A Green Thumb Honed at Rutgers Yields a Win in Philly Flower Show

In the courtyard of the Newell Garden apartments on the Cook Campus, you will likely find Helen Misiewicz tending to her gardens, weeding, and generally creating a beautiful landscape. A 25-year Rutgers Grounds employee, Misiewicz has come to own the courtyard area, putting her special touch on the landscape.

Over the years, Misiewicz has volunteered at the Rutgers greenhouses, and honed her skills so much so that this year, she took a winning ribbon in the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show. Her entry Anacampseros Alstonii is a succulent plant, native to Namibia, South Africa. It reproduces by seed only and full growth can take decades. Misiewicz' first place entry is five years old and the judges considered the size exceptional for a regional species.

The flower show is the nation's largest and longest running horticultural event.

When she is not cultivating award-winning plants, Misiewicz is tending to her hearty banana tree, fig tree, hollies grown from seed, and multiple other plants and flowers in the courtyard, including a stunning Japanese Maple.

"One year I got fruit from the banana," said the energetic Misiewicz. "Another year, someone stole my Elephant Ears." She thinks it was a visitor to campus who walked away with the jumbo-sized leaves. "I built the walls and brick paths, even a little bench over there, and I always keep up with the weeding. By the end of June, beginning of July, it looks just beautiful," she said as she tossed soil around in two large concrete planters. "I'll put some type of flower in these in the next couple of weeks," she said. "By graduation it will look good."

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INSIDE IPO

April-May 2017

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INSIDE IPO is a newsletter for the employees of the Division of Institutional Planning and Operations.

If your department has news you would like to share for inclusion in the newsletter, please contact the editor:

Elizabeth C. Crann
Manager Communications
Institutional Planning and Operations
848-445-2401
elizabeth.crann@rutgers.edu
Message from the Executive Vice President & COO

As I read through the pages of our newsletter, I am struck by two stories. In one, an IPO grounds person beautifies our campuses by pulling weeds, planting and tending to flowers, trees, and shrubs. In another, our staff modernizes the campus by bringing synchronous technology classrooms to our students.

Neither task is mundane; both are time consuming. Both require planning and skill, yet one is as old as the dawn of time, and the other, just emerging, is the dawn of distance learning at Rutgers.

Certain tasks our division performs will always require a manual approach. Others are accomplished in ways that are not so visible or obvious, and yet, in both cases, great things happen. When you read the article about the synchronous classrooms, please note that this addresses one of the main initiatives of the Master Plan: the need to reduce the number of bus trips our students take to travel to and from class.

As the Master Plan outlined, we must bring the classrooms to the student. This technology is one way to do that. It has another benefit: in a university that literally covers the state, schools such as Rutgers School of Nursing will be able to hold a lecture simultaneously in Camden and in Newark with the instructor life size in one location and live in the other. The ease of attending class changes overnight. What a recruiting tool for the university! We are literally changing the face of education as we employ certain advanced technologies to get us there. Exciting times for sure, and IPO is at the forefront.

Despite rapidly advancing technology, we cannot forget the tasks--often manual tasks--that are crucial to many things we do, especially this time of year. We have completed another academic year and made it through multiple graduation ceremonies and graduation related events with the help of University Public Safety, Support Services, Transportation, and the many University Facilities grounds, maintenance, utilities, and custodial staff. I thank you all for the hard work that goes into

Sincerely,

Antonio Calcado

View the newsletter on our website: https://ipo.rutgers.edu.

Don’t forget to visit our social sites:
Green Thumb

(Continued from page 1.)

When Misiewicz first started at Rutgers, the area was full of weeds. Volunteering in the greenhouses, Misiewicz learned a lot about weed and insect control. Working on Cook, she has also come across her share of vultures, coyote, raccoons, feral cats, and even a black squirrel that frequents her gardens. “The coyote don’t come up this way, but I’ve seen them early in the morning when I am driving to campus. There are a lot of coyotes around. I also help with the cat care because we have a lot of feral cats on campus.” On Rutgers Day, Misiewicz received a phone call; she was told that a huge branch had broken off of one of the trees, when it crashed to the ground everyone was surprised to find a family of baby raccoons that had been sleeping on the branch. “They told me ‘we have students running around campus with blankets trying to catch all the babies.’”

