

ODASIS director Emmet Dennis (top left) and associate director Kamal Khan (top middle) with a group of future physicians.

## Medical Breakthrough

THIS PROGRAM PUTS STUDENTS ON THE ROAD TO CAREERS IN MEDICINE

● Niels Martin RC'97, an orthopedic surgeon in Philadelphia, knew he wanted a career in medicine as a Rutgers College freshman in 1993, but lacked direction. His second semester, Martin was told to see Kamal Khan LC'79, associate director of Rutgers' Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences (ODASIS). "Dr. Khan closed his door and spent 45 minutes telling me about the Access-Med program," says Martin, who grew up in Irvington. "He mapped out my curriculum and encouraged me to enroll in a great summer program. He put me on the road to becoming a doctor."

African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans represent

URTESY UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



## Bee Free

SOME QUICK THINKING TOOK THE STING OUT OF A BIG PROBLEM

Lynn Braun, a senior administrative assistant at the Hill Center for the Mathematical Sciences on Busch campus, came back from a day off last spring to find that bees had invaded several offices. Thousands of them, as it happened, had set up their own dormitory on the building about four stories up, and several hundred had found a way in. "People were swatting them as fast as they came in," says Braun. Staffers called in a New Jersey bee

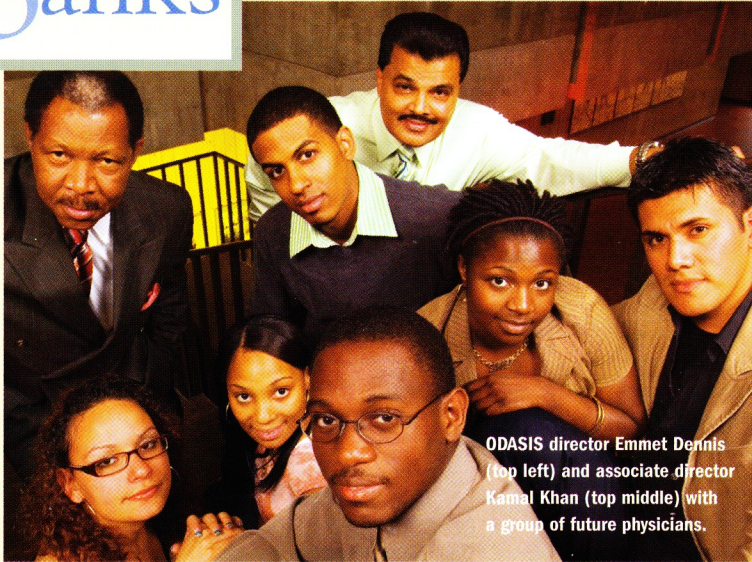
doocyst named Michael [unclear] to the scene with a white bee suit and veil

from the Martin Hall basement where  
 still gathered from a Cook College cow  
 barn led to the cure of a disease once  
 known as "the white plague." Last  
 spring the two lab rooms were trans-  
 formed into a mini-museum and confer-  
 ence room and named a national his-  
 toric site by the American Society for  
 Microbiology. Among the artifacts is a  
 replica of the Nobel Prize for Medicine  
 awarded for the discovery in 1952. To  
 visit, call the dean's office at (732) 932-  
 9000, ext. 557.

“The kinds of product innovation that we see [with bagels] have the quality of computer programming. How else to account for the bagelwich (bagel+sandwich), bragel (bagel+roll), bretzel (bagel+pretzel), fragel (fried bagel), and flagel (flat bagel)?”

~BARBARA KIRSHENBLATT-GIMBLETT, NYU PROFESSOR, ROUNDING OUT THE HISTORY OF THIS EDIBLE ICON AT A BILDNER CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE PROGRAM LAST FALL





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African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans represent about 24 percent of the U.S. population but compose less than 8 percent of the nation's physicians. Access-Med works to narrow the gap by encouraging undergraduate students from underrepresented groups to pursue careers in medicine and medical research. It offered Martin general science courses with more class time and fewer students, sponsored tutoring and motivational workshops, and surrounded him with mentors. In his junior year at Rutgers, Martin applied to Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where he took classes his senior year and made the transition directly into the medical school.

Martin had a huge smile on his face at the Douglass College Center in April. He returned to Rutgers to attend the Access-Med graduation dinner, which marked 20 years since director emerita Francine Essien founded ODASIS, the office that sponsors the program. He was delighted to find that the Access-Med staff has expanded to six and that Rutgers is devoting more resources to the program. "When I graduated from the program in 1997, there were just a few of us—now there are about 30 [2006] graduates and more than 300 people here," says Martin. "There isn't anything I wouldn't do for Dr. Khan and this program."



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