

Distinguished Alumna Ndidiamaka N. Amutah-Onukagha, LC'03, Works to Improve the Health of Women, Babies and Disadvantaged Communities



Ndidiamaka (Nnidi) N. Amutah-Onukagha, LC'03, was honored in 2013 as a

Distinguished Alumna of Livingston College at Rutgers University.

Dr. Amutah-Onukagha has been an assistant professor at Tufts University's School of Medicine, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, since July 2017. In this capacity her research focuses on adverse birth outcomes for women of color, HIV/AIDS and women of color in an urban context, and community-based participatory research.

She had previously served as an assistant professor in the College of Education and Human Services, Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences, at Montclair State University, and was a fellow of the Research Education Institute for Diverse Scholars from 2013-2015.

Dr. Amutah-Onukagha completed her dissertation focused on infant mortality in Washington, DC, and it specifically examined neighborhood level disadvantage, social determinants of health, and race/ethnicity as predictors of infant mortality.

Her research interests include health disparities, reproductive health, infant mortality and HIV/AIDS in ethnic minority populations.



Dr. Amutah-Onukagha has worked as a researcher in community-based research

settings in a variety of areas including maternal and child health, health disparities, and HIV/AIDS.

She has published and presented in the area of HIV/AIDS and infant mortality in urban communities.


She also has served as president of the Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues and a director of The Women's Collective, a nonprofit social service agency for women of color who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Video (2 minutes, 3 seconds): Amutah-Onukagha discusses her career and the

cultural opportunities she experienced at Livingston College. Open the video in a new window.

Photos: (top) Courtesy of Amutah-Onukagha; (bottom) From the 2003 Livingston College yearbook, Diversity: Roots of Knowledge, Volume XIII.

Distinguished Alumnus Nicholas Ferroni, LC'03, Mentors by Shining a Light on History

Educator and historian **Nicholas Ferroni**, LC'03, was honored as a Livingston College Distinguished Alumnus in 2013. 

Ferroni has received national attention for his unique and innovative methodology in successfully mentoring and reaching contemporary and urban students, and has been featured in various academic and scholarly journals.

Ferroni, a former actor turned teacher, writer and host, was recently named one of the 100 most influential people in America for his commitment to education reform as well as developing a "Teach the Truth" campaign to incorporate more minority figures and groups into the high school social studies curriculum.

Ferroni was also named one of *Men's Fitness* magazine's "25 Fittest Men in the World," "The Man of Appeal" by *Rutgers* magazine, and "The Sexiest Teacher Alive" by *People* magazine. As of 2021 Ferroni is a history teacher at Union High School in Union, New Jersey.

He has written for *HuffPost* about education, diversity, and his pride in New Jersey, among other issues.

Ferroni has said that since he can't do history, he teaches it.

His activism inside the classroom, in the media, and online, though, promises to change the history of those he teaches.

His continuing lessons to his students include:

- Advocating for the LGBT community;

- Conducting a social experiment to teach about the underrepresentation of women in Congress;
- Organizing a crowdfunding campaign to help a student and his family recover from a housing crisis.

“Most teachers, including myself, see our students as our ‘kids,’ ” Ferroni told *People* in 2018. “They are not just students to us, and we care as much about their success in life as their success in class.”

Follow Nicholas Ferroni on Twitter.

Videos: (Center) Ferroni discusses his career and passions. (Bottom) Ferroni’s acceptance video. Or open the videos in a new window.

[Distinguished Alumnus Robert Bertrand, LC’01, Broadcast Engineer, Reimagined Radio at Rutgers](#)

Robert P. Bertrand, honored in 2015 as a Livingston College Distinguished Alumnus, is the Chief Technology Officer at WAMU-FM 88.5, the National Public Radio station in Washington, D.C.



Before joining WAMU, Bertrand served for more than five years as the Market Chief Engineer for CBS Radio New York. He oversaw the technical operations of four FM and three AM radio stations, in addition to the CBS Sports Radio Network until January 2016.

At CBS Radio, Bertrand led a team of 20 broadcast engineering and IT pros supporting the more than 500 people who comprise these operations, including 35 studios and 40 news production workstations. Prior to taking the chief role in December 2010, Bertrand served as a broadcast engineer for WCBS 880 for five years.