With 14 months and counting until she retires, Misiewicz worries that when she retires the gardens will not be looked after as well. In the meantime, she continues to weed and grow her garden to the delight of the students and staff who frequent the area.

Below, Misiewicz’ entry in the Philadelphia Flower Show, Anacampseros Alstonii is a succulent plant, native to Nambia, South Africa. Clockwise from above, a Japanese Maple graces Misiewicz’ gardens, a bench she made creates a serene scape, a tulip bed in full bloom, and a gazebo enhances the courtyard garden outside of the Newell Garden Apartments.
Immersive Synchronous Classrooms Debut
Addresses Key Master Plan Initiative

With 90,000 daily riders, Rutgers University boasts one of the largest university bus systems in the nation, and the second largest bus system in the state of New Jersey, behind only NJ Transit. The bus system is integral to transporting students around the campuses.

In 2015, IPO unveiled Rutgers 2030, the University’s new master plan, which emphasizes campus connectivity and transportation as central elements of the plan’s implementation. One of the plan’s key findings: although the transportation system is well run, the underlying University systems responsible for housing, scheduling, and registration were not well coordinated, and student schedules were not optimized to reduce course-related student travel. A novel approach was needed: bring the classroom to the student.

In Spring 2017, Rutgers took a major step in realizing that challenge with the launch of two immersive synchronous lecture halls, the first of their kind in the country. With this initiative, Rutgers created state-of-the-art classrooms designed to reduce student bus travel while maintaining the quality of instruction.

The Wright Reiman Auditorium in the Chemistry Building on the Busch Campus and Loree 024 on the Cook/Douglass Campus are Rutgers’ first immersive synchronous lecture halls and promise to be the future of learning at Rutgers and beyond.

With the immersive technology designed by Rutgers with a host of outside vendors, the instructor is live in one location and is projected life size, in high definition in another. The live location is called the “throw room,” and the remote room is called the “catch room”.

“The rooms are built around the technology,” explained David C. Schulz, Vice President, Planning, Development, and Design. “It’s about point to point; the design is important, but the technology is the driving factor.” Acoustical materials and sophisticated directional microphone arrays, for example, assure that the sound is crystal clear from one room to the other, whether the instructor or the students at either location are speaking. The design elements in each room are identical, making it seem as though everyone is in one big lecture hall.

Paul Hammond, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Technology and Instruction, who recently held a demonstration of the new immersive classrooms, emphasized this concept: “A great deal of thought was put into the design of the rooms. . . . A lot went into the fit and finish of the classrooms. The wall fabrics, seat fabrics, the room tone and temperature are all intentional,” Hammond explained. “They are our most state-of-the-art classrooms.”

Hammond also added that the Master Plan showed that students are spending too much time on buses. “The Master Plan looked carefully at student travel; compelled by these findings, President Barchi wanted to reduce course related travel. A key finding from

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Strategic Policing As the Camden Campus Expands

Like a sparkling jewel in a city that tops the list of most dangerous US cities, Rutgers University’s Camden Campus is attractive, clean, and bustling with activity. How does IPO’s Public Safety group keep this growing campus safe?

Camden Campus police chief, Richard Dinan has worked on all three legacy Rutgers campuses. Each has unique challenges. “Problems differ from campus to campus. In Camden, about 90 percent of our students commute. We only have two dorms. While we don’t have the same problems associated with a campus like New Brunswick which has a high concentration of residents and many more dorms, one bad incident on the Camden Campus can translate into a steep drop in recruitment of students and faculty.” With this in mind, Chief Dinan and his officers focus on maintaining a high profile on campus.

Chief Dinan, who runs the smallest RU police force, in a city riddled with problems, has built up a visible presence throughout the campus. “It’s an over-saturation model. Our officers have a strong visible presence on campus, and they are a welcome site. We focus on preventing crimes that could occur against people on campus from those outside of campus.” Dinan employs a community policing approach. “If we find an open vehicle or that a student has left a valuable item visible in their car, we will leave a courtesy note advising them to lock their cars and remove valuables from sight. Things like that go a long way.”

