GLEE CLUB TO HOST ALUMNI PICNIC

To the distinguished Alumni of the Rutgers University Glee Club,

Over the course of 136 years of musical excellence, the Rutgers University Glee Club has created some exceptional performances. However, nothing can be more important and more powerful than the base of Alumni generated within those 136 years, and the relationships they share. The Executive Council of the Glee Club recognizes the wonderful, supportive Alumni community, and has arranged a chance for all who have sung in the RUGC to reunite. It is our hope that you, the Alumni, will join us on August 24, 2008 for an Alumni Picnic. We want to draw from the wide range of age and experience which RUGC Alumni bring to the table to create an educational event that crosses generational gaps. Whether you graduated four months or four decades ago, the experience of membership in Glee Club remains ever changing yet eternally the same. This is primarily because of the strong sense of tradition within Glee Club. Sure, most people who enjoy four-part male harmony tend to have quite a bit in common to discuss, but think about any of the other men’s choirs you may have participated in. Did any of them provide the same sense of community, brotherhood, historical propagation, or pride that the Glee Club has in spades? This is a unique community, one that a member never truly leaves.

The sense of tradition in Glee Club is stronger than in any other student organization at Rutgers. With a founding date of 1872, the Glee Club is the oldest student group cur-

HOMECOMING

STEVIE ROCHA, RC ‘09
TREASURER 2008–2009

The members of the Rutgers University Glee Club have always felt great pride for our historic Scarlet Knights Football Team. Our team’s recent success, coupled with that historic pride, has made Glee Club football outings especially exciting in the past several years.

We would love our Alumni to join us at this year’s Homecoming Game on October 18, 2008, against our burgeoning rival, the University of Connecticut. Last year, the Scarlet Knights suffered a tough loss at the hands of the Huskies, with a final score of 38-19. The game was attended by a handful of our members who tailgated, met other diehard Rutgers fans and cheered on our team, notwithstanding the eventual loss.

Homecoming is a great time for Alumni to relive some of their greatest undergraduate memories. All Alumni are invited to join the Rutgers university Glee club at pre-game festivities, on the field for the National Anthem, and in the stands for the game. This year, our pre-game plans include a having a tent set up where our resident griller, Business Manager Rich Wells, will be flipping burgers and grilling hot dogs. After the delicious grilling session, the current and former members of Glee Club will be singing on the Lacrosse Field in front of a significant crowd of participants in the homecoming festivities. This is a great opportunity for the members and Alumni to sing our favorite Rutgers Songs, and expose a large number of audience members to the history and traditions of our institution.

Complimentary tickets are available to our Alumni, through the Executive Council of the Glee Club. Any questions about the ticket process, or the Homecoming activities, can be answered by our VP Alum, Rich Kunz (cell: 862-432-5413). Additional
I have been granted the honor of serving as President of the Rutgers University Glee Club this upcoming school year. I am a fourth-year music education student at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, and I have been an active participant in "all things Glee Club" since joining in the Fall of '05. Last year, I served on Executive Council as Treasurer and when my term as President concludes, I will seek other positions where I can help better the Glee Club experience.

Richard Wells, a political science and economics major of Rutgers College, is entering his third year here at Rutgers and has decided to spend his second year on executive council as Business Manager. Serving two positions last year, first as Executive Secretary and then as Vice President of Alumni Relations, Rich has proven to be a dedicated and driven member of Glee Club and will achieve anything he sets his mind to.

As a fourth-year biomathematics major, this year's treasurer, Steve Rocha, will be serving his first term as a member of executive council. The Fall will also be his first semester as an assistant coach on our beloved Soup Bowl team. Steve's unfaltering loyalty to Rutgers as well as to the Glee Club is one to be admired by most, as it allows him the pure determination needed to serve the Glee Club to the best of his ability.

Our Vice President of Special Organizational Affairs, is starting his fourth year at Rutgers College, majoring in history with a concentration in American history. Mark has served the club since his freshman year, when he took on some of the responsibilities of Historian. In his sophomore and junior years, he took office as VP Alum and Public Relations Manager, and has helped to redefine each of those positions and how they should be run.

