More Than 500 Students Honored at Convocation

The Rev. Calvin O. Butts III Addresses the Kean Community

Proud parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends joined the more than 500 candidates for January, May and August graduation at the 2004 Honors Convocation on April 14 in Wilkins Theatre. The procession of students, faculty, staff and administrators was led by the Saint Columcille United Gaelic Pipe Band that provided the appropriate pomp and circumstance for the memorable event. Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs Betty Barber introduced President Dawood Farahi, and a passionate and inspirational convocation address was given by SUNY College at Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts III, D.Min., who is also pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City. As Wilkins Theatre could not hold all the guests, the event was transmitted to jumbo screens in Downs Hall, where relatives and friends watched the ceremony comfortably.

In Farahi’s welcoming remarks directed toward both parents and significant others who have supported the students throughout their Kean experience, he compared their endeavor to climbing a mountain. “You can choose the mountain you want to climb,” Farahi said. “At times, you may fall, but just get up and start walking again. Keep an eye on the peak of the mountain until you get there and can see the other side.”

Holly Logue, chair of the Department of Theatre, then gave a spirited rendition of Stop Time from the Broadway musical Big, and the Center for Instructional Resources and Technology presented a video, titled Honors Profiles, featuring some of the honors students. Apropos of the April showers outside, Kristen Bussiere, who also graduated magna cum laude, sang Don’t Rain on My Parade from the musical Funny Girl.

Barber then introduced Butts, who spoke of his “mantra,” education and faith, and likened the two to the Tigris and Euphrates rivers converging. “Education and faith are the

President Dawood Farahi has appointed Dr. Vinton Thompson to become the institution’s new provost and vice president for academic affairs, effective July 1, 2004.

Most recently, Thompson served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Roosevelt University in Chicago, a progressive and diverse independent university committed to student success, academic quality and social justice for its 7,400 students.

Thompson arrives at Kean with a reputation for being ahead of the academic curve on issues of curriculum and student recruitment, while demonstrating a keen financial savvy and a feel for successful fund-raising support. Since assuming the provost’s office at Roosevelt in April 2000, Thompson was credited for maintaining the university’s academic and institutional momentum during its three-and-a-half year period of presidential transition. At the same time, he administered to the institution’s financial health as well, overseeing three full fiscal-year budget cycles that produced surpluses of at least $1.6 million and as much as $2.2 million each year. Thompson also supported the president and vice president for development in successful fund-raising efforts that included gifts of $5 million and $1 million from Roosevelt alumni and more than $3.5 million in funds from private business for the university’s new real-estate program.

Farahi said that he was impressed with Thompson’s work at Roosevelt, and noted that he addressed many of the same issues he will face at Kean. “Dr. Thompson aspires to the standards of a university that dares to be innovative without cost to the fundamentals of higher education,” he said. “He has demonstrated a clear commitment to academic excellence in an environment that values its own diversity, and that will serve him well at Kean. I’m very eager to begin working with him, and we’re excited about the future of Kean University.”

A New Jersey native who has spent the bulk of the past 30 years in Illinois, including most of the last 24 at Roosevelt, Thompson is equally enthusiastic about returning to his home state and beginning his tenure at Kean. “The University is at an interesting point in its continued on page 9
CBPA Curriculum Committee Meeting

The College of Business and Public Administration Curriculum Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, April 28, at 3:30 p.m. in Willis Hall, Room 311. For further information, please call the CBPA at 7-4120.

Psychology Workshop on Childhood Disorders

The Department of Psychology will host a workshop, Childhood Disorders: Treatment and Prevention, on Wednesday, April 28, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Hutchinson Hall, Room 100. Presenting will be Dr. Linda Knust, a psychologist and member of the Children, Family, and Schools Committee for New Jersey Psychological Association. For further information, please call Dr. Dennis Finger at 7-4024, Dr. Kit Ng at 7-4017, or Dr. Adrienne Garro at 7-4023.

East Campus Recreational Facilities Closure

The East Campus recreational facilities will be closing on Thursday, April 29, at 4:30 p.m. for the end of the semester. It will reopen on Monday, May 17, at 12:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Lorraine Flatley at 7-5800 or via e-mail at lflatley@kean.edu.