Dinan was named chief of the Camden Campus in March, succeeding Chief Guy Still who retired in October 2016 after 38 years on the force. Dinan served as interim chief until his appointment was finalized.

A graduate of Mount Saint Mary University in Emmitsburg MD, Dinan interned with the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). “I wanted to go into some type of investigative work like with the FBI,” Dinan said. After graduating from Mount Saint Mary, he put himself through the police

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Lincoln Tunnel Challenge

Rutgers Newark police officers completed the Lincoln Tunnel Challenge on Saturday, April 9, 2017, benefitting Special Olympics New Jersey. This is the first year the Rutgers PD Newark Cares team participated.

Police Officer Tameka Morris finished as the top fundraiser. The RUPD Newark Cares team was the second highest fundraising team raising a total of $3,395. The RUPD team was also the highest fundraising law enforcement team.

Rutgers officers ran with family members and participating students.

Police Officer Dave Ortiz’s daughter, Bella Ortiz, was the fastest child to complete the challenge in her age class, earning her a medal.

According to Special Olympics of New Jersey, proceeds from the fundraiser go to year around training, competition, leadership opportunities, and health screenings for more than 25,000 athletes. Great work team Rutgers!

#RUPDcares!
Student Employee of the Year
Community Service Officer Awarded

Three Rutgers Public Safety Community Service Officers (CSO) were nominated for the meritorious 2017 Student Employee of the Year Award hosted by the Office of Financial Aid. Of the three officers, CSO Matthew Moynihan garnered a third place award. Nominees and winners were honored at an April 13 ceremony.

There are about 15,000 student employees on Rutgers campuses who are eligible for nomination within their respective departments. Of these, there are about 100 Public Safety CSOs from whom Moynihan and the other two nominees-- Mitchell Nicklaus and Bailey Kimmel—were chosen.

All three worked for Public Safety as CSO supervisors and all three graduated on May 14. Moynihan was recognized for providing strong leadership and guiding the philosophy and growth of the CSO Division.

Rutgers CSOs are full-time students, who are uniformed, unarmed, paid employees of RU Public Safety. All CSOs receive 40 hours of formal training prior to assignment duties. The CSO program started at Rutgers in 2000 after the deadly and widely publicized fire at Seton Hall University’s Boland Hall, on January 19 of that year. “We had to install sprinkler systems throughout the residence halls and we needed a security presence in the student rooms while the sprinklers were being installed,” explained Vincent DeNota, Director/Commander, Security Services, Rutgers Public Safety. DeNota, who oversees the CSOs added, “We asked students to do this because we thought students watching students would be a good idea.”

The CSO program grew, and while New Brunswick has the largest number of CSOs, all of the campuses have a CSO team and their work has become a vital part of the Public Safety group within IPO.

“The program grew with the Knightmover Shuttle service. From there we started employing the students to do bag checks at games, they started helping support the police department at events, such as placing cones and barriers, and they patrol dorms and academic buildings,” DeNota said. CSOs patrol on foot, bicycle, horseback, and in marked public safety vehicles. They are the eyes and ears of the campus community. The mounted unit is thought to be the only student mounted police program in the nation.

Rutgers Public Safety employees have three types of officers on all campuses. Rutgers police officers are sworn officers, and non-sworn positions include fulltime Security Officers and the student CSOs.

The CSO program is designed to work around student schedules and as supervisors, among their many duties, Moynihan, Nicklaus, and Kimmel were required to manage CSO schedules, which meant scheduling students around academic schedules. Supervisors are on call 24/7. “If someone called in sick, we have to be available,” Kimmel said. Shifts change every semester and student’s academic pursuits are prioritized when scheduling.

“The program provides a great recruiting tool,” said DeNota who came out of the CSO program. “For students who are interested in a career in law enforcement, this is a great place to start.” Rutgers has quite a few sworn officers who were CSOs as students.

Both Nicklaus and Moynihan are interested in pursuing Public Safety careers, and have applications in with Rutgers Public Safety. Kimmel, who supervised the Mounted Unit, is pursuing humanitarian work and will be moving to Seattle in August and then contemplating work in Africa. The Mounted Unit has added requirements. There are three horses, all from the Rutgers University Equine Science Center. Mounted CSOs ride in four-hour shifts during the academic year.

