



Professor Mark Gluck and Honors College student Stephanie Lazzaro

A Rising Star in Neuroscience

Rutgers-Newark sophomore Stephanie Lazzaro is in rare company: She is one of only nine New Jersey residents – and the first Rutgers-Newark student ever – to be awarded a \$15,000, two-year Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Only 310 college undergraduates nationwide were recipients of the honor this year.

The Goldwater Scholarship, named for the late United States senator, is considered the nation's premier undergraduate award for students studying mathematics, science and engineering. In recent years, 56 Goldwater Scholars have gone on to be named Rhodes Scholars and 66 have received Marshall Awards.

Lazzaro, a member of the Honors College of the Newark College of Arts and Sciences, has ambitious future plans: She wants to contribute to the growing body of research in behavioral neuroscience, focusing on learning, memory, and Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. She already is interning

in the neuroscience lab of Mark Gluck, professor of neuroscience and an internationally known researcher in those areas of investigation at Rutgers-Newark's Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience (CMBN).

Lazzaro's scientific talents were apparent even before she arrived at Rutgers-Newark as a student: She was only a senior in high school when she began working in Gluck's lab at CMBN as part of an externship.

Cultivating New Generations of Researchers

Rutgers-Newark has received a \$2.6 million, four-year renewal of the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The program, now in its 18th year at the university, funds opportunities for 10 undergraduate and 11 graduate students to work in the research laboratories of participating Rutgers-Newark professors, who serve as mentors to the aspiring scholars.

Undergraduates in the program receive paid positions in the labs as well as travel and research funding, while graduate students have their student fees paid and are awarded a stipend in addition to funding for travel and research.

"In science, the best education one can get includes hands-on experience in a research lab," says Ann Cali, professor of biology and principal investigator for the project. "This really is an ideal situation for the students." Cali notes that the 21 available slots cut across diverse scientific pursuits, including biology, chemistry, psychology, physics, neuroscience and nursing.

She points to the program's impressive track record as evidence of its effectiveness. In the past two years alone, four MBRS Ph.D. students have gone on to post-doctoral study at Harvard and Yale universities, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the NIH.



Laying Foundations for Scientific Study

Rutgers-Newark broke ground this past spring on one of the largest construction projects in its history – a new \$18 million, six-story life-sciences building that will add about 67,000 square feet of state-of-the-art research and teaching space to the university's science departments.

The building is specially designed to place the offices of the principal investigators leading research teams close to their labs, and features common areas and large open labs where scientists from multiple disciplines can freely exchange ideas, both in casual environments and while at work. The structure will connect to Olson Hall at the basement level – which will house additional research facilities and equipment – and on the first three floors, allowing easy access from one building to the other. Two floors will initially be unoccupied to allow for growth as research activity expands.