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 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 family, 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 family, Katherine, Connie and Mike O’Mara...
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

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 Rafferly, 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 met while both were in their first year of Law School. Adding to the similarities, both Connie and her new son-in-law graduated from Rutgers in 2004. She enrolled in Rutgers–Newark, and he majored in Psychology. Connie has carved her own niche in the Libraries, and the leadership that Libraries’ resources and services: Hours and Directions, My Account, IRIS - Libraries’ catalog, 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_winston_dana_director.shtml.

New Director appointed for Dana Library at Rutgers—Newark

Mark 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.

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.

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