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Immersive Synchronous Classrooms

(Continued from page 5.)

the Master Plan shows that 75 percent of our students take two bus trips daily—one round-trip. We want to turn ‘two-trippers’ into ‘no-trippers’.

Each immersive classroom has multiple screens. In the throw room, the instructor is live and sees himself or herself in a “confidence monitor” at the back of the room. Larger screens directly behind the students project the students in the other classroom. Moreover, instructors can choose from among different “scenes,” according to their preference, to project different source content on the three screens in the front of the classroom.

In the catch room, students see the life size instructor on a floor to ceiling screen. Because the screens in the throw room also project the catch room, direct eye contact makes the experience even more intimate. “As opposed to a streaming ‘talking head,’” Hammond said, “this is a real life, real time experience.”

While immersive learning has been done on a very small scale in offices and classrooms, nationally, it has never been done on this scale. Each lecture hall has the capacity to seat approximately 150 people, and it is a scalable solution.

Though this solution was designed to address transportation challenges on the Rutgers University–New Brunswick Campus, Rutgers aims to use this technology to connect with our campuses in Newark and Camden and locations across the State and, eventually, with our Big 10 peers. “We are leading with this technology,” Schulz said. “Camden will have an immersion classroom in the new Nursing and Science building, Newark is underway, and RBHS Newark is in analysis.”

Frank Reda, University Director, OIT explained that the video and audio are carried over network technology. “It can be set up anywhere. While the intention is to reduce bus travel, the technology has the added benefit of conducting classes simultaneously.” For example, Rutgers holds nursing and law courses in both Newark and Camden, and this technology allows for simultaneous classes on both campuses.

Reda explained that other locations are currently being evaluated. “When choosing a location for the immersive classrooms, OIT does an assessment of network capacity, as well as redundancy. Multiple paths have to be capable of carrying the signals if one goes down.” Reda added that the room is designed to meet the needs of the technology. “This was a great team effort. Facilities, Digital Classroom Services, and OIT were all key stakeholders. We assembled a very good team, and we did something Rutgers can be proud of.”

Senior Project Architect, Christopher Hack, was the lead project manager overseeing the demolition and renovations on the lecture halls. “The lecture halls did not meet ADA compliance,” Hack explained referring to the Americans with Disabilities Act. “We had to change the slope of the floor, which was particularly challenging in the Loree building because of the construction noise disturbing the adjacent classrooms.” Hack added that the background noise from the HVAC systems in both lecture halls also posed a challenge. “Any background noise in these rooms has to be minimized to the point of being barely audible as not to be picked up by the microphones.” Both lecture halls needed upgrades to the electrical infrastructure to support the technology. Multiple contractors participated in the renovations.

Currently the same stakeholders are looking for what is called “bolt-on” locations. This essentially adds the technology to existing buildings, thereby eliminating the need for brand new infrastructure to accommodate the new technology.

Rutgers is at the forefront in implementing immersive synchronous classroom environments, and leading the way for other higher education institutions in using this cutting-edge technology.
Community Service Officers
(Continued from page 7.)

CSOs must know how to care for the animals--identify illness or injury, and of course, know how to ride. "It's a great program. It gives people on campus the opportunity to meet a horse close up and it provides a link between students and police," said Kimmel. The mounted unit took part in the Douglass College graduation this year, and, in addition to general patrol, they are seen at events throughout the academic year. There are about 15 mounted CSOs.

Supervisors are encouraged to bring their own ideas to the program. "We develop initiatives, look to improve the program, and supervise our staff at large events, such as graduations," said Moynihan. DeNota added, "A lot is put upon the supervisors as far as making the program their own. We welcome new ideas and over the years, we have expanded the program using the input from our CSOs."

Nicklaus said that the program helped him to focus on a career. "I came to Rutgers with no idea of a career path. This job showed me the backbone of public safety and how it works." Moynihan added that the job resulted in many connections in emergency services work and hands-on experience. He hopes to get into dispatch work. Kimmel who came into the program for the horses said, "It has been everything I wanted and more. I've worked with the Secret Service and hundreds of cops. You get to see how a police department really functions."