Bertrand began his commercial radio career at Greater Media’s WCTC and WMGQ in New Brunswick, New Jersey, where he discovered his passion for broadcast engineering.



A 2001 graduate of Livingston College, Bertrand spent his college career to


build a new radio station at Rutgers University, a joint venture with Piscataway High School. That station, 90.3 FM The Core, first broadcast in 2000.

Today it is the largest student organization at Rutgers and continues to develop new talent among the high school and college students it serves. For almost a decade after graduating, Bertrand continued to advise The Core and served as its chief engineer.

For Bertrand, Livingston College was a place for “forgotten misfits ... a place for people who didn’t think that everything else in the world was OK.” And he felt right at home there, he tells us in the embedded video (2 minutes, 20 seconds). (Open the video in a new window.)

Photos: (top) Courtesy of Bertrand; (bottom) From the 2001 Livingston College yearbook, Diversity: Making Connections, Volume XI .

[Distinguished Alumna Deborah Stokes, LC’74: Livingston College Fostered Art and Social Justice](#)

Deborah L. Stokes, honored in 2015 as a Livingston College Distinguished Alumna, has served as the Curator for Education, Head of K-12 and Teacher Programs with the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African Art since 2008. 

At the Smithsonian, Stokes oversees the development of educational programs, activities, and materials for diverse school audiences and teacher development. Stokes writes with an eye to multidisciplinary, cross-unit collaborative programming and has created family gallery guides integrating the arts with natural history, astronomy and environmental science in a series of exhibitions.

Before arriving at the Smithsonian, Stokes was appointed Visiting Professor in the Art History Department at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) teaching The Visual Art of Africa and Issues in Contemporary African Art. Stokes received her M.A. in Museum Studies at Columbia College Chicago, and worked as a Research Associate in the Anthropology Collections at the Field Museum in Chicago with a focus on African beadwork. She has published extensively in African arts.

Stokes' work on the African continent has taken her to Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa and she continues to foster ideas of cross cultural collaboration with contemporary artists, curators, and educators both nationally and internationally.


In 2012, Stokes received the Pioneer Award from the Federal Government Distance Learning Association (FGDLA) in recognition of an individual for demonstrating initiative and leadership in the development and implementation of distance learning in the federal government.

In August 2013 her Distance Learning program was awarded the coveted Pinnacle Award from the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC). Stokes is currently serving a three-year term on the Advisory Board of Art Education, Journal of the National Art Education Association.

During her college tenure, Stokes found mentors in the Art and Art History programs at Livingston College who introduced her to the museum world in New York City. "Livingston College gave a foundation to the idea of social justice," Stokes tells us in the embedded video. (You may also open the video in a new window.)

Also, check out an article documenting the "First Livingston Women's [Art] Show" in 1972, at which Stokes exhibited paintings and a silk screen print.

[Distinguished Alumnus Kenneth Cop, LC'95, Leads Diverse Rutgers Police Force](#)

Kenneth B. Cop, honored in 2015 as a Livingston College Distinguished Alumnus, serves as the Executive Director of Public Safety and Chief of Rutgers University Police. 

He oversees the administration and operation of all public safety services for Rutgers University, with approximately 500 employees under his command. Cop graduated from Livingston College ('95) with a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice, a minor in Sociology and a Criminology Certificate.

At Centenary College ('02), he earned a Master of Arts in Leadership and Public Administration. Additionally, he is a graduate of the FBI National Academy Class #254, the West Point Command and Leadership School, and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Program.


Cop was hired as a Rutgers University Security Officer in 1995. He completed his basic police certification at the Ocean County Police Academy and started his law enforcement career as a Rutgers University Police Officer in 1997. He has been promoted to positions of increasing responsibilities during his career with Rutgers.

Livingston College's motto of "Strength Through Diversity" is still alive in public safety at Rutgers, Cop tells us in the embedded video. (You may also open the video in a new window.)


