SUSAN ROBESON at the dedication of the Paul Robeson Plaza in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Paul Robeson’s graduation.
Weather Outlook  Source: Rutgers Meteorology Club

**TODAY**  High of 72, Partly Sunny
**TOMORROW**  Low of 52, Partly Sunny

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The Daily Targum is a student-written and student-managed, non-profit incorporated newspaper published by the Targum Publishing Company. Circulation is 10,000. The Daily Targum is published Monday through Friday in New Brunswick, New Jersey, while classes are in session during the fall and spring semesters. No part thereof may be reproduced in any form, in whole or in part, without the consent of the business manager.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

**Mailing Address**

THE DAILY TARGUM

204 NEILSON ST.

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901

**Phone**

(732) 247-3670

**Fax**

(732) 932-7051

**E-mail**

business@dailytargum.com

**Website**

www.dailytargum.com

**THE 151ST EDITORIAL BOARD**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

REBECCA BRIGHT  EIC@DAILYTARGUM.COM • x 108

**MANAGING EDITOR**

PRIYANKA BANSAL  MANAGING@DAILYTARGUM.COM • x 109

**NEWS EDITOR**

CATHERINE NGUYEN  UNIVERSITY@DAILYTARGUM.COM

**OPINIONS EDITOR**

LUKE ANDRENS  OPED@DAILYTARGUM.COM

**SPORTS EDITOR**

JACKSON THOMPSON  SPORTS@DAILYTARGUM.COM

**COPY EDITOR**

VIRA MALAKHATI  COPY@DAILYTARGUM.COM

**PHOTO EDITOR**

JACQUES SORRENTO  PHOTO@DAILYTARGUM.COM

**FEATURES EDITOR**

HENRY STRICKLAND  FEATURES@DAILYTARGUM.COM

**ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR**

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CASEY AMBROSIO, CURSTINE GUEVARA, MICA FINEHART

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Campus Calendar

**MONDAY 5/6**  Department of Genetics and Human Genetics Institute of New Jersey present “Genetics Seminar with Speaker Neil H. Shubin, Ph.D.” from noon to 1 p.m. at Life Sciences Building on Busch campus. This event is free and open to the public.

**TUESDAY 5/7**  Zimmlemi Art Museum at Rutgers presents “Study All Night” from 10 a.m. on Tuesday to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday at Zimmerli Art Museum on the College Avenue campus. This event is free and open to Rutgers students.

Rutgers Athletics presents “Rutgers Baseball vs. Villanova” at 1 p.m. at Bainton Field on Livingston campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Basic Science Departments present “Understanding metabolic changes in cancer” from 4 to 5 p.m. at Waksman Institute of Microbiology on Busch campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Rutgers Dining Services presents “MidKnight Breakfast” at 11:30 p.m. at Rutgers dining halls on all campuses. This event requires meal swipes.

If you would like to submit an event for the Campus Calendar section, please email marketing@dailytargum.com. For more information please visit www.dailytargum.com. Due to space limitations there is no guarantee that your event will be listed.

Are you passionate about telling stories?

Come write for your local student newspaper!

**News & Event Coverage**

Send an email to news@dailytargum.com

**Arts & Entertainment Coverage**

Send an email to insidebeat@dailytargum.com

Anyone can write regardless of experience!
Faculty union avoids strike with new contract

BRENDA BRIGHTMAN
NEWS EDITOR

On April 4, the Targum reported that University President Robert Barchi announced an additional $20 million from his office’s strategic fund to go toward the University’s Faculty Diversity Hiring Initiative, which originally promised $12.8 million in 2017 to go through 2021. The program was also extended to 2024.

The announcement was made to “support a continued effort to hire, mentor and retain faculty from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds,” said Dory Devlin, senior director of University News and Media Relations.

“The fight against gun violence and an academic consortium is needed to bring together insights and opinions from across the region. To raise awareness, build support and create effective solutions, an evidence-based approach is critical. To raise awareness, build support and create effective solutions, an evidence-based approach is critical. To raise awareness, build support and create effective solutions, an evidence-based approach is critical,” he said at the event.

Before then, the colors defining Republican and Democratic had not been standard.

He said a major influence on modern political history was Newt Gingrich, who was able to recognize how media was changing and use it to his advantage to flip Congress from a Democratic majority to a Republican majority in the 1980s.

