Criminal Justice
Legal Forum
The Kean University Criminal Justice Program, in cooperation with the Union County Bar Association, will present the Criminal Justice Legal Forum on Wednesday, November 19, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. in the New Academic Building, Room 113.

Thomas Lateano, assistant professor in the Criminal Justice Program in the Department of Public Administration, will moderate a panel of distinguished attorneys and criminal-justice professionals who will speak on topics of interest to the entire Kean community. Topics include what to do when arrested; how to prevent identity and other types of fraud; the legalities surrounding automobile searches by police; and the impact of narcotics trafficking. For further information, please contact Thomas Lateano at 7-4315.

Faculty Senate Meeting
The Kean University Faculty Senate will hold an executive-committee meeting on Tuesday, November 25, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Wilks Hall, Room 107. For further information, please e-mail Gloria Duff at gduff@kean.edu.

Dedication Ceremony
The Board of Trustees and President Dr. Dawood Farahi cordially invite the Kean University community to the dedication ceremony of the Wynona Moore Lipman Ethnic Studies Center, on Tuesday, November 25, at 5 p.m. in the Nancy Thompson Library. For further information or to RSVP, please contact the Foundation at 7-3340 or via e-mail at kuf@kean.edu.

Kean Briefs
Student-Researchers Explore Communication as a Joking Matter
Humorous communication plays an important role in our everyday social interactions. Kean is responsible for training future communication scholars and professionals, and due in large part to the outstanding instruction of Dr. Janet Yedes, assistant professor in the Department of Communication, the learning process for five Kean students extended beyond the University’s campus to the New York State Communication Association’s (NYSCA) 61st annual conference, titled Celebrating Our Accomplishments, Questioning Our Assumptions, on October 24 through 26, in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

Two Kean seniors, Jerome Collins, editor-in-chief of The Tower, and Chris Eutsey, a communication major, as well as three Kean alumni, Millie Gonzalez ’02, university relations specialist; Will Harris ’03; and Brandy Jamison ’03, attended the regional conference as presenters for a panel titled Communicating through Humor. The students’ presentations stemmed from original research that they completed as part of the coursework for Yedes’ courses in Communication: Humor, or Communication Theory and Research classes. Yedes was pleased with her students’ work, saying, “I am very proud of the analytic and innovative work the students did as part of their courses. Their research illustrates compelling textures of everyday humorous interactions that playfully challenge gender, provide therapeutic benefits, show resistance, demonstrate the verbal artistry that occurs between African American men in a black barbershop, and show communicative exchanges between persons with differing abilities. Furthermore, they did an impressive job in representing the diversity and quality education that is characteristic of this University.”

Involvement in the NYSCA conference was equally beneficial to the students. “It was an honor to represent Kean and to be able to present my individual research at a regional level,” said Gonzalez. “I will use my involvement in this conference as a prelude to continued contributions to and professional development in the field of communication.”

The NYSCA is a group of educators, students and professionals who are dedicated to studying, improving and applying the principles and practices of communication to all walks of life. An educational forum for networking and exchanging ideas, this year’s conference was host to individuals representing institutes from around the world, such as New York University, the University of the Philippines, Rutgers University and Ithaca College, as well as compelling guest speakers. John Downing, chair of the Radio, Television and Film Department at the University of Texas, Austin, critiqued current communication research in conceptual, political and institutional ways. He is editor-in-chief of an upcoming publication titled Handbook of Media Studies. In a presentation titled Reflections of a War Photographer, David Turnley spoke of the work he has produced over the past 20 years in 75 countries, including a first-hand account with the Dalai Lama, a documentary that takes place in Havana, Cuba, and four segments he produced for ABC’s Nightline. One of the world’s leading photojournalists, Turnley has garnered several coveted international awards, including a 1995 Pulitzer Prize, a CINE Golden Eagle award and two World Press Picture of the Year recognitions. His account, in words and pictures, of his experience as a CNN correspondent in the current Iraq conflict, was recently published in a book titled Baghdad Blues.