Faculty Senate Meeting

The Kean Faculty Senate will hold a full-senate meeting on Tuesday, May 4, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Center, Room 226 A and B. For further information, please e-mail Gloria Duff at gduff@kean.edu.

NABII Construction

On or about May 4, the contractor for NABII will start excavation for a water/fire main which will run from NABII towards the newly constructed Dougall Hall plaza between the Nancy Thompson Library and the University Center. This work will take approximately four weeks, weather permitting. For further information, please call Hasit Panchal at 7-5000.

Senator Thomas Kean Jr. Speaks at Fund-Raiser

The Student Organization of Kean University, Inc. raised nearly $500 for The Measles Initiative, a coalition of partners from domestic and international organizations committed to reducing measles mortality, all while educating more than 100 students and faculty members about the disease during a special fund-raiser reception held on April 12 in Downs Hall. The event featured guest speaker Sen. Thomas H. Kean Jr., of the 21st Legislative District, as well as President Dawood Farahi and Joseph Smith, president of the Student Organization of Kean University, Inc. In addition, representatives from the American Red Cross, which co-sponsored the event, gave informative presentations about its international work, and specifically about the impact of measles in Africa, and also presented an award to the Student Organization for its support of The Measles Initiative.

After Smith and Farahi addressed attendees about the importance of supporting the organization, Kean, who sits on the State Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizen Committee, further inspired the crowd to do their part by saying, “Think globally, act locally. We have all come together to see that this disease is beaten.”

According to The Measles Initiative Web site, measles kills nearly 1 million children, a half of those in Africa alone, each year. The organization has a long-term commitment to control measles deaths in Africa by vaccinating 200 million children through both mass and follow-up campaigns in up to 36 sub-Saharan African countries. By the year 2005, it hopes to have prevented 1.2 million deaths and nearly eradicated measles fatalities on the continent. The Web site also states that the goal is achievable, but will require sustained effort to increase awareness, build capacity, and raise the necessary funds.

“When I first learned of this wonderful organization, I felt that its global reach was a perfect match for the Student Organization’s three main goals of leadership, diversity and service,” said Joel Thomas, vice president for funded groups, who led the team that organized the fund-raiser. “I was pleased that we were able to support such a worthy cause, and hope that we have contributed to The Measles Initiative’s efforts to educate others about this preventable disease.”

Marshal Robe Distribution

Marshal robe distribution will begin Friday, April 30, and run through Wednesday, May 5, in the Wilkins Theatre Green Room. For more information, please call Pat Gruyth at 7-3449, Ken Wolpin at 7-7130, or Walter Mack at 7-3290. The specific times are as follows:

- **Friday, April 30**
  - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
  - Graduate marshals only
- **Monday, May 3**
  - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - All marshals
- **Tuesday, May 4**
  - 9 a.m. to noon
  - All marshals
- **Wednesday, May 5**
  - 9 a.m. to noon
  - All marshals
Dr. George Chang’s boundless curiosity for everything relating to computers took root at the age of 13, when his father first bought him a PC. Over the years, he has acquired a wealth of knowledge and skills, ranging from building computer systems to programming database software and Web-based applications. Three years ago, Chang drew upon these talents to co-author a book, titled *Mining the World Wide Web: An Information Search Approach*, on the complex subject of Web information systems. It can now be found in more than 200 university and research libraries around the world and, in January 2004, was translated into the Japanese language.

Chang wrote the original English-language text with Marcus J. Healey, James A.M. McHugh and Jason T.L. Wang, whom he met while pursuing his Ph.D. at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). Healey was Chang’s research collaborator, while Wang and McHugh were his dissertation advisors. In fact, Chang worked on his dissertation and the book simultaneously. “Half of the book is my Ph.D. dissertation,” he said. “The other half is a survey of current technologies in Web mining and information retrieval.”

The book is unique, Chang said, because it “bridges the gap between information retrieval, data mining, databases and the Web” and is intended for a wide range of audiences. It can be used as a supplement for upper-level undergraduate or graduate courses and also as a reference manual for businesses or Web practitioners who need to stay abreast of these technologies. Web mining, Chang explained, is the collection of Internet data for the purpose of determining patterns and then extracting knowledge that can be used for many practical purposes, including helping search engines generate and rank search results or to aid marketers in discovering consumers’ shopping habits.

