



# RUTGERS

The Rutgers University Libraries  
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# RUTGERS

University Libraries

# Report

FALL 2008 ISSUE

## A FEW WORDS FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

The Libraries spent considerable time this past spring advocating for the restoration of \$1 million in funding for the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative (NJKI) in this year's New Jersey state budget, and the inclusion of \$3 million in funding in the 08/09 budget.

There's good news and bad news to report.

We were unsuccessful in getting funding restored for this past year, but the NJKI is funded in the current state budget for \$2 million. The NJKI will, however, revise its focus. Instead of funding scientific, technology, and business databases for small businesses and the academic community, it will fund a broader array of business databases. This means that many science databases previously provided to Rutgers through the NJKI program will cease to be supported. This represents a loss of \$800,000 to \$1 million for Rutgers and if we wish to subscribe to these science databases we will have to purchase them ourselves.

Realizing what the loss of these critical databases would mean for the Rutgers community, Executive Vice President Furmanski provided the Libraries with funding this year to continue the subscriptions when the funding ran out in February, and to help purchase them this fiscal year. The State Library has already agreed to fund a general purpose database, *Academic Search Premier*, for higher education, and is convening a task force to determine which new

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## EXEMPLARY RUTGERS ALUMNI FAMILY VALUES LAW AND THE LIBRARIES

Sometimes an alumnus' warm feelings for Rutgers prompts him to stay connected to his old school, decades after graduation.

Sometimes that warm sentiment can grow and inspire his entire family, adding rich new depth to the "original" alumnus' ties to the university.

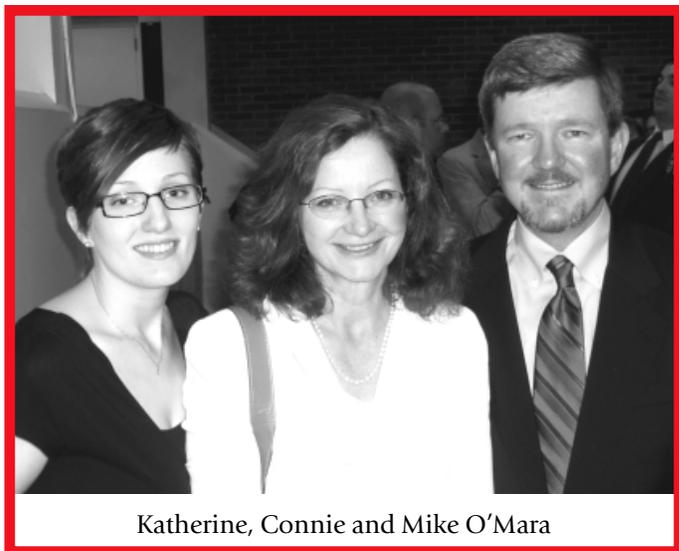
Such is indeed the case with the O'Mara family.

After graduating Rutgers in 1978 with a joint major in math and economics, Michael went to Notre Dame Law School where he met his wife Connie on the front steps of the law school building during their first days at the school. They married in 1979, graduated in 1981, and went directly to work in the legal profession in New Jersey.

Michael worked for a law firm in Westmont for nine years before leaving with four colleagues in 1991 to form Mayfield, Turner, O'Mara, Donnelly, & McBride. The law firm specializes in defending companies in civil litigation and product liability cases, with particular focus on construction, employment, environmental, and general commercial litigation. The firm received statewide attention after successfully defending Community House in Moorestown, New Jersey from a personal injury lawsuit before the New Jersey State Supreme Court in November

2000, resulting in an important judicial clarification of the state's Charitable Immunity Act.

Connie took time off after graduation



Katherine, Connie and Mike O'Mara

from law school to give birth to their daughter Katherine before beginning work as an associate with a small law firm in Collingswood, New Jersey. In the mid 1980's Connie took a position at Cigna Property and Casualty Company, which was later sold to ACE Insurance companies, where she worked for 20 years and rose to become the President of the Brandywine Division of ACE USA.

In 2005 Connie decided to venture out on her own and formed O'Mara Consulting, LLC. Connie advises insurance companies on property and casualty claims, arbitrates inter-company disputes, and mediates disputes between litigants and insurance companies.

The next generation of the O'Mara

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## A Few Words From the University Librarian

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databases will best serve the broader small business community. We are hopeful that these will be of interest to higher education and might also be funded through the NJKI.

