

Rutgers provides beauty, education and cost-effective benefits to state

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What a bargain Rutgers, your state university, is to the state and its people. For every dollar spent by the citizens of this state on the state university, Rutgers generates about another \$4 through faculty-generated research and teaching grants, donations and tuition.

I was taking advantage of the very nice weather last weekend, attended the Folk Festival on Douglass, the Ag Day on Cook, and walked around the large green area between the School of Engineering and the Library of Science and Medicine on Busch Campus.

What I noticed was how beautiful all the campuses are. Flowers planted everywhere, trees blooming, people enjoying the attractive surroundings. I thought as well about how little most New Jerseyans really know about Rutgers, their state university. I do not only mean about our teaching and research, all of our outreach to farmers and other citizens. I was thinking about just seeing the campuses.

So when you wonder about what to do one weekend this summer, if you are tired of the beach or the mall, why not travel to one of our campuses. If in the New Brunswick area, visit the gorgeous Douglass campus with its rolling hills and lake. Or walk up Easton Avenue from the train station, make a right on Somerset and a quick left onto College Avenue, where you will see Rutgers' oldest buildings, now used for administration. Also along the way are numerous fraternities and old homes saved and converted for various university functions.

A right on Hamilton will take you to the Zimmerli Museum at George Street. It is a fantastic place to spend an afternoon looking at extraordinary art; become a member. At Bartlett Street look to the right and see the restored Bishop House, which was erected in 1852 and named after James Bishop (1816-1895). Bishop was engaged in mercantile pursuits in New Brunswick and was prominent in the rubber trade in New York City. From 1855-57 Bishop was a Whig member of the U.S. Congress. Later Bishop was Chief of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1878-93.

Most of you know the Busch Campus as where the various Rutgers stadiums are located. But also, there is the Rutgers Golf Course, a real beauty, and numerous centers of research and instruction.

A bit further, you will see the breathtaking Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine as well as the Waksman Institute of Microbiology. Walk around the Busch Campus a bit and you will see buildings named after the important research that is done inside. On a warm sunny day, bring a snack and enjoy it under a tree.

So while you are enjoying your walk, think also of how important your state university is in your life and the lives of your children. Think of the education of all the young people who have attended Rutgers, and all who are students at Rutgers today, and will eventually make their home New Jersey. Think of the companies, large and small, who are in New Jersey because of the educated populace, many of whom have studied and graduated from Rutgers and the other institutions of higher education.

And what a bargain Rutgers, your state university, is to the state and its people. For every dollar spent by the citizens of this state on the state university, Rutgers generates about another \$4

through faculty-generated research and teaching grants, donations and tuition. And then each student that graduates from Rutgers continues to give of his or her mind and efforts to the state and the nation, for a lifetime. What a wonderful investment. So if this is our goal, a vibrant Rutgers and a productive pool of educated people, a dynamic and exciting New Jersey, then every dollar that goes to support Rutgers is a dollar very well spent. What an easy decision!

Be Counted columnist Haym Benaroya is a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Rutgers University and directs the Center for Structures in Extreme Environments.