Finding patterns and extracting usable knowledge is a key component of the broader field of data mining, something in which Chang is also an expert. Currently, he is using data mining to write bioinformatics-system software. “Bioinformatics is a growing area of science that uses computational approaches to answer biological questions,” Chang explained. His work focuses on software that will be used specifically for genome research, which, among other things, may “help scientists find better ways of detecting, preventing, diagnosing and treating diseases such as cancer.” Chang’s scholarly distinction in this area led to his induction into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in 2003.

Though he spends much of his time in front of a computer, Chang says interacting with students was the primary reason he accepted a position at Kean six years ago. “I appreciated that the University had small class sizes. I knew I’d get more time with students if I came here,” he said. Chang also volunteers as a coach for a team of students who represent the University in the annual Association for Computing Machinery Greater New York Programming Contest. He especially enjoys this work, because he gets to help young people who are as excited about computer programming as he was at the same age. “I learned everything I know today because of very good teachers who had a lot of patience with me,” Chang said. “Since I acquired my skills from them, I feel I now have the opportunity to give something back.” In fact, he dedicated his book to his teachers, especially his parents, for their encouragement, inspiration and love.

In addition to his regular teaching, coaching and interdisciplinary research work, Chang is considering another book project. He also spends many hours engaged in rollerblading and home-improvement projects, as well as nurturing his intellectual side by reading books about computers and other subjects such as philosophy, psychology and law. His interest in psychology led him to a collaborative-research project with Dr. Lisa Smith, associate professor of psychology, and Dr. Suzanne Bousquet, chair of and professor in the Department of Psychology. They penned a paper, titled *The Role of Information in Mediating Aesthetic Experience*, which has been accepted for presentation at the American Psychological Association’s meeting in July 2004. “I hope that my activities will enhance the image of our University as being active in academic research,” Chang said.

“I hope that my activities will enhance the image of our University as being active in academic research.”

Dr. George Chang
Kean Alumna Ruth Horowitz Delivers Lecture

Ruth Horowitz, a Kean alumna of the Class of 1930, has given much from her heart to the University, and imparted even more recently as she revealed a glimmer of her deep wisdom during her lecture, titled Reflections on Education: 1930 – 1980, on April 14. As she spoke in the hall that bears her name in the New Academic Building, this author and longtime educator, now 93 years of age, stood and held the rapt attention of a standing-room-only crowd of faculty, administrators and education students with anecdotes about her experiences. Claiming that this would be the last time she would give a full 30-minute speech, Horowitz recalled the days when she first earned teacher’s certification from Kean (then Newark Normal School). “These were times when gas was just 17 cents a gallon… but who had a car?,” she joked. She was substituting on a daily basis until 1933, in the midst of the Great Depression. “Many of us joined the unemployed,” she said. “But fortunate graduates received a permanent class.” As one of those lucky ones, Horowitz earned $6 a day as a teacher, and though the pay was not commensurate with the work, she was happy to be employed. As the depression grew worse, she recalled, “For 40 million people, poverty became a way of life, and it hurt to the core.”

Horowitz said a lone teacher would instruct rooms filled with as many as 54 students. Educators at the time were just beginning to organize unions and other associations. “We wanted better working conditions and better pay,” she said. “We didn’t profit much, but we started something, so teachers today have many more rights.” In her spare time, she wrote to express her opinions about the plight of teachers, and published in magazines such as American Childhood, Childhood Education, National Education, and New Jersey Education. She also authored several children’s books for Simon & Schuster, and penned teacher-training manuals.

Spending many of her years teaching first grade, Horowitz was decades ahead of her time when planning her curriculum. Long before “learning through play” became the standard of early-childhood education, she had students doing just that – building miniature houses, which they painted and furnished, and writing books for their own libraries. “We became authors, we became illustrators, we became publishers,” Horowitz recalled. “School was the place to come to love, not to just sit and look, but a wonderful place to be.” She added that one of her former students recently said, “I will never forget you. You taught me to read, and I never knew I was learning.”