In 2020 *Rutgers Today* interviewed Chief Cop. From the interview: "I just wanted to help others and keep people safe. ... The sentiment was instinctual for me, something that I had always cared about. My decision to remain at Rutgers after I graduated is because I always viewed the university as home. So, keeping my home safe was a natural career progression."

Documentation of Livingston College History

Documents and Photos Related to Livingston College's 50th Anniversary and Beyond

- A short history of Livingston College, from its planning in 1965 to its final commencement in 2010, is available on another page on this site. 
- Several authors have written about Livingston College's history in both popular and scholarly works. See a selected bibliography.
- For a list of student yearbooks produced during Livingston College's history, including links to cover-to-cover online versions of the yearbooks, please see this page.

In addition to the yearbooks, handbooks, newspapers and other publications and documents from Livingston College, scanned by the Internet Archive, are available.

 Many of the materials are from the collection of Louis T. Economopoulos (pictured at left), a 1973 graduate of Livingston College.

- Kenneth Lew has included a few Livingston College documents within his collection of publications and other documents on New Brunswick and Rutgers history. The Livingston College items are:

* Livingston College – Admission to the University in New Brunswick, New Jersey (1971). (The 1969 and 1970 editions of the same document are available in LAA’s collection hosted by the Internet Archive.)

* To Members of the Class of 1983 (March 1, 1979)

* Dear Freshman (May 12, 1979)

– Rutgers’ Special Collections and University Archives (held within Alexander Library on the College Avenue campus in New Brunswick) holds numerous documents on Livingston College’s history. Note that the documents themselves are available for review in person only at the library. Among the relevant Livingston College documents are:



- Records of the Office of the Dean of Livingston College, Ernest A. Lynton, 1965-1973
- Guide to the Walton R. Johnson Papers, 1949-2001
- Guide to the Rutgers Grass Roots – Progressive Activists Files, 1921-1993 (1979-1993, bulk)

– The Penn State University (PSU) Libraries website DOES offer online access to some documents related to Livingston College’s history, via the Horowitz Transaction Publishers Archive.


In August 2006 the Historical Collections and Labor Archives (HCLA) division of the Special Collections Library of the PSU acquired the corporate archives of Transaction Publishers, a gift of Dr. Irving Louis Horowitz, chairman of the board of Transaction Publishers and the Hannah Arendt Distinguished University Professor (Emeritus), Department of Sociology, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Top photo: A model showing the three Quads dorms and Tillett Hall. Frank Grad and Sons, Architects, 1965–70, photo dated April 20, 1966. The quads were reinterpretations of the quadrangular colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, broken up into smaller volumes along each side. The shape creates an intimate outdoor courtyard. Source: R-Photo, Buildings and Grounds, Box 33, Livingston College, Architectural Model folder, as published in the article, The early years of Livingston College, 1964–1973: Revisiting the “college of good intentions.” Courtesy of Rutgers University Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives.

Center photo: Louis T. Economopoulos (LC’73), covering Rutgers lacrosse as a reporter for The Home News in 1973.

Bottom photo: Student playing pool at the Livingston student union, 1978. The current Livingston Student Center opened in 1986 and was expanded in 2010. Tillett Hall was the previous home of student activities, including the dining hall and pub.

Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award

The **Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award** is given annually by the Livingston Alumni Association (LAA) to the Rutgers-New Brunswick graduating senior who most embodies the spirit of Livingston College and its attributes of leadership and social action. 

All Rutgers University-New Brunswick undergraduate seniors with a minimum cumulative GPA of are eligible to apply for the award.

Riki E. Jacobs (1957-2009, pictured at right) was the director of the Hyacinth Foundation, an AIDS support organization, among many roles she fulfilled to assist vulnerable populations.

Jacobs (LC'80) also was one of LAA's first Livingston College Distinguished Alumni, honored in 2000.
































Recipients of the Livingston Pride Award (renamed for Riki Jacobs in 2010)

Honorees from 1990 through 2010 graduated from Livingston College. Since 2011, honorees may be graduates of any undergraduate college at Rutgers University-New Brunswick/Piscataway.

The years in the list below link to the Livingston College yearbook page where each student is pictured. / * Photo not available.

The names link to more information about each awardee, as available.