This team of hardworking individuals has already proven itself at our very successful officer retreat held this year at Mountain Creek Resort in.
Vernon Valley, NJ. This annual retreat, partially funded by the Pirelli Fund, allows the Executive Council to spend a weekend preparing and planning the upcoming year’s events, as well as working on team-building exercises to create better working relationships and a comfortable working environment. Already, we have begun to implement the new policies discussed at the retreat to increase our operating efficiency and to help improve our Alumni relations. All in all, the 2008–2009 year is shaping up to be one of the best ever, and our Executive Council has begun working to ensure that everyone involved with the Glee Club will have a great experience.

DR. GILLETT INDUCTED AS AN HONORARY MEMBER

PATRICK MURPHY, MGSA ’09
PRESIDENT 2008–2009

On the night of this year’s Spring concert, the Rutgers University Glee Club joined together in manly pride in reciting the words “so let it be done,” as Dr. Peter R. Gillett was inducted as an honorary member.

Throughout the Glee Club’s history, outstanding individuals have been named honorary members for their dedication to the organization. These select few have been recognized for devoting their time and effort beyond the call of duty for the betterment of this organization. Recent honorary member inductees include former MGSA Dean Marilyn Somville, Vice President Marie Logue, former Rutgers College Dean James Reed, and Sharon Suarez; before them, we inducted Howard J. Crosby, David A. Drinkwater, Barbara Gordon, Mason Gross, Wobina Kwast, Roger R. Locandro, and Harry Morgan. Dr. Gillett embodies all of the characteristics necessary to join this elite group.

A native of Great Britain, Dr. Gillett received both his B.A. and M.A. degree from the University of Oxford for his studies in mathematics and philosophy. He earned his Ph.D. in business from the University of Kansas and works currently as an associate professor in the department of Accounting, Business Ethics and Information Systems of the Rutgers Busi-

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GLEE CLUB HOSTS CANTABILE LIMBURG ON THE BANKS

MARK DIGIOVANNI, RC ’09
VPSOA 2008–2009

A little over a year ago, the Glee Club traveled through Germany and the Netherlands on their European tour, visiting Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, Meissen, Limburg, Nijmegen, Venlo, Utrecht, and Amsterdam. While in Limburg, Germany, we were hosted by one of the premier male choirs in Europe, Cantabile Limburg. In addition to providing a fantastic audience and spectacular music, Cantabile Limburg were gracious hosts, providing great food and drink as the perfect ending to a day filled with music.

This past Spring, the Glee Club had the opportunity to repay the men from Limburg, led by their director Jürgen Faßbender, as the ensemble joined us during their tour of the eastern United States. In one week, we performed joint concerts in three venues: Kirkpatrick Chapel in New Brunswick; Riverside Church in New York City; and the Intercollegiate Men’s Choruses National Seminar in Vienna, Virginia. For all three concerts, Cantabile Limburg performed several German pieces, including Hell ins Fenster by Max Reger, and Abendständchen by Felix Mendelssohn.

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BROTHERS IN SONG:
A CONVERSATION
WITH TOM CLARKE
AND PETE JENSEN

RICH KUNZ, SAS ’11
VP ALUM 2008–2009

One evening in June, I had the opportunity to interview two Alumni who exemplify the spirit of the Rutgers University Glee Club. Tom Clarke and Pete Jensen came into Glee Club as complete strangers, yet by the time of their graduation in 1971 left as the closest of friends. Pete grew up in Westfield, NJ, the oldest of four children, and sang Tenor I during his time in Glee Club. After graduating from Rutgers College, he attained his J.D. from Rutgers Camden, and practiced Law in Camden County for 25 years before moving to Princeton. He has three children with his wife, Mary Ann, Douglass College ’71, all of whom earned degrees from Rutgers. Tom, a Bass, was raised in Butler, NJ and is also the oldest of four siblings (all of whom went to Rutgers). He went to Law School at Fordham University until 1974, and has owned his own practice for the past 23 years in Red Bank. He is married to Bogda, another lawyer, and they have two children. His son recently graduated from the University of Michigan, where he sang in their Glee Club.