Now retired, Horowitz has continued to give of herself to others. “We have come to what were supposed to be my golden years,” she said, and laughingly added, “However, I have heard them referred to as the ‘rusty ones.’” She has lectured and led seminars and workshops at educational institutions across the country, volunteered for Shelter Our Sisters, a non-profit organization that shelters victims of domestic violence in Bergen County, N.J., and for various senior citizens groups. Even after the loss of her husband, Leon Horowitz, whom she knew and loved for 67 years, she continued to fulfill her altruistic activities. Horowitz closed her lecture saying, “I hope and pray that all who have come and listened to words of wisdom and many ideas in this particular room will bring back knowledge to the best of their ability,” Horowitz said. “I love my work. I must have done something right. I’m here to tell that, from a struggling beginning of $6 a day, I’ve done quite well.”

Among her many accomplishments are earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees from New York University, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Kean. In 1970, she served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Children under President Richard M. Nixon. And, in 1984, the Kean Alumni House was dedicated as the Ruth Horowitz Alumni House. She said she has also used the money she received from lectures and seminars to establish scholarships at Kean, as well as other Universities. “If I told about all the things that this great-grandlady of Kean, Ruth Horowitz, has done for us, you’d be here until midnight,” said President Dawood Farahi, who introduced Horowitz prior to her eloquent lecture. “If I told you about all the awards and accomplishments she has received, you’d be here until tomorrow morning.”

Dr. Ana Maria Schuhmann, dean of the College of Education, also praised Horowitz, calling her a “lifelong learner” who represents the best of Kean tradition. “Having spent more than 50 years as an elementary-school teacher, she is still dedicated and believes that all children can learn. I thank her for being such a great example of what we all aspire to do.”

Africana Studies Faculty and Staff Workshop

The Office of Africana Studies cordially invites all faculty and staff of the University’s five colleges to participate in the fifth annual Africana Studies Faculty and Staff Workshop, titled The Impact of the Amistad Bill on Curriculum Development at Kean Part I: Follow The Drinking Gourd: The Underground Railroad, on Wednesday, May 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the University Center, Room 337 A and B. The event, sponsored in part by a special-projects grant awarded from the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, will be used to provide a $50 stipend for the first 40 faculty who register. To reserve a seat, please call Dr. Melodie Toby at 7-3983 or via e-mail at mtoby@kean.edu.

Guest speakers will include Dr. Charles Blockson, curator of the Afro-American Collection at Temple University, Sen. Nia H. Gill, Esq., 34th Legislative District; Assemblyman William D. Payne, 29th Legislative District; Samuel Still III, vice-president of Still Family Society, Inc.; William Still, descendant of the Father of the Underground Railroad; and Dr. Giles Wright of the New Jersey Historical Commission. For further information, please call the Office of Africana Studies at 7-3915.
Gonnella Guest Curates at Massachusetts Museum

Rose Gonnella, chair of the Department of Design and co-author of *Sea Captains’ Houses and Rose-Covered Cottages: The Architectural Heritage of Nantucket Island*, has been invited to be a guest curator of an exhibition of American architectural history at the museum of the Egan Institute of Maritime Studies, Nantucket, Mass. The exhibition, titled: *A Celebration of Nantucket's Architectural Heritage*, will open May 8 and run through September.

“This show will give an overview of one of America’s most magnificently preserved historic architecture collections, covering the period between 1660 and 1920,” said Gonnella. “Nantucket Island is the home of a nearly perfectly intact 18th and 19th century town. There are more than 2,400 historic structures including public buildings, homes and churches, and more than 800 homes that pre-date the Civil War – most in excellent condition.” She added that the display will cover many architectural styles, and will include floorplans, photographs, exterior schematics, models, paintings, and drawings. “There will also be artifacts, such as architecture pattern books, carpenter’s tools and account books,” Gonnella said. “The exhibit is the result of several years of investigation and research and it is the first of its kind on Nantucket – much anticipated by local, regional and national audiences for bringing to light a highly under-reported piece of American architectural history.”

Gonnella will give a public lecture about her book and the related exhibit at the Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Avenue, Scotch Plains, N.J., on April 29, at 7:30 p.m. In addition, she will hold presentations in Nantucket during the months of May and July.

We Need You!