1990: Yantra E. Zavala *	1999: Irene Shenouda	2006: Keith A. Gottesman	
1991: Stephanie Heitman	2000: Geraldine Burgos	2007: Zuleima Feliciano *	2014: Emilie Transue
1992: Daniel Malloie	2001: Randall Gordon Stamm	2008: Jacqui Whitfield *	2015: Amy Albert
1993: Harry R. Knabe	2002: Michael Lawrence Dimond	2009: Rob Drucker *	2016: Victor A. Mensah
1994: Janel C. Patti	2003: Kazim A. Rizvi	2010: Victoria Rowland *	2017: Maria Alba
1995: Ayana D. Gee	2004: Gregory Ordun	2011: Matthew Cortland	2018: Lucy Anne Blevins
1996: Caren A. Tinney	2005: Lisa M. Lattanzi	2012: Amy Tran	2019: Eshan Kaul
1997: Connie Liauw		2013: Melanie Davila	2021: Janelle L. Taliaferro
1998: Ashwini Reddy			2021: Amanda Wells
			2022: Tara Krishna
			2022: Anthony Rivera-Rosario
			2023: Divon Pender
			2023: Sara Rubiano

Stephanie Heitman, LC'91	Daniel Malloie, LC'92	Harry R. Knabe, LC'93	Janel C. Patti, LC'94	Ayana D. Gee, LC'95
				
Caren A. Tinney, LC'96	Connie Liauw, LC'97	Ashwini Reddy, LC'98	Irene Shenouda, LC'99	Geraldine Burgos, LC'00
				
Randall Gordon Stamm, LC'01	Michael Lawrence Dimond, LC'02	Kazim A. Rizvi, LC'03	Gregory Ordun, LC'04	Lisa M. Lattanzi, LC'05
				
Keith A. Gottesman, LC'06	Matthew Cortland, SAS'11	Amy Tran, SAS'12	Melanie Davila, SAS'13	Emilie Transue, SAS'14
				
Amy Albert, SAS'15	Victor A. Mensah, SAS'16	Maria Alba, SAS'17	Lucy Anne Blevins, SAS'18	Eshan Kaul, SEBS'19
				
Janelle L. Taliaferro, RBS'21	Amanda Wells, SAS'21	Tara Krishna, SAS'22		
				
Anthony Rivera-Rosario, SAS'22	Divon Pender, SMLR'23	Sara Rubiano, SAS/EJB'23		
				

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

Biographies for the recipients of the awards listed and linked below have been updated when possible. Otherwise, they represent the information available as of the dates of induction. Send updates or corrections.



- **Livingston College Distinguished Alumni Award:** Established in September 2000 to recognize Livingston College alumni who have distinguished themselves by contributions they have made in their chosen fields of endeavor, by the leadership they have exhibited, and by the general benefits to the larger society resulting from their activities.
- **Seth Dvorin Distinguished Young Alumni Award:** Established in November 2004 in memory of Army Lt. Seth Jeremy Dvorin (LC'02, Administration of Justice; pictured at right), who was killed in Iraq on February 3, 2004. The Seth Dvorin Award was presented to Livingston College young alumni who have distinguished themselves by contributions they have made in their chosen fields of endeavor, by the leadership they have exhibited, and by the general benefits to the larger society resulting from their activities. *The three recipients of this award are noted below. This award is now retired.*

2000 Inductees

RIKI JACOBS (LC'80,
NLAW'89)



Director of AIDS
Support Organization;
Health Educator (*died
in 2009*)

CLIFTON R. LACY
(LC'75, RWJMS'79)



Medical Leader;
New Jersey State
Health Commissioner

JOHN S. LIPORI
(LC'77)



Banking
Executive

**ALFRED E. RAMEY,
JR** (LC'73)



University
Counsel;
New Jersey
Assistant Attorney
General

2002 Inductees

THOMAS F. DALEY
(LC'75)



District Attorney;
Judge; Adjunct
Professor of Law (*died
in 2015*)

SUSAN KILLE
(LC'74)



Newspaper
Journalist

DAVID A. LASKOW
(LC'77, RWJMS'81)