Later in the semester, on April 24, the Targum reported that current Gov. Phil Murphy (D.N.J.) spoke at the inaugural conference for the New Jersey Center on Gun Violence Research at Rutgers University, called “Preventing Gun Violence in NJ: A Call to Action.”

“The fight against gun violence isn’t about politics and in many ways it’s not even about guns. It’s about the search for common sense and fair reaching public policy solutions. Thoughts and prayers are not sufficient. Action must be our only guiding principle,” he said at the event.

For more than two decades, Murphy said at the event, Congress has blocked important multidisciplinary research on gun violence and an academic consortium is needed to bring together insights and opinions from across the region. To raise awareness, build support and create effective solutions, an evidence-based approach is critical.

To end the semester, the Board of Governors announced that Super Bowl LIII champions and Rutgers alumni Jason McCourty and Devin McCourty will be this year’s commencement speakers at the graduation for Rutgers—New Brunswick and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, which will be May 19, the Targum reported.

At the ceremony, to be held in HighPoint.com Stadium, they will also receive honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees from the University. After delivering their address, they will participate in the Heel to Heal PLUS Tackle Sickle Cell 5K at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey, the Targum reported.

“Rutgers University has always been a special place to us,” Jason McCourty said, according to Rutgers Today. “The education we received on and off the field helped lay the foundation for so much of what we’ve accomplished. Returning to Rutgers now is certainly humbling and we’re grateful for the opportunity. We hope to deliver a message that will inspire the Class of 2019 to chase their own vision of success.”

Notable speakers come to campus

BRENDA BRIGHTMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Rutgers University–New Brunswick saw many speakers visit its campus, including current and former governors of the state.

On Feb. 5, former Gov. Chris Christie (R.N.J.) spoke at an event hosted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Tiyers Hall at the Douglass Student Center, sharing insight into his departure from the presidency Donald J. Trump transition team, his time as governor and asked what they all tried to do.

Christie was able to accomplish this, what he said was one of the greatest achievements of his governorship, the Targum reported at the time.

Also this semester, MSNBC and NBC national political correspondent Steve Kornacki spoke at the Douglass Student Center to discuss his book, “The Red and the Blue: The 1980s and the Birth of Political Tribalism,” the Targum reported.

Kornacki said the “Blue” represented Democrats, while the “Red” represented Republicans in America. This was something that only began within the past 20 years, during the 2000 presidential election.

The strike was then averted on April 17, with the AAUP-AFT and the University coming to a tentative agreement, the Targum reported.

“We made history today. For the first time in the union’s nearly 50-year history, we won equal pay for equal work for female faculty, faculty of color and for faculty in the Newark and Camden campuses. We won significant pay raises for our lowest paid members, our graduate employees who will see their pay increase from $25,969 to $30,162 over the course of the contract,” Kumar said in a press release at the time.

Yet the AAUP-AFT’s contract did not include part-time lecturers (PTLs), who negotiate through a separate chapter of the union.

On Thursday the Targum reported that PTLs held a grade-in at Winants Hall on the College Avenue Campus.

The approximately 3,000 PTLs employed by Rutgers are asking for equal pay for equal work, a salary raise for teaching assistants and more faculty diversity.

Earlier this year, the faculty union picketed at the Paul Robeson Plaza in Newark, New Jersey for equal pay for equal work, a salary raise for teaching assistants and more faculty diversity.

On April 17, the strike was averted.
Molloy is announced as permanent chancellor

BRENDAN BRIGHTMAN NEWS EDITOR

Christopher J. Molloy was named the permanent chancellor of Rutgers University—New Brunswick. The Daily Targum reported on Feb. 7, Molloy had been serving as interim chancellor since former Chancellor Debasish Dutta resigned last summer.

In his email announcement, University President Robert L. Barchi said Molloy has been a part of the Rutgers community since he was a philosophy student at the University. “Dr. Molloy is a strong and steady leader who brings a deep understanding of the institution to every discussion about its future,” Barchi said in the email. “He has embraced the challenges of the chancellorship and has expressed a forward-looking vision that will, among other things, increase Rutgers University—New Brunswick’s public prominence, provide a clear financial plan and expand internships and related opportunities for students.”