Volunteers are needed to assist as Commencement marshals
at the Graduate ceremonies on May 4, 2004, at 4:30 p.m. at NJPAC and
at the Undergraduate ceremonies on May 6, 2004, at 7 a.m. at PNC.

On-the-job training will be provided for newcomers.

It’s easy. It’s fun. Join in!

For further information, please contact Pat Gruytch at 7-3449 or pgruytch@kean.edu; Ken Wolpin at 7-7130 or wolpin@kean.edu; or Walter Mack at 7-3290 or wmack@kean.edu.

Davinder Kaur (center, in a black leather jacket) recently engaged her 4- to 5-year-old class at the Kean University Child Care Center in Project Stream, a long-term course of study on the importance of water to all living things. The project included activities to address all curriculum areas and culminated with a clean-water campaign, during which the children, their families, student teachers and Kean administrators worked together to pick up any trash they found in and around the stream that runs through the main campus.

Samuel Everett helps his son, Evan, former Kean University Child Care Center student and brother of current student, Jordan (right), fish a plastic bottle out of the main campus stream.
twin rivers of the source of our redemption,” he said. “You are being honored today for having attained education, but did you get a solid education?” Butts referenced the author W.E.B. du Bois, who had listed three priorities to live by: improve character; increase knowledge; and earn a living. “Today, we have a problem with character,” Butts said. “We tend to make earning a living our top priority. Wisdom comes from the purposeful wandering through books, and I know that you get both wisdom and culture from the fine faculty here.” Butts referred to the honors video, saying it reminded him of “how we really need one another. And more and more the world is discovering that we need each other,” he said, referring to environmental and health crises throughout the world. “Men and women of education must rise above the narrow confines of race and reach for each other’s humanity. Everybody is special. Everybody deserves respect. Without a trained mind and a tuned heart you can’t go anywhere. If we’re going to bring about a better world, we have to believe in something that’s bigger than ourselves. Without our education and without our faith, we’re lost. But I’m encouraged by what I see here,” Butts said, concluding with the words of the title of a song by Curtis Mayfield, “Keep on Pushin!” Butts left the podium to a standing ovation by the nearly 1,000 people in attendance.

Everything from A Star is Born, sung by Jennifer Vaughn, recipient of the 2003 Presidential Scholarship Award, preceded a new segment of the Convocation ceremony this year, as each student had the opportunity to appear center stage to receive an honors certificate and a handshake by Farahi.

The ceremony concluded with a reception in Downs Hall.

(Counter-clockwise, top to bottom)

Joseph Barone (front), a candidate for May graduation earning a perfect 4.0, with his assistant David Adair

Kristen Bussiere (left), and Jennifer Vaughn. Bussiere, who is an honors candidate for May graduation, sang Don’t Rain on My Parade at the Convocation; Vaughn entertained with the song Everything.

Dr. Betty Barber, provost/vice president for academic affairs, had invited her husband, Richard Barber, to the Honors Convocation.

Venus Banks, a candidate for May graduation cum laude, is flanked by her parents Samuel and Mildred Banks.
(Top, left) John Radzik, a candidate for May graduation cum laude, was at the Honors Convocation with his mother, Patricia Radzik.

(Top, right) Mary Roman, professional services specialist in the Office of University Relations (left), and Caroline Jolly, director of Annual Giving, viewed the Honors Convocation on the jumbo screens in Downs Hall.

(Center) Jennifer Giordano, who graduated cum laude in January, with parents Linda and Joseph Giordano. The graduate is a 1990 Miss New Jersey Teen USA and a 1999 Miss New Jersey.

(Bottom, left) Stephen Vence, assistant to the dean of the College of Business and Public Administration (left); Homa Saghafi, accounting student who assisted with the Honors Convocation; and Dr. David Yamoah, dean of the College of Business and Public Administration, greeted the graduates and their families in Downs Hall.

(Bottom, right) Dr. Carole Shaffer-Koros, associate dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts (left); and Dr. Cathleen Londino, dean of the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences, met the students and their families in Downs Hall.
Dr. Ethel Young, associate dean of the College of Education (left), and Dr. Ana Maria Schuhmann, dean of the College of Education, were available for handshakes and meeting the families at the college banner in Downs Hall after the ceremony.