Upon entering Rutgers in the Fall of 1967, both young men were drawn to the Glee Club due to their prior singing experience. What caused Tom to audition was primarily the prospect of touring outside of New Brunswick that the Glee Club offered. Pete, on the other hand, was encouraged to audition by Ed Wallace, his High School choral director, who had former students in Glee Club. It was at the auditions, in McKinney Hall, that the soon-to-be close friends first met. The impetus for their friendship is best expressed by Tom: “Appreciation of beautiful women who ignored us.” They soon developed a healthy friendship through the camaraderie so typical of the Rutgers University Glee Club, and they were joined by Glee Clubber Sandy Hart to create a trio. They referred to themselves as “The Three Musketeers.”

It was while on tour that their friendship developed into a lifelong bond. According to Pete, tour was a time in which the young men “grew up real fast.” The class of 1971’s time in Glee Club was particularly unusual, in that they went on international tours all four years, although Pete and Tom had to miss the 1971 tour in order to save funds for Law School. Each tour had its own highlights, both musically and socially. In 1968, the Glee Club stayed over in Copenhagen, where they were able to play a baseball game under natural light at 3 AM due to the northern location.

In ’69, when Glee Club toured the Virgin Islands, Tom, Pete, and Sandy sang some popular music in a quartet. “I don’t know if they were laughing or crying,” said Tom, “but we had the audience in the aisles.” Also in ’69, Soup Walter impressed everyone in Glee Club by performing a cartwheel in the middle of a road (something he had done in the past during performances of Nobody Ever Died for Dear Old Rutgers). Pete began to comment on the Director’s feat: “At that point Soup was…” The words were barely out of Pete’s mouth before Tom humorously finished his sentence with: “…probably about our current ages!”

One of the highlights of the 1970 Southern European tour was when Glee Club sang Mass in “Il Duomo” in Florence on the Feast of St. John. The sound decay in the cavernous cathedral was so long that Soup had to take Palestirina’s O Magnum Mystrium at nearly a quarter of its written tempo in order for the lines to be heard.

During the 1968 tour of Northern Europe, Pete and Sandy went on a bike ride across the border of Luxemburg and Germany to visit Marx’s birthplace. On their way back into Luxemburg, they were stopped by a German border guard, who said the words “Robert Kennedy Tod.” The date was June 5th, 1968, the day after Sirhan Sirhan fired the fatal shots in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. The next day, the Glee Club gave a powerful performance of America’s National Anthem in the town square of Eternach, Luxemburg. Sadly, this was not the only national tragedy Pete and Tom would experience during their time at Rutgers; the conflicts over the Civil Rights movement and the war in Vietnam also coincided with their student tenure. Two days after the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, the Glee Club was scheduled to perform at an AME (African Methodist Episcopal) church near Amboy—a mostly black congregation. The Executive Council of the Glee Club asked the church if they were still comfortable hosting our performance, as the wake of King’s death proved to be a difficult time for race relations. The members of the church felt that the concert would help heal some of the rifts in the community, and chose not to cancel the performance. That night, the Glee Club emotionally performed the spiritual Were You There? and truly crossed racial divides.

In addition to seeing drastic changes in American life during their college years, Pete and Tom were witnesses to some of the important people and traditions that made the Glee Club, and Rutgers, what it is today. They had the opportunity to spend time with the late Howard McKinney when he would occasionally show up to rehearsals in the hall bearing his name, and frequently met Dean Mason Gross at various official functions. Rutgers Football, an integral part of the university and Glee Club
experience, was much different between '68 and '71 from what it is now. The football team played schools like Lehigh and Columbia, rather than Louisville and Connecticut. The “rivalry” between Rutgers and Princeton existed in more than just name, as the teams still played each other once a year. In 1969, the Glee Club performed the National Anthem on the field for the 100th anniversary of the Rutgers – Princeton game. This performance was broadcast on national television, since many people tuned in to watch the latest rematch of the first ever college football game. Times were a bit rough for Rutgers Football in that era, as the team achieved mixed success. Peter described what it was like when the Glee Club appeared at games: “It felt fantastic being on the field, but being in the stands was tough.” Tom agreed with Pete, saying, “It was kind of like being a Mets fan.”