Molloy was appointed without a selection committee that included student representation, the Targum reported. Both the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) and the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) Governing Council passed resolutions opposing this process. “A lack of both transparency and opportunity for input are of great concern to the undergraduate student body,” the SEBS Governing Council press release stated. “The student body is one of the primary stakeholders in University decisions and collectively pays tuition and fees to support the University, and therefore deserves more information and the opportunity to have seats at the table.”

Also this semester, Rutgers announced a new vice chancellor for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement for Rutgers—New Brunswick, Dr. Edunolu Brach, the Targum reported last week. “Dr. Brach will have responsibility for enhancing diversity and inclusion in recruitment, retention, curriculum, research and community engagement across Rutgers University—New Brunswick,” according to the University-wide email sent by Molloy.

Adam, at this point, had been largely cleared of sexual misconduct allegations and is being investigated for allegedly retaliating against his accuser, the Targum reported. Furthermore, the Targum reported that a prominent faculty member, Stephen Bronner in the Department of Political Science, had been taken out of the classroom until the University’s investigation into allegations that he sexually harassed at least one graduate student decades ago is completed. His was 1 of 6 investigations Rutgers has initiated on an employee since it began investigating all sexual harassment allegations, no matter how long ago they occurred.

On Feb. 28, the Targum reported that Adam was paid $233,224.47 in University salary for the calendar year 2018. Later in the semester, on April 26, End Assault at Rutgers spoke at the Board of Governors meeting again on the issue, the Targum reported. Wischmeyer said she was concerned that $5.7 million was used in last year’s budget to be allocated toward University ethics. “When I pay over $20,000 a semester to come to school, which I was told would be worth it,” Wischmeyer said. “I questioned the path Rutgers has stumbled upon, and I asked how protecting predators and rapists like Adam could come under your definition of revolutionary.”

On the same day, the Targum reported that Take Back the Night had more than 100 students march from Douglass campus to the College Avenue campus to raise awareness on the issue of sexual assault, and to show solidarity with survivors at Rutgers, which meant both hearing them and believing what they said. “No one should be afraid to walk alone at night just because of their sex, sexuality, gender, ethnicity, race, religion or for any other reason,” said Talia Lang, a School of Arts and Sciences junior and president of Women Organizing Against Harassment.

Finally, Adam’s accuser said she has recently been prohibited from continuing to work as a part-time lecturer (P/TL) at the University, according to a letter she sent to Barchi, the Targum reported. “It is extremely shameful the way Rutgers is discriminating against me … Because I am the whistleblower, Rutgers prohibits me from teaching (maintaining my PTL appointment).” This result is in $5,500 salary cut per semester,” she said. The University stated that it must maintain confidentiality for those involved to respect both the privacy of the parties and the integrity of the processes, said Daisy Devlin, senior director of University News and Media Relations, to the Targum in an email.

“In addition, sexual assault is a criminal matter and when allegations of rape or other sexual assault are brought to our attention, the matter must be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authorities, including the county prosecutor’s office,” Devlin said. “The allegations in this case were referred to the Essex County Prosecutor more than a year ago.”

With the student organization End Assault at Rutgers in the wake of the now-acquitted sexual assault accusations against former Vice Chancellor for Research & Collaborations Nabil Adam, sexual assault has remained a source for student activism on Rutgers’ campus. His former graduate student claimed that Adam initially sexually assaulted and harassed one of his graduate students. The graduate student told the University, provide a semester of the chancellorship and has expressed a forward-looking vision that will, among other things, increase Rutgers University—New Brunswick’s public prominence, provide a clear financial plan and expand internships and related opportunities for students.” Molloy was appointed without a selection committee that included student representation, the Targum reported. Both the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) and the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) Governing Council passed resolutions opposing this process. “A lack of both transparency and opportunity for input are of great concern to the undergraduate student body,” the SEBS Governing Council press release stated. “The student body is one of the primary stakeholders in University decisions and collectively pays tuition and fees to support the University, and therefore deserves more information and the opportunity to have seats at the table. Also this semester, Rutgers announced a new vice chancellor for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement for Rutgers—New Brunswick, Dr. Edunolu Brach, the Targum reported last week. “Dr. Brach will have responsibility for enhancing diversity and inclusion in recruitment, retention, curriculum, research and community engagement across Rutgers University—New Brunswick,” according to the University-wide email sent by Molloy.