Mohammad A. Rahman, network analyst in the Office of Computer and Information Services, is also a candidate for May graduation magna cum laude.

Dr. Carole Shaffer-Koros, associate dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts; Dr. Barbara Wheeler, director of the Office of Africana Studies; and Dr. Melodie Toby, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, attended the Honors Convocation in Wilkins Theatre.

Lourdes Prieto, assistant to the dean of the College of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences (left), and Dr. Roxie James, dean of the College of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences, greeted the honors graduates and their parents at the college banner after the ceremony.

Anthony Brennan, president of the Alumni Association, at the reception in Downs Hall after the ceremony.
Susanna Rich Earns Fulbright Creative-Writing Grant

English Professor, Writer and Radio Host to Complete Memoir in 2005

The Fulbright Commission has granted Dr. Susanna Rich, English professor and host of Poets on the Air, a creative-writing scholarship to spend three months, from May 1 to July 31, 2005, in Hungary to conduct research for her book, Still Hungary: A Memoir. The book deals with Rich's childhood in Passaic, N.J., growing up with divorcing Hungarian parents and strong-willed grandmother, Munsici, all of whom had immigrated to America in 1950. "In the six chapters I have written, I demonstrate how the decimation of Hungary by the 1920 Treaty of Trianon and World War II determined not only the dissolution of my émigré family, but, uncannily, the microcosm of every aspect of my life as an American – the nature of my physical development to the vicissitudes of writing memoir," Rich writes as the rationale for seeking the grant. "As my grandfather walked the 300 kilometers between Kolozsvár/Cluj and Budapest in 1922, I hope to fly the 4,300 miles to his alma mater, Eotvos Lorand University, a home base from which to explore my historical and cultural ties; to discern deeper, more poetic and image-based archetypal resonances; to complete Still Hungary and thereby to contribute to the creation of new models for inter-cultural memoir and global networking."

Further strengthening Rich's Fulbright application was the publication of four of the six completed chapters of the book. "In 2003, in what was a sudden sweep for my field, four prominent and established literary/scholarly journals published chapters from the manuscripts," Rich said. "Lullaby, won the 2003 Personal Essay Contest at Fugue University, Idaho; My Trianon: A Palimpsest, appeared in Nimrod International Journal, published by University of Tulsa, Okla.; Sleepwalking was published in Proteus: A Journal of Ideas, by Shippsburg (Pa.) University; and The Last Gate appeared in Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies by Washington State University.

Rich will be hosted by Collegium Budapest, Institute for Advanced Study and Centre of Excellence, and the Magyar chapter of PEN American Center, a fellowship of writers working for more than 80 years to advance literature, to promote a culture of reading, and to defend free expression. While in Hungary, Rich will trace her grandfather's 300-kilometer route and research her stepmother, Ilona. "I intend to write a novel based on her," Rich said. Her 91-year-old father recently revealed that an "illegitimate" child was born into the family, and Rich hopes to locate her as well. This year, she is teaching a course on the Myth of Dracula and the Blood Countess of Dracula, characters she will further explore within their cinematically true topography. In addition to the memoir and novel, Rich will be collecting ideas to write a book of poetry with the working title Freedom Fighters, and, if time allows, visit the famous Hungarian lace mills and actively join folk-dance troupes.

Dr. Vinton Thompson

continued from page 1

evolution, with a new, energetic president who combines deep understanding of the University and its history with high aspirations and expectations for its future," he explained. "That is a good moment to become part of an institution. There is a lot of interesting work to be done."

Thompson said that among the projects he plans to focus on are expanding and enhancing the Nathan Weiss Graduate College and the School of Visual and Performing Arts, as well as developing the New Jersey Center for Science and Technology Education, an endeavor close to his heart. "My scientific background, in both teaching and research, will serve me very well in helping to enhance the NJCSTE."