The year 1968 was also an important year in Glee Club history, as the first ever Soup Bowl was played that Fall. At the time, the Band’s rehearsal space was also in McKinney Hall, but there was little crossover between the two groups. The relationship between Glee Club and the Marching Band was essentially a friendly, respectful rivalry, and the organizations were rather close. The time leading up to the first game consisted of a few informal practices, with no formal playbook. The playing field was the lawn of McKinney Hall, and the first Soup Bowl was more like a pickup game than the serious competition it has now become. Pete and Tom were quite amused that the pickup game they played in eventually developed into a full-year experience, with bi-weekly practices, and comprehensive playbooks. They had no idea at the time of the first game that Soup Bowl practices, and comprehensive playbooks. They had no idea at the time of the first game that Soup Bowl would become a rallying point for Glee Club, and one of its strongest traditions. In the words of Pete Jensen, “it certainly has evolved.”

Tom served as President and Pete served as Business Manager during their senior year, and they continue their service to this day through the Advisory Committee, on which Pete just finished his first year, while Tom has accepted the invitation to join beginning in Fall 2008. Both men agree that they have taken away more from Glee Club than they have put in through service. Tom and Pete share the same favorite Rutgers Song, Nobody Ever Died for Dear Old Rutgers, while their favorite performance pieces vary. Tom enjoyed singing the spiritual This Ol’ Hammer and The Peacock by Zoltán Kodály, while Pete prefers Pavel Chesnokov’s Salvation is Created and the Christmas Series standard Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming (both in English!). Both men sang after their time in Glee Club, with Tom performing for a time in various Barbershop groups, while Pete continues to sing with the choir at Montgomery Evangelical Free Church.

After their time in Glee Club, Pete, Tom, and Sandy remained exceptionally close friends. They rotated serving as best men at each other’s weddings: Pete served as Tom’s, Tom served as Sandy’s, and Sandy served as Pete’s. Pete and Tom still get together frequently, particularly at Glee Club concerts. They have formed a group of three couples, with one couple being mutual friends, who attend nearly every Glee Club concert at Rutgers. To this day, they are awed by the sounds produced by the Glee Club. Both men attended the Glee Club’s 2008 performance at the Intercollegiate Men’s Chorus (IMC) Seminar, and took particular pride and pleasure in our performance of Biebl’s Ave Maria (particularly the emotional moment when the audience of singers joined in performing the final verses). Looking back on the past 40 years of friendship, Tom had to say, “What bonded our friendship was going through this experience together.”

The women of Mount Holyoke rehearsing before our exchange concert.
Honorary Member
Continued from Page 3

ness School–Newark and New Brunswick. Dr. Gillett makes an enormous impact as the academic advisor of the Glee Club. Every Friday, he attends two-hour council meetings to help oversee the multitude of logistical issues brought up by the Executive Council. He works with the Treasurer on developing the budget, insists that deadlines are met, and offers great advice to the officers on executing their tasks. Dr. Gillett has even edited the document you are reading right now!

Traveling with the Glee Club is not in the job description of the Academic Advisor, yet on all of our off-campus tours and performances, you will most likely see Dr. Gillett present, dressed in a suit and tie. The evening he was accepted as an honorary member, the Glee Club performed Noel Coward’s ‘Mad Dogs and Englishmen’, poking fun at his constant, impeccable attire. This arrangement by Grant Gardner—a recent graduate of the Mason Gross jazz program—featured soloists John Baldassare, Sam Levine, Rupnath Chattopadhyay, and even our very own Dr. Gardner.

Not only is Dr. Gillett active as a Glee Club advisor, but he also acts as the academic advisor of the Rutgers University Kirkpatrick Choir, with which he also sings, in addition to singing with the Riverside Choral Society in New York City. He is Faculty Secretary of the Rutgers Business School–Newark and New Brunswick, serves as a University Senator, and for the last two years has also been the Academic Director of the Prudential Business Ethics Center at Rutgers. Though his schedule is clearly ridiculously busy, he makes time to share his passion for music and choral singing. At his induction, Dr. Gillett confessed: “this is a very, very, very proud moment for me.” The Glee Club shares this pride as it welcomes its newest member.