Christopher J. Molloy was named permanent chancellor of Rutgers—New Brunswick this year. He was previously serving as interim chancellor, ever since former Chancellor Debasish Dutta resigned last summer.
Class of 1971 unveils Paul Robeson Plaza

CATHERINE NGUYEN
NEWS EDITOR

With 2019 marking the centennial anniversary of Paul Robeson’s graduation, there have been several events held in his honor, most notably the reveal of the Paul Robeson Plaza, as well as the name change of Commercial Avenue to Paul Robeson Boulevard.

Robeson was not only a renowned student athlete, but also a celebrated actor and activist, according to the Rutgers website. He earned a four-year academic scholarship to Rutgers, and became the third Black person to attend. A member of the football team, he not only became the first Black football player at Rutgers, but also went on to earn more than a dozen varsity letters and the status of All-American athlete.

Academically, Robeson was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society, a prestigious academic honor society in the United States, and Rutgers’ Cap and Skull Honor Society. When he graduated from the University in 1919, he was valedictorian and gave the commencement ceremony speech.

At a New Brunswick City Council meeting on March 6, an ordinance was passed to change the name of Commercial Avenue, a mile-long road that crosses George Street, to Paul Robeson Boulevard.

The name was proposed by a group of community members and partners who organized and advocated for the change. Jennifer Bradshaw, public information officer for the City of New Brunswick, said the name change is significant because Robeson is an important figure in both American and New Brunswick history.

The process of changing signs is currently underway, she said. A month later, on Friday, April 12, hundreds of students and Rutgers alumni gathered at Voorhees Mall to celebrate Robeson’s legacy and watch the unveiling of the Paul Robeson Plaza in his honor.

University President Robert L. Barchi spoke at the event, acknowledging that while Robeson was one of the most notable alumni to have graduated from Rutgers, what he fought for also brought to light the University’s dark history.

Barchi said that Rutgers was currently at a “moment of reckoning” as an institution, because for the past few years, it has been working to confront its history of involvement in race and equality.

“We haven’t been shying from those facts,” he said during his speech. “We’ve been publicizing them, we’ve been discussing them and we’ve been memorializing them. We’ve not been taking names off of things, we have been pointing out why they’re there.”

Robeson himself had challenges while studying at Rutgers. For example, the University made him sit on the bench during a football game because the opposing team refused to play with a Black man on the field, Barchi said.

Jim Savage, a Rutgers alumnus and chair of the Class of 1971 45th Milestone Campaign Committee to build the plaza, said the plaza also included photographs of Robeson on black granite to provide a story of his life’s work, and a ground space in between the walls meant for people to inscribe words of their choice.

In an email to The Daily Tar- gum, Savage said his responsi- bilities included publicizing the project, gaining approval from the administration and serving as the chief spokesperson for the campaign.

The next speaker was Susan Robeson, the granddaughter of Paul Robeson, who first took a moment to acknowledge the fact that the audience was standing on traditional Lenape grounds, which was especially important because Paul Robeson’s mother was of Lenape descent. She also mentioned the efforts of her fa- ther, Paul Robeson Jr., who also made efforts to commemorate Paul Robeson.

“This is a fruit of his labors, which often went unnoticed and scorned, without receptivity. So do I wish he was here,” Susan Robeson said. “I’m sure in spirit, he is.”
RUDM raises record $1.12 M. for charity

CATHERINE NGUYEN
NEWS EDITOR

The Rutgers University Dance Marathon (RUDM) broke a new record this year, raising $1,120,205.48 for the organization Embrace Kids Foundation. The two-day event, which had 199 volunteers and 2,973 dancers, has come a long way from its beginning 21 years ago, raising $45,000 with 99 dancers in 1999.

“Dancers are the heart and soul of DSM, your experiences here, the hours you spend with the families and the dollars you raise for the Embrace Kids Foundation, exemplifies the values of Dance Marathon,” said Katherine Budinsky, a School of Arts and Sciences senior and director of Family Relations for RUDM.

The history of Embrace Kids Foundation dates back to 1991, when Robert Wood Johnson, along with the dollars you raise for the Embrace Kids Foundation, exemplifies the values of Dance Marathon, said Katherine Budinsky, a School of Arts and Sciences senior and director of Family Relations for RUDM.

