

*Congratulations to...*

**Margaret Brennan**, NJAES associate director of economic development, **Brian Schilling**, associate director of the NJAES Food Policy Institute, and **David Specca**, director of the NJAES EcoComplex have been awarded \$210,841 from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Office of Clean Energy. The project is a collaborative effort of about 15 NJAES faculty and staff, as well as industry consultants, to conduct the first comprehensive waste/biomass inventory assessment of New Jersey. In addition, technology assessments will be conducted to evaluate the current and projected capabilities for New Jersey in terms of feedstock and bioenergy conversion technology capabilities. Through this project, the NJAES will also provide the first comprehensive statewide mapping of waste/biomass resources. This will be critical information in the development of a bioenergy strategy for the state. Finally, NJAES will provide a framework and guidelines for the development of a New Jersey BioEnergy Plan that will address the environmental and energy issues surrounding the need for bioenergy industry development, as well as policy recommendations for moving New Jersey into the forefront of bioenergy innovation.

**Ed Levy**, associate dean of students and director of recreational services, is a 2006 President's Recognition Program Excellence in Service Award recipient. Several individuals, including colleagues and students, nominated Ed for his outstanding efforts to bring together a group of committed students to help change the lives of individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina. Ed's award was announced during the President's Recognition Program Awards Ceremony on October 17, 2006. Also honored at the ceremony with Bridge Awards were the **RU COOL team** and **Gail Alexander**, senior executive associate; **Nicoletta Graf**, research farm supervisor; **Gail Johnson**, head greenhouse field technician; and **Mike Green**, director of the Office of Communications, for the Dalai Lama Planning.

**Dale Cruzan**, past state FFA president and current Cook sophomore, was selected as a national winner for Agriculture Sales Proficiency Award last Friday at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Dale received \$250 as a state winner, \$500 as a regional finalist, \$500 as a national winner from Tractor Supply and Vigortone Ag Products.

**Jerry Frecon**, agricultural agent for Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County, was the recipient of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award at the Gloucester County Board of Agriculture's annual dinner and business meeting. Jerry was recognized because he has worked "tirelessly to enhance and promote New Jersey and Gloucester County's agricultural industry and given countless hours of his time to the betterment of his academic profession."

**Carl Pray**, professor of agricultural food and resource economics, was one of three professors invited by the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See to Rome on October 5–6 to present eight years of research on genetically modified organism (GMO) crops and their effect on farmers, industry, and the environment. An article on the visit was printed in the *National Catholic Register*. You may read the article [here](#).

**Elwin Orton, Jr.**, research professor in the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, had his entry, *Cornus Venus*, selected to receive the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Gold Medal

Plant award. *Cornus Venus* is a new Dogwood that seems to be resistant to Dogwood anthracnose and powdery mildew. You can read more about *Cornus Venus* [here](#).

**Alan Robock**, professor II in the Department of Environmental Sciences, is quoted in the October 23 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*. The article, titled “Cool Geo-Whiz Warming Ideas,” may be found [online](#).

**TerraCycle**, a plant food manufacturer that incubated at the NJAES EcoComplex, has been cited in a recent *Time* magazine article. The article, titled “Let’s Talk Garbage,” focuses on firms that are making profits from erstwhile trash. The article can be found [here](#).

**Mukund Karwe**, professor in Food Science, and **Gef Flemlin**, Marine Extension Agent, (co-PIs), have been awarded \$209,579 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety Initiative for “Improving the Safety of Hard Clams, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, Through Post-Harvest Treatment with High Hydrostatic Pressure Processing.

**Gef Flimlin**, Marine Extension Agent, and **Cara Muscio**, Extension Agent in Marine Water Quality and Recreation, head the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program that trains adult volunteers to re-clam Barnegat Bay. In 2006, 25 additional volunteers were trained to assist in the management and maintenance of seven upweller nursery boxes at various locations in Barnegat Bay. In these boxes, 1.2 million clams are being grown. These seed clams will remain there until fall 2007, when they will be harvested and placed in a reserved area behind Island Beach State Park and off Gulf Point near Barnegat. In addition, 100,000 disease-resistant oysters will be placed this fall on old oyster reefs near the mouth of Toms River. Most of this planting will occur on October 28 as part of “Make a Difference Day.” This program is being supported by the Board of Chosen Freeholder of Ocean County (\$20,000 per year for 2 years), the U.S. EPA Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program (\$17,500 per year for 2 years), Exelon Corp. (\$15,000 for a boat for the program), and a matching grant for \$10,000 from the George and Miriam Martin Foundation from Pennsylvania. Additional information on this program can be found from [www.reclamthebay.org](http://www.reclamthebay.org).

Sixty-two horse owners attended a “Hay Quality” workshop held at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Snyder Research and Extension Farm on August 23rd. Speakers included **Donna Foulk**, program coordinator, who discussed the importance of forage in the equine diet, types of forages, and how to determine hay quality. **Bill Bamka**, Burlington County agricultural agent; **Bob Mickel**, Hunterdon County agricultural agent; and **Jim Pauch**, hay producer and member of the Snyder Farm staff, provided a hay-making demonstration and led a discussion on the economics of producing hay.