The appointment of Thompson as the provost registered a positive reaction among the search committee members that recommended his hire, according to Dr. Martin Shulman, chair of the committee and professor in the Department of Communication Disorders and Deafness. "I found Dr. Thompson to be genuine, personable, thoughtful, respectful, well-spoken, honest, energetic and direct," Shulman explained. "He seems to have been through it all, and possesses a well-rounded and seasoned perspective and philosophy on problem solving and human-resources management. I view him as a seasoned professional who has been through experiences similar to those of the Kean community, thus preparing him to 'hit the ground running,' while demonstrating a commitment to collaboration and consensus building."

Lajuana Timothy, a Kean undergraduate student pursuing a bachelor's degree, was one of two students who served on the search committee, echoed Shulman's affirmation of Kean's newest administrator. "Dr. Thompson has strong leadership qualities; he's engaging, motivated, results-oriented, and brings a student-centered focus," explained Timothy. "He understands Kean's mission and has a vision to strive for academic excellence. These are qualities essential to Kean's success."

Dr. Richard Bakker, chair of and professor in the Department of Physical Education, Recreation and Health, extended a welcome to Thompson on behalf of the Faculty Senate. "I think Dr. Thompson is an excellent choice for provost," Bakker said. "He brings the experience and enthusiasm that will help the University achieve its future academic goals. I look forward to working with him."

Previous to being appointed to his post at Roosevelt, Thompson served the university as its associate provost from 1998 to 2000 and as the director of the School of Science and Mathematics from 1993 to 1998. Prior to that, he spent two years at the City Colleges of Chicago, culminating as the acting director of research. Thompson spent 1980 to 1995 as an assistant professor of biology at Roosevelt after a year as an adjunct instructor in natural science at Loyola University in Chicago. He began his career in higher education as an adjunct at Roosevelt from 1971 to 1973.

Before his last appointment, Thompson was also active in a number of committees at Roosevelt, serving as chair of the University Senate, the Strategic Planning Task Forces on Enrollment Management and Traditional Age Students, and the Chicago Campus Master Planning Committee. He also worked on the University Senate Executive Committee, the University Budget Committee, the University Curriculum Committee, and the University Planning Committee, in addition to others.

Thompson earned a Ph.D. in evolutionary biology at the University of Chicago, where he produced a thesis on the relationship between genetic recombination and the rate of response to selection, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in biology from Harvard University. Prior to that, he was the co-vedictorian of his class at Lenape Regional High School in Medford, N.J. He and his wife, Ruth Moscovitch, have two grown sons, Isaiah and Owen.
Commencement Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2004, NOON

DOWNS HALL

Please join us for the annual Commencement Luncheon in Downs Hall. Kean retirees who have given years or, in many cases, decades of service to Kean University will be honored, and the 2004 Presidential Excellence Awards will be presented.

Tickets are $17 and may be purchased through the Office of University Relations (personal checks or money orders only, please, made payable to Kean University). For more information, call 7-3410.

Name of attendee(s)________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
Department/Office ______________________________Building/Room______________________Extension _________
Check Amount $________ E-mail________________________ Number of Guests ____

Please complete this response card and return it in person or via interoffice mail to the Office of University Relations, Townsend Hall, Room 117, by April 26. Your ticket will be mailed via interoffice mail.

Please choose one of the following meals:

❑ Beef    ❑ Chicken    ❑ Vegetarian    ❑ Kosher
Commencement Week 2004

Tuesday, May 4

GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Prudential Hall
One Center Street, Newark, N.J.

Procession will begin promptly at 7 p.m. Graduates, faculty and staff should arrive no later than 5:30 p.m. with their caps and gowns for robing and processional lineup. Marshals arrive at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 5

COMMENCEMENT LUNCHEON

Kean University, Downs Hall, noon

Thursday, May 6

149TH UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

PNC Bank Arts Center, Exit 116 on the Garden State Parkway, Holmdel, N.J. Procession begins at 9:30 a.m., rain or shine. Graduates, faculty and staff should arrive at the parking lot to the left of the main entrance no later than 8 a.m. with their caps and gowns for robing and processional lineup. Marshals should arrive at 7 a.m.
Monday, April 26
The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee will hold a meeting at 3:30 p.m. in Hutchinson Hall, Room 137. For further information, please call Dr. Melodie Toby at 7-3983.

The Department of Theatre will present a production of *The Canterbury Tales – Chaucer Made* at 3:30 p.m. in the University Center Little Theatre. Tickets are $12 for faculty, staff, seniors and alumni; and $10 for students and children. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 7-SHOW (7469).