The planning for the event began last May, with 26 members of the central planning committee, 80 team captains, who have been helping to plan Dance Marathon since last fall by working basketball concession stands, canning and hundreds of other tasks assigned to their teams.

The Rutgers University Dance Marathon, which is located next to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, is a nonprofit organization that provides for the non-medical needs of kids with cancer, blood disorders or other serious diseases and long-term health conditions, said Rebecca Gilbert, a School of Arts and Sciences senior and director of Family Relations for RUDM.

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Happy Birthday! Detail and precision, along with originality and innovation will capture attention and bring you closer to your long-term goals. Taking care of your personal finances, health and contractual changes will ease your mind and free up time to work toward a better future. Don’t limit what you can do or let fear of failure hold you back. Embark on the future. Your numbers are 5, 21, 33, 38, 32.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make your own opportunities. If you wait for someone to approach you, it’ll be too late. Present what you have to offer, and you will gain support and access to a stable future. Traveling, attending business meetings and romance should be priorities. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A little patience, thought and planning will go a long way. Set up meetings, call on experts and get your personal documents in order. A financial opportunity is heading your way, and personal improvements are within reach. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do your own thing, and keep your distance from anyone who tends to be a poor influence. Relationships should be based on honesty, integrity and equality. A physical activity or intellectual pursuit will spark your enthusiasm. Romance is on the rise. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don’t lose sight of your goal because someone is trying to outmaneuver you. A steady pace and stable change will add validity to your pursuit, helping you gain enough momentum to get what you want. Persistence is key. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Consistency will matter. Approach others knowing what you want and what you are willing to give in return. A partnership will require complete honesty and the willingness to Compromise if it is going to be beneficial. Romance is highlighted. 4 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don’t let anyone take advantage of you. If you ruin your plans. If change is needed, make it happen, and if learning something new will help you kick in, do so in an opportunity, do your best to raise your qualifications. Don’t fudg on pressure. 2 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Go to the distance. Find out all you can, and prepare to stand up for your rights. A distant or personal situation can be resolved if everyone involved is willing to do his or her part. Laziness will not be tolerated. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You’ll be drawn to people and projects that are unique and could benefit from what you have to contribute. Don’t go overseas; let others do their part while you focus on what you do best. A partnership will grow into something gratifying. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Focus on the positive. Stick close to home and to the people you know you can trust. A personal change will help shift your focus to a healthier lifestyle. Love and romance are in the stars. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Control your emotions when dealing with friends, relatives and peers. If you or someone else is inconsistent or unpredictable, it will be difficult to get things done. Home improvements will help take your mind off someone who is causing you grief. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have more opportunities than you realize. Greater involvement with organizations or people you have worked with in the past will lead to rewards that not only mean to you, but have the potential to be prospects as well. Romance is encouraged. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don’t let anger take over. If you don’t like something, walk away. Your time and energy will be better spent helping a cause or collecting fines in order to reach an objective. 2 stars

**Sudoko Puzzle**

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

**Yesterday’s Solution**

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**Universal Crossword**

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MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
New head coach transforms culture at RU

ALEX FABUGAIS-INABA
CORRESPONDENT

When asked what was this season’s greatest moment for the Rutgers gymnastics team, time and time again, the Scarlet Knights would say beating then-No. 25 Penn State. Rutgers posted its second-highest team score in program history with a 196.850, and it was able to do it in front of the home crowd.

The win against the Nittany Lions not only echoed throughout the Big Ten, but showed the growth and potential that the Knights have to soar up the national rankings.

First-year head coach Umme Salim-Beasley came onto the Banks with previous experience as a Rutgers gymnastics coach. She was the 2012-2015 assistant coach before spending three years at Temple.

Coming in with a completely new coaching staff, Salim-Beasley returned to the program that needed to be rebuilt from the ground up.

Helping her were the seniors, who reached multiple career highs and helped create a entirely new team environment that brought a tremendous amount of success to their season.

In the all-around, senior Michelle Amoresano posted career highs in all of her events, except vault. Amoresano was a staple in all of the event lineups and was able to record an all-around career high of 39.050 while competing against Penn State.

Senior Riahannah Ali’s final season was her breakout season. She recorded career highs in all four events with a 9.850 on vault and a 9.925 on floor.