This past year we also made a concerted effort to improve the facilities in all our libraries, based on the results of focus group discussions and our *LibQual* survey. Funds were allocated for additional outlets in the libraries to assist those who are using laptops and other technology that needs recharging. We have added study rooms to accommodate students who wish to work in groups and conduct conversations that would interfere with those doing quiet study. The Robeson Library renovated space on its first floor with a lounge, new reference desk area, and computer labs. More artwork is being displayed in the Libraries, and the Library of Science and Medicine was outfitted for videoconferencing.

Refurbishing plans will continue over the next several years as we address the space needs highlighted by our students. Most of this work is made possible through donor support, primarily through the University Librarian's Excellence Fund. Thanks to all our supporters who contribute to this fund and support the work of our Libraries. ■



## Exemplary Rutgers Alumni Family

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family, Kate, followed in her father's footsteps, graduating from Rutgers College in 2004. She enrolled in Rutgers-Camden Law School in 2005 and graduated in May of this year. She is set to clerk next year for Judge Rafferty, the presiding general chancery judge in Gloucester County.

In a charming parallel to her parents, Kate recently married Ryan Mowll, a fellow Rutgers-Camden law student, who she met while both were in their first year of Law School. Adding to the similarities, both Connie and her new son-in-law both originally called Illinois home when they started law school, and both moved to New Jersey after law school.

Though it's been 30 years since he resided on the banks of the old Raritan, Michael has maintained a strong bond with his alma mater. He expresses his affection for Rutgers through his generous support of the Rutgers University Libraries.

Michael's appreciation of the Libraries stems from warm memories of spending many nights studying in the

## NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED FOR DANA LIBRARY AT RUTGERS-NEWARK

**M**ark Winston was recently appointed assistant chancellor and director of the John Cotton Dana Library at Rutgers University in Newark. His appointment began September 1.

Winston will oversee the Dana Library and the Institute of Jazz Studies, with a combined budget of \$2.7 million and a staff of 38. As assistant chancellor, he will manage campuswide academic initiatives and strengthen the campus's engagement with its urban community in teaching and research.

Winston had been associate professor in the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill since 2006, and prior to that, taught for seven years at the Rutgers School of Communication, Information and Library Studies on the New Brunswick campus.

Since 1997, Winston has also been a consultant and trainer in management, diversity, and leadership. He is author or

editor of three books and has published numerous articles in refereed journals and other publications, many addressing equity, multiculturalism and diversity issues in library studies, information services, and teaching.

Winston earned his undergraduate degree in business management from Hampton University in Virginia, graduating *summa cum laude*. He received both his master's of library science and his Ph.D. in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a doctoral fellow and teaching assistant.

To read the full story, see: [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/news/08/05\\_winston\\_dana\\_director.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/news/08/05_winston_dana_director.shtml). ■



## INTRODUCING THE NEW LIBRARIES LIBX TOOLBAR: USE LIBRARY RESOURCES WHILE SURFING THE INTERNET



The Rutgers University Libraries LibX Toolbar acts as a companion to the Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft's Internet Explorer web browsers. Once installed, it provides instant access via a drop-down menu of links to the following Libraries' resources and services: Hours and Directions, My Account, IRIS - Libraries' catalog, Indexes and Databases, Searchlight, Delivery and Interlibrary Loan, Refworks, Ask a Librarian, Autolinking feature to full-text articles.

The toolbar also includes other new capabilities provided by the Libraries. For more information on this new feature please see: [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/news/08/05\\_toolbar.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/news/08/05_toolbar.shtml). ■

Alexander Library, and taking breaks to randomly select and read a diverse range of books not on his course syllabi. He also recalls fruitful "between classes" time spent at the Library of Science and Medicine and the Math Library.

Michael also believes strongly that the Libraries are one of the most critical elements of Rutgers. As he recently explained: "The strength of a good university is the capability of students and faculty to access high quality information. The core of that access is the university library."

Connie has carved her own niche as a Rutgers spouse, parent, and enthusiastic supporter. She has spoken to Rutgers-Camden law students on interviewing skills and business etiquette. She and Michael attend events for alumni and donors at Rutgers-New Brunswick and she has

developed a bond with University Librarian Marianne Gaunt. Connie comments that she continues to learn a great deal about the technological achievements of the Rutgers University Libraries, and the leadership that Libraries' administrators such as Marianne exercise on national scale, through these encounters.

The Libraries are grateful to Connie and Michael O'Mara for their warm and principled involvement in our work. We look forward to their continued good counsel and partnership. ■

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