Tuesday, April 27
The New York Blood Center will hold a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Center, Room 228. To make an appointment, call the center at 1-800-933-BLOOD or visit its Web site at www.nybloodcenter.org. For more information, please call Nicole Rodriguez at 7-5152.

The Faculty Senate will hold a full-senate meeting from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Center, Room 226 A and B. For further information, please e-mail Gloria Duff at gduff@kean.edu.

Wednesday, April 28
The KFT Spring Party will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Cougar’s Den. For further information, please call Norma Hall at 7-3925 or Nicole Rodriguez at 7-5152.

The Small Business Development Center will offer the final installment of a four-part workshop, titled *Start Right*, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Incubator One-Stop Service, 320 Park Avenue, Plainfield, N.J. For further information or to register, please call Tyra Addison at 7-5950.

Thursday, April 29
**Baseball** vs. Ramapo College at Jim Hynes ’63 Stadium, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, April 30
The Small Business Development Center will present a workshop, titled *How to Buy a Business or Franchise*, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the East Campus, Room 158 A. There is a fee of $15 per person or $20 for two. For further information or to register, please call Tyra Addison at 7-5950.

Saturday, May 1
**Baseball** vs. Rutgers University-Camden (DH) at Jim Hynes ’63 Stadium, noon

Sunday, May 2
The Ukrainian Arts Festival will be held at 3 p.m. in Wilkins Theatre. Tickets are $19 for faculty, staff, seniors and alumni; and $15 for students and children. For further information or to order tickets, call the Wilkins Theatre Box Office at 7-SHOW (7469).

AHSS Curriculum Committee Meeting

The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) Curriculum Committee will hold a meeting on Monday, April 26, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in Hutchinson Hall, Room 137. Course packets for the meeting are available for pickup in the Faculty Senate, Willis Hall, Room 107. Please note that a departmental representative knowledgeable about the course must be present at the meeting to discuss the course. The course(s) will be tabled if no representative is present. An additional meeting is tentatively planned for Monday, May 24. For further information, please call Dr. Melodie Toby at 7-3983.

**Agenda**

I. Approval of Agenda
II. Approval of Minutes
III. Announcements
IV. Business
V. Election of Officers
VI. Review of procedures

**Kean Kids Fun Day**

The Office of Continuing and Professional Education will hold a Kean Kids Fun Day for children in grades 3 to 8 on Saturday, May 1, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the University Center Atrium and Pre-Function Lobby. Included will be activities, storytelling and refreshments, and an opportunity to learn about the Kean Kids Summer Fun Program for children in grades 3 to 8. Admission is free. For more information, please contact the Department of Continuing and Professional Education at 7-5840 or via e-mail at conted@kean.edu.

Kepler’s Witch Book Launch

Dr. James A. Connor, author of *Kepler’s Witch*, cordially invites all members of the Kean community to a launch party and book signing, and to the inauguration of the American Kepler Society, on Thursday, April 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the New York Public Science, Business and Industry Library, 188 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. A reception will be held at 4:30 p.m. For further information, please contact Connor at 7-4217.

Summer Employment for Students

Office managers should be advised that all student-worker and work-study student positions will be terminated at the end of the spring semester on Monday, May 3. Those planning to continue employing a student during the summer must notify the Office of Human Resources. A Student Authorization to Rehire Form was distributed campus-wide via an e-mail blast on April 13.

The summer hours for students are not to exceed 20 hours per week without authorization from Human Resources. Any time sheets that are submitted for students past their termination dates will not be honored. For further information, please call Faruque Chowdhury or Lori Reid at 7-3300.

Bus for Undergraduate Commencement

For those Kean faculty and staff members who would like transportation to PNC Bank Arts Center on Thursday, May 6, President Dawood Farahi is sponsoring a bus trip to the Undergraduate Commencement. The bus will leave from the visitors’ circle on the main campus at 7 a.m. that morning and will depart from PNC promptly at 1:30 p.m. A limited number of 49 seats are available, so please call the President’s Office at 7-7000 prior to Friday, April 30, to reserve a spot.

Calendar of Events and Sports

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