Her nickname “Rayoncé” defines the energy and excitement that spreads throughout the team when the Knights are in competition.

In addition to Ali, Rutgers’ floor lineup was extremely consistent, and always built the positive bubble that allowed it to control only what it could control.

That bubble really came into play whenever they performed on beam. The Knights were never really able to put together a solid beam lineup as gymnasts moved in and out of the lineup.

At the Big Ten Championships, Rutgers posted an event score of 47.775 on beam, which was lower than its 48.162 season average.

With a big focus on stick landing, the Knights saw their greatest improvement on vault. Senior Jenna Rizkalla began to compete in the event halfway through the season and quickly perfected the stick, throwing on the “Stick Queen” jersey almost every time she ran up to vault.

Rizkalla averaged a 9.764 in competition while posting a career high of 9.900.

Not to mention, Rizkalla was another “killa” on the dance floor, averaging a 9.796 during the season.

Even though Rutgers was able to establish a bars lineup, it was always a bit of a mystery as the Knights are still figuring out the lineups. First-year head coach Umme Salim-Beasley had to fill Amoresano’s shoes as a clear leader who can really help grow the beam lineup into one of Rutgers more consistent events.

Sophomore Belle Huang is a clear leader who can really help grow the beam lineup into one of Rutgers more consistent events. She’s averaged a 9.702 in season with a career high of 9.925 on the most difficult event out of the bunch.

The two-time NCAA regional qualifier competes in the all-around, alongside Amoresano, and luckily has two more seasons with the Knights. Huang was one of this past season’s Big Ten gymnasts to watch and will be again next season.

Rutgers is always looking for ways to improve and work on the little things. Even so, the Knights are bringing in a trio of high caliber gymnasts. Hannah Joyner, Jenna Ferguson and Elizabeth Henshall.

Joyner will bring a wealth of skill, talent and experience for Rutgers. Since 2014, the Waldorf, Maryland native has been coached by 2016 U.S. Olympics women’s gymnastics coach Aimee Boorman, who also coached Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles. Joyner is impressive in the all-around and should be able to fill Amoresano’s shoes in the lineup.

The seniors will have graduated, but they have left the program better off than it was when they came in. With Salim-Beasley completing her first season as head coach and the foundation of the program established, there is nowhere to go but up for the program, but up.
The story of graduate student 149-pounder Anthony Ashnault and junior 133-pounder Nick Suriano’s championship run is not a story contained within the 2019 season. Historic victories in Pittsburgh this past March were only the precipice of two lifelong stories, ones of resolve, ones of commitment to wrestling and an endearing passion for New Jersey.

For Ashnault, six years on the Banks as a student and competitor was enough time to become the most accomplished wrestler in school history, all while having to come back from the dead to get there.

Three conference titles, a national title and more wins than any Rutgers wrestler in history are just the spoils on the surface of Ashnault’s undefeated 2019 season, but getting there was, in itself, a triumph.

Overcoming a season-ending injury, and earning a sixth year of eligibility were two of Ashnault’s most important victories to concluding his storied career as a Scarlet Knight. These are not victories that would be found in the archives or the program index, but ones that illustrate his fortitude, off-the-mat victories beyond his prowess as a wrestler, but as a man.

For Suriano, his championship conquest in 2019 had more at stake than just the spoils of victory. He had a job to do – he had something to prove, scores to settle and would not be denied.

Unlike Ashnault, Suriano did not have a perfect season. He suffered losses to his most consequential opponents in the regular season, but like Ashnault he would find resolve when it mattered most.

Daton Fix, Austin DeSanto and Steven Micic, the only competitors to defeat Suriano this season would be set up like bowling pins in the 133-pound bracket with a title on the line. Suriano left no stone unturned, defeating each lightweight rival, fighting through a bloody wound and verbal assault to come out on top.

When Suriano came home to Rutgers, transferring from Penn State, he knew that he would need to win a championship to vindicate that decision. With the pressure of that task, against competition that had already bested him, Suriano performed at his highest level, culminating in a last-second victory over his high school rival Fix to finish his job and make Rutgers history.

Ashnault and Suriano led the program to a season of unique history, but their individualistic feats did not come without several moments of support from their team.