**Donna Foulk** has been hired as the Hunterdon County 4-H Agent, effective September 1. Donna has a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in biology from Moravian College and East Stroudsburg University respectively. Donna will be responsible for 4-H program planning, promotion, implementation, and evaluation in Hunterdon County.

**Rutgers’ Marine Field Station in Tuckerton** hosted its annual open house last month. Members of the local community were invited to learn about the work that goes on at the facility,

once an abandoned U.S. Coast Guard building that the university took over in the 1970s. Staff at the field station demonstrated a program used to track striped bass and other fish; tracking data are available online at <http://www.stripertracker.org/>. The program is popular with local recreational fishers.

Three Rutgers undergraduates working with Animal Sciences faculty have received awards from the Aresty Research Center: **Laura Barash**, an animal science major, will investigate the effect of non-aromatizable androgens on sexual behavior in female goats; **Harun Rashid**, a biology major, will study the role of neurotransmitters in obesity; and **Andrea Sutter**, a biotech major, will look at the role of insulin-like growth factor binding protein-3 in mammary gland apoptosis. Undergraduates at the Biotech Center similarly carried out independent research projects under the Aresty Research Center's fall program. Students who received awards were **Jared Ganis**, **Katherine Parisi**, **Ambrish Patel**, **Andrea Sutter**, **Katie Voskoboynik**, and **Annie Zakian**. The students will present their research results at the third annual Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 20, 2007.

Nine undergraduates traveled with **Sarah Ralston**, director of the Young Horse Research and Teaching Program at Rutgers, to North Dakota and Manitoba ranches this summer to select 12 young horses for their program. These students, mostly animal science majors or minors, were taught how to select appropriate horses for the program and how to start gentling them in the herd before they made the trip to New Jersey. The weanlings arrived on campus in mid-September.

**Dipak Sarkar**, professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, was recently awarded a \$179,045 grant from the National Institutes of Health to support the research training of **Maria Agapito**, a third-year neuroscience (UMDNJ/Rutgers) doctoral candidate from Peru who is working in his laboratory. The title of their research grant is "Fetal Alcohol Effects on Circadian Clocks and Proopiomelanocortin."

A team of Rutgers collaborators, led by Biotech Center director **Gerben Zylstra**, recently received confirmation of an important new award from the U.S. Department of Education supporting a Brazil-U.S. Biotechnology Education Partnership. The award brings together four universities in the U.S. and Brazil to promote student research in agricultural and microbial biotechnologies, as well as to develop linkages between biotechnology undergraduate curricula. The partners are Rutgers University, Ohio State University, the University of Sao Paulo. Besides Zylstra, the Rutgers team includes **Michael Lawton** (Plant Biology & Pathology), **Rod Sharp** (consultant), **Barbara Zilinskas** (Plant Biology & Pathology), and **Cesar Braga-Pinto** (Latin American Studies).

Researchers from the Equine Science Center and Department of Animal Sciences demonstrated their strong leadership in the field of equine exercise physiology by authoring or co-authoring a record seven of the refereed papers presented at the 7th International Conference on Equine Exercise Physiology, held August 26–31 in Fontainebleau, France. The Rutgers contingent (**Kenneth McKeever**, **Carey Williams**, **Mary Beth Gordon**, **Charles Kearns**, **Jennifer McKeever**, **Karyn Malinowski**, **Emily Lamprecht**, and **Sara Malone**), was among more than

270 international experts from 26 nations who gathered to hear close to 170 presentations on equine physiology.

**Jan Larson**, recently retired program associate in Natural Resource Management in Ocean County, was honored last week by Soroptimist International of Toms River. At the 3rd Annual Ocean County Women's Hall of Fame reception at the Ramada in Toms River, Jan was the award honoree for the Woman of Distinction Award for her work as an environmentalist and conservationist.

**Allan W. Shearer**, assistant professor of landscape architecture, has received funding from the U.S. Marine Corps to pursue his project, "Range Sustainment: Futures Assessment at the Range-Complex Level, Southwest United States," which will consider possible patterns of development across the region that encapsulates the facilities used by the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. Its purpose is to assess potential consequences of environmental change that could impact the continued use of the installations for training and testing.

**Mukund Karwe** and **Rick Ludescher**, both professors in the Department of Food Science, have been granted \$15,000 by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for "The Science of Food: A bridge to the future, connecting secondary, post-secondary, and higher education."

**Elizabeth Graff**, assistant instructor in landscape architecture, and Dan Sgrizzi, class of 2007 in environmental planning and design, worked with two youth programs in the City of Elizabeth, NJ, and in cooperation with Future City, Inc. (a local non-profit community planning organization) this past summer. One of the programs that Elizabeth and Dan worked on was the Green 'Opportunity' Map project, which was the culmination of a collaborative effort between the City of Elizabeth's Special Opportunity Achievement Reawakening Program (SOAR), Future City, Inc., and Rutgers University. Four day-long Green Mapping workshops with high school-aged students generated ideas for potential open-space improvements to the Oakwood Plaza community in north central Elizabeth, New Jersey.

See the list of recent awards in the attached file.

Bob

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