Surgeon; Associate
Professor of
Surgery

STEVEN D. PLOFKER
(LC'78)



Real Estate
Developer;
Attorney

2004 Inductees

FRANK CARVILL (LC'75)



New Jersey National
Guardsman
Killed in Iraq (*Posthumous;
died in 2004*)

GINA COLLINS CUMMINGS
(LC'84)



Environmental, Health,
and Social Justice Activist

**EDWARD E. JOHNSON,
JR.** (LC'79)



Wall Street Executive

MICHAEL C. LARACY
(LC'74)



Advocate for Children
and Families

KAREN ROGERS (LC'92)



*Seth Dvorin Distinguished
Young Alumni Award*
Television Meteorologist/Journalist

HARRY V. SWAYNE III
(LC'90)



Football Executive
and Player

2006 Inductees

AVERY BROOKS (LC'73, MGSA'76)



COLLEEN FRASER (LC'74)



MARK HELIAS
(LC'74)



Actor; Director; Singer; Professor, Mason Gross School of the Arts	Advocate for People with Disabilities; Hero of United Airlines Flight 93 (Posthumous; died in 2001)	Jazz Musician and Composer
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LIZA KIRSCHENBAUM (LC'87)	ANDREA D. LYON (LC'73)	GREGG SPIRIDELLIS (LC'93, RBS'93)
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Advocate for Children in
the Courts



Law School Dean;
Expert in Death-Penalty
Defense



*Seth Dvorin Distinguished
Young Alumni Award*
Entrepreneur in Online
Entertainment

2009 Inductees

KEVIN APUZZIO (LC'06)

MARLA DIAMOND
(LC'92)

**FRANCOISE
JACOBSON** (LC'79)

MARTHA NELL SMITH
(LC'77, GSNB'82, '85)



*Seth Dvorin
Distinguished Young
Alumni Award*

Heroic Firefighter and Radio
Emergency Medical Technician
(Posthumous; died in
2006)



Journalist



Advocate for
Women and Workers



Professor of
English;
Emily Dickinson
Scholar

2011 Inductees

GREGORY Q. BROWN (LC'82)

EDWARD M. JORDAN (SMLR'15)



Rutgers Board of Governors Chair;
Business Leader



Rutgers Men's Basketball Head Coach
(2013-2016)
and Player (1973-1977)

2013 Inductees

NDIDI N. AMUTAH-ONUKAGHA
(LC'03)

NICHOLAS FERRONI
(LC'03)

JESSIE J. HANNA (LC'07,
RWJMS'14)



Assistant Professor
Researcher on Health and
Nutrition



Educator and
Historian






Physician
Researcher on Pediatric
Cancer

2015 Inductees

ROBERT P. BERTRAND
(LC'01)

KENNETH B. COP (LC'95)

DEBORAH L. STOKES
(LC'74)

		
Radio Engineer	Rutgers University Executive Director of Police Services / Chief of Police	Museum Curator and Arts Educator

2018 Inductees

STACI BERGER (LC'94,
EJB/GSNB'04)



Housing and Community
Development Advocate

JEANIE BRYSON (LC'81)



Jazz/Pop/Latin Vocalist

EVERETTE B. PENN (LC'91)



Race/Youth/Justice Scholar

CARLYLE E. SHELTON JR.
(LC'80)



Deputy Inspector
General,
U.S. Marine Corps

ROBERT W. SNYDER (LC'77)



Professor, American Studies
and Journalism

MARIE VARGHESE (LC'03)



College Advisor and
Social Justice Advocate

Livingston Legacy Lectures (2009-2010)

Those of us who were members of the Livingston College family, whether as a student, faculty or staff member, or friend, know of the vital and eternal legacy Livingston has to this day on the overall programs of Rutgers University and on a global scale.

Livingston graduates and staff play key roles in the national and international communities, and Livingston's programs and unique attributes live on in a variety of Rutgers University programs.

To celebrate Livingston's contributions to the overall Rutgers and global communities, the Livingston Alumni Association hosted two Livingston Legacy Lecture programs in 2009 and 2010.

- Livingston College History Panel (2009).
- Journalism Panel (2010).