



AN ERA BEGINS

“NEW JERSEY CAN BUILD in Rutgers the country’s first major public research university that recognizes and rises to the challenges of our society.”

With this pledge to transform Rutgers into a “new kind of university,” Francis L. Lawrence officially assumed office as the 18th president of Rutgers on March 3 in New Brunswick.

Lawrence’s speech, the focal point of formal investment ceremonies that were held in the College Avenue Gymnasium, culminated a week of events

A week-long celebration marks the inauguration of Francis L. Lawrence as Rutgers’ 18th president.

University community, and invited dignitaries, Lawrence stressed that higher education needed to emerge from isolation and overcome its ivory tower

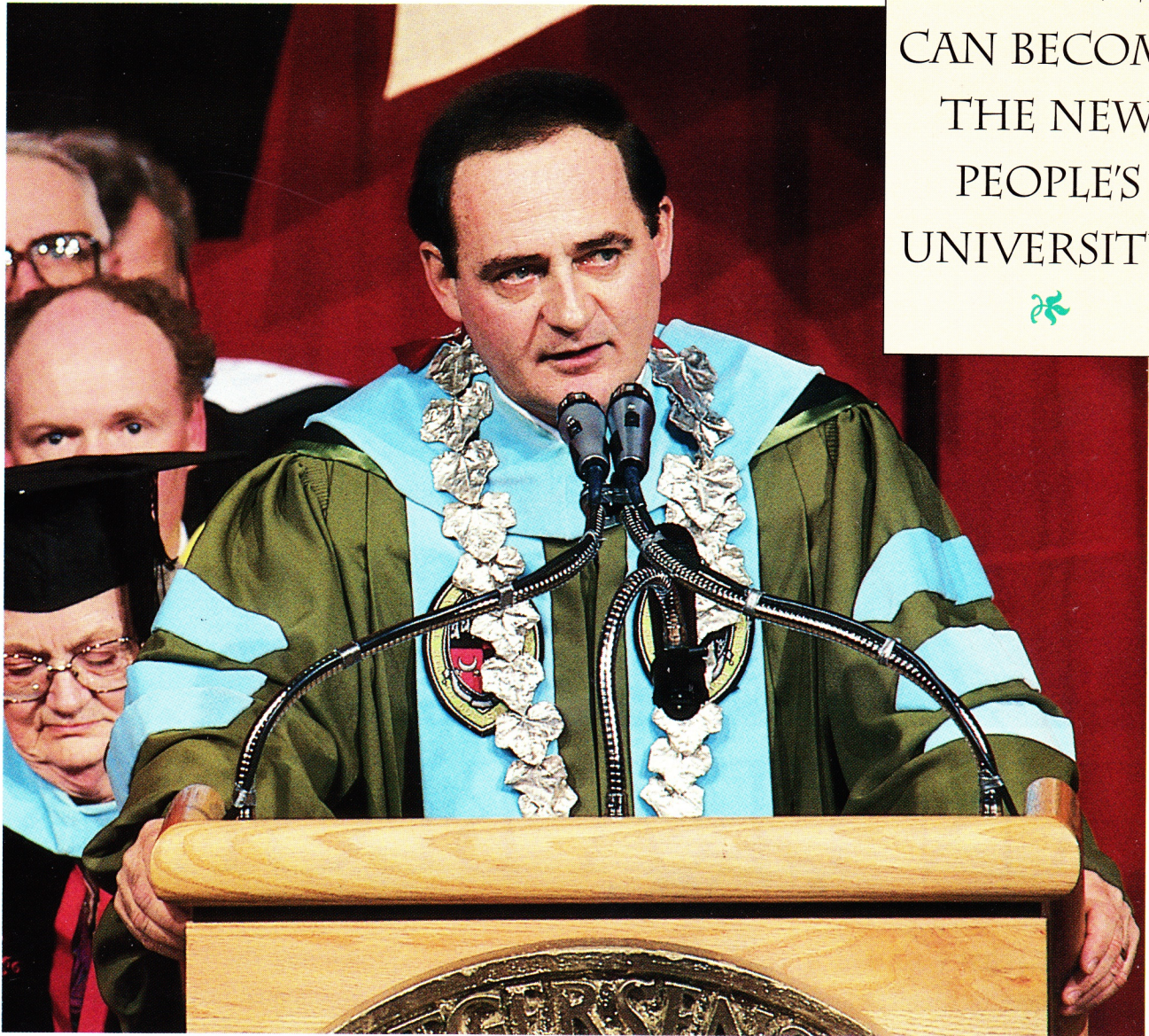
marking the University’s first presidential inauguration in 20 years. From the dedication of the Paul Robeson Library at Camden to a concert honoring the Institute of Jazz Studies’ 25th anniversary in Newark, this was truly a University-wide celebration.

