experience, but fortunately, we stayed for the show. We were provided with programs and 3-D glasses and now Santa appears right over our heads, reindeers, snow, sled and the feeling we were in the sled. Santa remained a "fat jolly old elf" but Mrs. Clause must have been on a diet – she was thinner and healthier looking. Santa must have not lost the weight he gained eating all the cookies and drinking all the milk in the homes he visited last year.

The presentation of the show, the talents of the Rockettes, the singing and dancing, ice skating and the talent of the performers of the Nutcracker was better than I ever experienced it. We didn’t want it to end. Now, we were ready for our next adventure, lunch at L’Allegra, a typical northern Italian cuisine restaurant in the city, clean, comfortable and full of atmosphere. The staff was experienced and the menu included a good selection of pasta, meat and fish entrees. Salads were great and the smell and taste of locally baked fresh hot bread was wonderful and our coffee and dessert outstanding. Our group took advantage of the choices, and at our table of 6 there was not a complaint about the food, a lot of talk about the show and the great day we were having.

The bus was waiting outside for us. A few of the passengers, former city people, actually stood outside the bus and inhaled the smells, embraced the traffic and all the noises of the city. Our driver was great at driving. We participated in games and had fun on the way home and arrived around 4:00 pm, full of food, great memories of the show and lots of holiday spirit. I am looking forward to the next Silver Knights outing.

L. to R-Maria Lund, Clare Laskoski, George and Virginia Vetrecin

The Office of the New Jersey State Climatologist (ONJSC) serves as the focal point for activities pertaining to the climate of the Garden State. Robinson as the New Jersey Climatologist directs the Office, which resides within the Center for Environmental Prediction in the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers University, Cook Campus.

Considering the recent weather New Jersey has been experiencing between hurricane Sandy and the extreme weather we had this winter, his presentation at our luncheon should prove to be quite interesting.

(Dr. Robinson Continued from Page 1)
SILVER KNIGHTS

SILVER KNIGHTS WELCOME NEW STAFF RETIREEES

The Executive Committee and members of the Silver Knights welcome the following recently retired staff personnel as new members of the Rutgers Staff Retiree Association. We hope your retirement brings you all the joys of fulfillment and may your fulfillment be complete. We look forward to your joining us at the Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May 15, 2014. This is the occasion to think of old friends and colleagues, renew old acquaintances and share in the organization’s plans and activities.

Ambrose, Evelyn
Amorosi, Dorothy
Anderson, Susan
Bailey, Phyllis
Bellanca, Patricia L.
Bennewitz, Patricia
Bergman, Marsha
Braun, Lynn C.
Brown, Andrew C.
Brown, Melvin L.
Brown, Paul P.
Burness, Raphaela H.
Bynes, Charlesetta
Carlin, Peggy A.
Chadwick Mary
Chiarl, Carol
Ciraulo, Dolores
Clarke, Cheryl
Cook, Angelita
deMeo, Mary D.
Demenchuk, Lynn
DiFabio, David A.
Donato, Janet
Dorton, Vena M.
Duncan, Paula T.
Edwards, Janice Cheryl
Eppinger, Constance M.
Garelick, Judith
Genito, Melanie
Gibbs, Dorothy
Gordon, Elaine F.
Gottlieb, Phyllis F.
Gryenberg, Helene K.
Hackett–Fields, Kathryn
Hahn, Robert J.
Haines, Dennis L.
Hall, Barbara L.
Hartling Gretchen
Henrickson, Nancy L.
Herring, Carol P.
Hinshlwood, Harold S.
Hosszu, Piroksa
Huang, Mou-Tuan
Hunter, Valerie R.
Jensen, Elida L.
Johnson, Robert C.
Kennedy, Diana K.
Kerr, Dorothy A.
King, Bernice H.
Klothen, Eve B.
Kosek-Walker, Lynn
Kracke, Joanne L.
Lincoln-McPherson, B.
Lipman Jr., Edward V.
Liquori, John
Mannella, Charles J.
Marano, Virginia C.
Markowski, Thomas M.
McArthur, Chrystal
Meseroll, Nancy Lee
Mickelsen, Linda T.
Mobley, Sarah
Morel, Ramona
Mueller, Ninfa R.
Nebel, Arleen
O’Connor, Francine
O’Reilly, William J.
Ortega, Nidia M.
Oslislo, Shirley
Pauch, James
Peters, Elizabeth D.
Pierce, Fleming G.
Poslusny, Helen
Ratzen, Karen
Remm, Mary E.
Riley, Essie
Robinson, Joe M.
Rodriguez, Josefina C.
Rodriguez, Rafaela
Rowe, Janet S.
Spaulding, Elizabeth A.
Temple, Martha
Vitale, Barbara E.
White, Richard L.
Williams, Willie L.
Wolf, John
Wytko, Grace
You, Aleta
Zee, Sue C.
Zieser, Jr., Walter H.

IN MEMORIAM

Following is a list of deceased Rutgers Staff Retirees. If you know of a death of a friend or colleague, please advise us by calling Joan DeBoer at 732-257-3017 or email us at sknights@rci.rutgers.edu.

Armstrong, Dorothy
Alderman, Carol Ann
Banta, Frederic E.
Bennett, Ruth Klein
Blake, Christina
Burzhichelli, Claudia D.
Cardner, Olga
Christensen, Gerald B.
Clack, Robert A.
Day, Nancy Everett
Estremera, Miguel
Franz, Robert M.
Fraticelli-Novello, J.
Gruber, Murray
Harrit, Nancy J.
Hollfelder, Claire B.
Howard, Sarah
Kelly, Joseph P.
Krespach, Marjorie E.
Lemongelli, John
Lewis-Van Liew, Lula
Lopez, Maria L.
Love, George F.
Lucas, Frederick D.
McShane, Nora M.
Mirtukin, Rose B.
Parsler, Mae
Poet, Ruth
Recine, Dorothy J.
Rojas, Deborah
Rowe, Charles L.
Roy, Kenneth G.
Scire-Cirneco, Nicolo
Smith, Lenora
Tobin, Mary L.
Wetzel, Sandra
You are invited to attend the Silver Knights Spring Luncheon which will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 12:00 noon in Neilson Dining Hall on the Douglass – Cook Campus, New Brunswick.

**ACT NOW!**

Please fill out this form and return by May 8, 2014 so that we may plan for the number attending and for updating the retiree membership list and data bank.

The Silver Knights offers a Spectacular Trip on Friday, May 30th to the Hyde Park, NY area featuring the Culinary Institute of America & a Boat Cruise. The trip includes round trip transportation by motor coach and complete luncheon at the Culinary Institute of America's Italian Restaurant Caterina de Medici and a 2-hour Boat Cruise aboard “The Pride of the Hudson” departing out of Newburgh NY (which is approx. a half hour south of Hyde Park). The Captain will present a narration of the sights along the River including Mt. Beacon, Bannerman Island, Storm King Mts., Breakneck Mt., the Catskill Aqueduct, World’s End, Cold Spring, and West Point.

The total cost of the trip (which includes tax) is $100.00. A minimum additional gratuity for your server is always appreciated. Bring a relative or friend. The motor coach will depart from Lot #76 on the Douglass-Cook Campus, New Brunswick at 8:30 a.m. and return approximately 7:00 p.m.

**ACT NOW!** Note that reservations will be honored on a first-come/first served basis. Please fill out this form and return by MAY 21, 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 $100.00 each.

Make checks payable to Silver Knights and mail to:

SILVER KNIGHTS
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.

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 or by mail at Silver Knights, c/o Human Resources, Rutgers, The State University, 57 US Highway #1 South, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

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.