Holyoke
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The Saturday concert began with the Mount Holyoke Glee Club performing Chesnokov’s Gladsome Light (Svete tihiy) and Poulenc’s Ave Maria, in addition to Sarah Hopkins’ Past Life Melodies, in which the designed overtone singing resonated throughout the historic Abbey Memorial Chapel. The Rutgers University Glee Club went on to perform a variety of pieces including Bruckner’s Inveni David, featuring four trombonists taken directly from the Glee Club, and a new favorite, Elliott Carter’s Tarantella. The gentlemen also demonstrated their overtone singing with the Ramkali Raga.

The highlight of the evening was the combined Glee Club performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams’ Five Mystical Songs, featuring baritone soloist Joshua Copeland, a recent graduate of Yale University’s Institute of Sacred Music Master’s Program. Ms. Adams beautifully directed the combined choirs and 21-piece orchestra in a performance that many in the audience found emotionally moving. The Afterglow allowed the gentlemen of the Rutgers University Glee Club to experience the Mount Holyoke equivalent of McKinney Hall (in the form of McCulloch Auditorium).

The intention of the exchange weekend was not just to provide a performance opportunity; it was also designed to strengthen bonds between two historic institutions. The Mount Holyoke Glee Club had arranged a variety of social events to help the young performers bond. The first night in South Hadley, the combined Glee Clubs enjoyed a night of pizza and contra dancing (traditional New England folk dancing) with live music. Many of the hostesses were sorry to see their half-awake guests leave on Sunday morning. One first-year (not freshman, as any Mount Holyoke woman will tell you), Samantha Martin, stated, “it was nice to hear men’s voices when you are used to only women. I’m very excited to visit Rutgers and sing with everyone again!”

The Rutgers University Glee Club is in the process of arranging a similar concert weekend for this upcoming Fall, during which we will host the women of Mount Holyoke.

Cantabile
Continued from Page 3

Following the first concert in New Brunswick, the Glee Club led the men of Cantabile Limburg to Stuff Yer Face, where Rutgers songs could be heard emanating from the upstairs pub. The Glee Club men who were on the European tour last year took this opportunity to catch up with the German choir. Several members of Glee Club were even able to reconnect with their Limburg hosts.

Perhaps the most exciting part of the week occurred in Vienna, when both the Glee Club and Cantabile Limburg traveled to the Intercollegiate Men’s Choruses (IMC) National Seminar. The conference was packed with performances by several ensembles, including the Washington Men’s Camerata, a group several RUGC Alumni perform with.

The Glee Club and Cantabile Limburg performed during IMC’s Saturday night concert session, along with the University of Michigan Men’s Glee Club. All three ensembles performed separately, followed by a joint performance from the men of Rutgers and Cantabile Limburg. The joint choir performed The Last Words of David by Randall Thompson, as well as Franz Biebl’s Ave Maria. During the Ave Maria, which marked the end of the seminar, members of the Glee Club noticed that the other choirs in attendance, as well as the members of the conference, were standing and singing along. By the final chord,
the entire room had joined in, filling the hall with music. The crowd experienced a unique moment of unity, and several members of the audience were spotted shedding a tear as the room erupted into applause. Of course, the audience included some Glee Club Alumni, who joined their brothers in song and Cantabile Limburg at a reception after the concert.

The reception only continued the intensity, as many Rutgers songs were sung arm-in-arm with the men of Cantabile Limburg. A first-year Glee Club member, Dan Comito (SEBS ’11), commented, “singing Ave Maria with these guys, who already have a strong bond with the Glee Club, would have been enough. But to have the entire room join in was one of the most powerful experiences that I have ever taken part in. As a rookie, it was great to be a part of such an amazing event that strengthened the connection between our choirs.”

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<tr>
<th>Upcoming Events</th>
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<td>Homecoming</td>
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<td>Mount Holyoke Exchange Concert</td>
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