Speaking to an audience that included Governor Jim Florio, former governor Tom Kean, the

BY BILL GLOVIN

PHOTOS BY NICK ROMANENKO

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During his inaugural address, Lawrence told the audience that "coming from the warm bayous of private education to the crisp, highly charged waters of New Jersey's great State University has been one of the most invigorating transitions of my life."

image, and he proposed expanding the University's community outreach programs to accomplish that goal.

"With the cooperation and support of the state, Rutgers can become the new people's University, with coordinated extension services in industry, business, and education as well as agriculture," Lawrence said.

The new president reaffirmed the University's commitment to undergraduate and graduate teaching and to minority enrollment, while emphasizing the importance of research as a source of new knowledge. He also called for the University to reexamine its requirements for a baccalaureate.

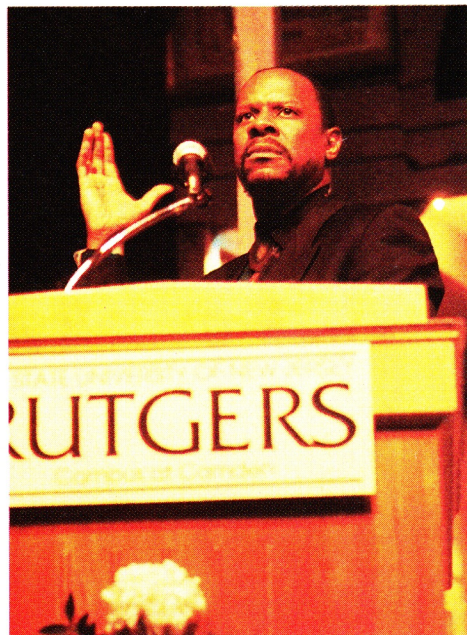
Rutgers should be proud of its growing national prominence, he said, but many challenges lie ahead, especially in light of budget cuts. The University community, he said, should "come out to fight—not against, but for the community around it by extending itself." He concluded by noting "the truth is fairly simple: You do not need me to make Rutgers a great University; I need you." □



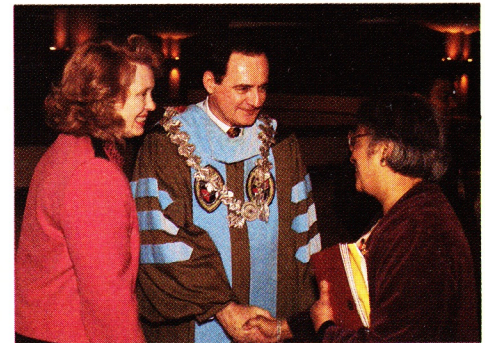
Upon being formally introduced as Rutgers' 18th president, Lawrence received a standing ovation. Among those applauding was Governor Jim Florio, who had addressed the audience earlier in the program.



The Newark celebration coincided with the 25th anniversary of the Institute of Jazz Studies. Lawrence toured the institute with his wife, Mary Kay, and Board of Governors President Adrienne S. Anderson, stopping to pose (far left) with a green trumpet once used by jazz legend Miles Davis. Later, the joint was jumpin' in Newark when a quartet led by Clark Terry (left) concluded with a number entitled "Mumbles." Terry teased Lawrence by telling him to feel free to borrow any of the song's lyrics for meetings on proposed budget cuts.



Honoring Class of 1919 graduate Paul Robeson was the focus of inaugural festivities in Camden. Before moving outdoors to dedicate the Paul Robeson Library, Lawrence was treated to several dramatic performances in the Fine Arts Theatre, including a reading by actor Avery Brooks (left) from the critically acclaimed play "Paul Robeson."



Following the inauguration, Mary Kay Lawrence and her husband—wearing the new presidential medal and chain—greeted guests at a reception in Brower Commons.