All three outgoing supervisors said that the program provides a bridge between students and police. "When they see us in uniform, students approach us," said Nicklaus. "Students connect with us," added Moynihan.

Congratulations CSO Moynihan, and best wishes to all three outgoing CSOs, and thank you for your service!

Policing Camden
(Continued from page 6.)

academy and applied to some federal agencies. He then got a call from Rutgers Newark. "It takes a while to get sworn in, and during the wait, I heard from US Customs where they had a K-9 position open."

Dinan and his Belgium Malinois K-9 partner were assigned to JFK airport. "I was commuting from the Jersey shore to JFK. Between the tolls, and destroying my car commuting to work, there was not much money left at the end of the day. I was at a barbecue one day where I ran into some of the Rutgers people who wanted me to come back to Rutgers. In 1998 I joined Rutgers Newark."

Dinan worked on the Newark campus until 2000. During that time he often worked the New Brunswick campus when the need arose for officers at the football games. Dinan got to know the supervisors in New Brunswick and put in for a transfer. He was transferred to New Brunswick where he stayed until 2009, when a promotional opportunity arose on the Camden campus; Dinan applied. He became Captain in 2010 under Chief Still.

Campus shuttles and escort services run frequently on the Camden Campus because they are effective in keeping students safe. "We have excellent relationships with the students and with Residence Life," Dinan said. Chief Dinan meets every two weeks in regards to student concerns in Camden. One of the items that emerged from frequent meetings was the need for a police sub-station in the Campus Center. "The Campus Center is the heart of this campus. We are in the process of creating an office there, and we will run security escorts from there, as well."

While the Camden Campus is fairly self-contained, having cut out its own little district within the city, the opening of the new Rutgers Camden Nursing and Science Building will result in a campus building a few blocks off the main campus. "Again it's a force multiplier," said Dinan. "We will over-saturate the area along the 5th Street corridor to Federal Street. Our buses will also run along this route, and we recently purchased four Segway-type vehicles to optimize patrols."

Dinan said that working closely with all departments and the students on the Camden Campus has resulted in a very high satisfaction rate. "We receive a lot of calls from parents. When they visit the campus, they feel much more comfortable. I freely give my cell phone number to parents when they have a problem or concern. Personal safety and community policing are a priority on this campus."
Rutgers to Create Universal Design Standards

This summer Rutgers University will begin to take Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards a step beyond and create building standards that will not only address people with disabilities, but an entire population, thereby creating specific building standards across all of our campuses.

“These new standards,” said William Welsh, Associate Vice President and ADA/504 Compliance Officer, Rutgers Access and Disability Resources, “will be better used by all individuals. It will not only cover people with disabilities, but, for example, children, people who are shorter in stature, as well as considering that people are often carrying something in one or both hands. We are looking at the entire population.”

Welsh is currently working with the Planning, Development, and Design group within IPO to create design standards that are not just ADA compliant, but that are unique to Rutgers and go beyond what ADA standards require.

“A visually impaired person wants to use the automatic door opener,” explained Susan J. Ryan, RA Historic Project Architect, “with these new standards, the individual will know that all of the automatic door pads will be on a specific side of the building, at a specific height. This will be the same from building to building on all of our campuses.”

Three years ago Strategic Services undertook a Facilities Condition Analysis, guided by a consulting firm, ISES Corporation, whose architectural and engineering assessors helped lead the process of laying out a lifetime inventory of assets. “With this information, we can prepare for needed upgrades of maintenance items, and as a result budget more accurately,” said Joe Holtsclaw, Director, IWMS Administration, who oversaw the process. “We are now beginning to see our data being put into action within our schools and units. This project is one of those driven by that data.”

A Facilities Access Council, which includes Ryan, Holtsclaw, University Architect, Jeff Livingston, and Andrew Burian, Senior Design Planner, was formed to review and prioritize the standards. “We are looking at where we get the most complaints, standardizing where we put the door buttons, high traffic areas, and the most egregious issues,” Welsh explained.