Whether it was junior 141-pounder Peter Lipari jumping in to take over the 141-pound slot en route to his own NCAA tournament bid, or junior heavyweight Christian Colucci delivering a dual-winning major decision to defeat Princeton on Super Bowl Sunday, or sophomore 197-pounder Matthew Correnti earning a key decision to give the Knights a late lead and clinch their first conference win against Wisconsin, the 2019 Rutgers team showed a grit and resolve that encompassed the title runs of its two champions.
MEN’S BASKETBALL KNIGHTS ATTAIN PROGRAM-BEST 7 BIG TEN WINS IN 2018-2019 SEASON

JUST GETTING STARTED
Underclassmen returning off historic year

Since that game this past December, McConnell has seen between 15 and 29 minutes of game action and has been an active ball handler and shooter off the bench for Rutgers. His best performance of the season came in the Knights’ overtime loss to Illinois on the road, where he had a career-high 25 points on 8-10 shooting effort.

In the front court, Rutgers will lose graduate student center Shaquille Doorson. Doorson, captain of the team with junior forward Eugene Omoruyi, was one of the Knights in the paint. Redshirt freshman center Myles Johnson was the other big man presence. The 6-foot-10-inch Johnson averaged 5.7 rebounds and will most likely fill Doorson’s hole as Rutgers’ force in the paint and in pick-and-roll situations.

After missing the majority of this past season due to injury, earning him a redshirt season, sophomore forward Mamadou Doucoure will also be returning to the Knights. Doucoure saw minutes in every game of the 2017-2018 season.

Junior forward Issa Thiam will not be returning to the front court after he was dismissed from the team for domestic violence charges back in March.

Rutgers also secured a standout graduate transfer center in Stony Brook’s Obi Tugba, who is eligible for the 2019-2020 season as the newest addition to the front court. Tugba was a First Team All-America East selection during this past season, averaging 16.6 points per game, shooting 41.3% from the floor.

Recruited by Pikiell when he was the head coach of the Sea-wolves, Tugba is a two-way player that can play on the wing, with most of his shots falling from behind the 3-point line.

When the Knights met Stony Brook during the 2017-2018 season, the Sea-wolves ran away with a win from a 23-point performance from Tugba. A consistent free throw shooter, Tugba shot 78.5% from the charity stripe this season with Stony Brook.

Rutgers is also adding ESPN Top 100 recruit and Gill St. Bernard’s standout rising freshman guard Paul Mulcahy to Pikiell’s rotation. A four-star recruit by 247sports.com, Mulcahy averaged a triple-double for the first time in New Jersey high school basketball history in 26 years (24.1 points per game, 20.2 rebounds per game and 10.1 assists per game) in his senior year of high school.

The Knights also gain another new addition to their backcourt in Texas transfer and junior guard Jacob Young, Young, who did not compete but practiced with the team this past season, played on the Longhorns’ 2018 NCAA Tournament team.

At Texas, Young earned five starts during his sophomore season. He poured in a career-high 29 points in the 2018 Big 12 Tournament quarterfinals, where the Longhorns fell to their in-state rival Texas Tech.

During the 2017-2018 regular season, Young amassed double digits six times, with half of those numbers coming during the final six games of the season. Omoruyi, who has transitioned into one of Rutgers’ leaders, will enter his senior season on the Banks. He averaged a team-high 7.2 rebounds and had 20 steals on the season.

Baker, who will be a junior next season averaged 12.2 points per game compared to 10.8 points per game during his freshman year. He hit several game-winning step-back 3-pointers this season, including one that sealed a win at Northwestern on Feb. 13 and one over Minnesota at the end of February.

While the Knights’ non-conference schedule has not been finalized yet, it is confirmed that they will travel to Toronto to play South Carolina, a team that made it to the NCAA Final Four in 2017. They will also host UMass before their Big Ten slate.

With the return of the team’s two leading scorers in Omoruyi (13.8 ppb) and Baker (12.2 ppb) along with promising newcomers and the first year of experience behind the Class of 2018, the 2019-2020 season should be one to remember.

The Rutgers men’s basketball team welcomes back 90% of its scoring lineup with graduate student center Shaquille Doorson as the lone Knight graduating. Rutgers welcomes a highly-touted recruit in incoming freshman guard Paul Mulcahy, who headlines the Class of 2019. GABRIETT STEFFE / ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR / MARCH 2019
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
See story on Page 10