Council members completed a walk-through of buildings, and also reviewed information from the Master Plan to determine if any buildings are slated for demolition. A list of priority buildings was completed, and a draft of the new guidelines is expected to be completed this summer. “Project Managers will likely be trained in the standards, and these will automatically be incorporated into plans for new buildings,” said Ryan.

The project will start in New Brunswick and then expand statewide to form a similar plan for Newark, Camden and RBHS.

Kudos to Thomas Cunningham, Operations Area Manager:

Tom-

Admitted Student Open House was a big success yesterday as we welcomed just about 13,000 visitors to campus. I want to express my sincere thanks to you Tom for answering my calls late Friday night and then again all day Saturday as we navigated through the day. As you know this day is a monumental task and it can only be accomplished with the help of so many people. Your professionalism and willingness to help with every situation was invaluable to me.

I welcome your thoughts on anything we can address to help make Open House even better for next year. Thank you again, Tom. It is so reassuring to me to know that I can always reach you when I need you!

Best regards,

Barbara Loftus, CMP
Admissions Counselor – Campus Programs
Visitor Center Manager
Undergraduate Admissions
COMINGS
AND
GOINGS

Painting Camden for 42 Years

If you are looking for Chip Jonczak on the Camden Campus, you might be told “You can’t miss him, he’s the tallest guy here”. At 6 feet, 4 inches tall, Jonczak is certainly a recognizable figure on the campus, but he stands out even more for his affable personality, and for being the longest serving Facilities employee in Camden.

Jonczak started working a temporary position on the Camden Campus on February 16, 1975. “I was newly married, had a child on the way, and Rutgers was looking for a carpenter to help renovate the Facilities building,” Jonczak said. “I came in as a temporary laborer, and soon the walls were going up and things were getting done on the renovations, and it was time to paint, but there was only one painter. I was hired to paint.”

Jonczak learned the trade, and when the other painter retired, Jonczak took over. Since then, he has seen the campus grow and has painted every building on the Camden Campus. “It has been a good run,” he said.

Jonczak recalled his first day. “I was sent to a Facilities building on campus and the only other person in the building was the boiler mechanic walking towards me. We stopped to talk for a minute and he told me he was here 16 years. I thought, ‘Wow. I hope I make 16 years.’ ”

Now, 42 years later, and sporting a paint stained ID holder and a classic painter’s cap, Jonczak says the highlight for him has always been the people. “This place is so social, and the job allowed me time with my kids. I never missed a sporting event.” Jonczak, who is married 43 years and has two adult children, added, “I’ve lived a good life.”

At 62, Jonczak will not be retiring completely, and is looking forward to a new career. “I saw this guy on a PBS show, Bob Ross. He paints landscapes and I used to watch his show all the time. My son bought me the Bob Ross Painting Kit so that I could learn to paint landscapes,” Jonczak explained. “You can also become a Certified Ross Instructor and teach others to paint in this style. I am going to go to Florida, take the course, and become a Bob Ross instructor.”

On his last day at Rutgers, Jonczak said, he wants to work a full day. “I want to work the whole day and punch out with everyone, and remind them that I won’t have to punch back in tomorrow,” he chuckled at the good-natured jabbing he expects to give his co-workers.

A long, happy, and colorful retirement to Chip Jonczak.
A retirement breakfast was recently held for Blandina Montemayor, Manager, Budgets and Records, who retired on April 30, after 40 dedicated years of crunching numbers to the penny!

Montemayor, who was a legacy UMDNJ employee joined the University in 1977. She eventually landed in the Facilities department where she oversaw the capital construction budget, literally tracking millions and millions of dollars.

Many co-workers attended the breakfast at 33 Knightsbridge Road, where Montemayor was presented with gifts and even roasted by her boss Gerry Thomas.

“My daughter, Ellen, is pregnant with her first child, and when she and her husband told us the happy news, I started thinking it was time to move on from this to being a grandmother,” Montemayor said. “I am very excited to be a grandmother. I will miss everyone at Rutgers.”

At the breakfast, Montemayor offered her thanks to everyone and snapped a lot of photographs with her co-workers. “It’s going to be different, but it’s time, and there is so much to look forward to. I am very blessed.”

Best wishes Blandina for a long, and happy retirement!