



## STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE MEETING REPORT

from the  
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and  
Rutgers' School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

**Patricia Brennan**, FCHS senior Extension trainer, and **Barbara O'Neill**, Extension specialist, won the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) Eastern Region Florence Hall Award for Money Talk: Financial Guidelines for Women Program—Book, Curriculum, CDs that have been distributed nationwide. **Karen Ensle**, Union County FCHS educator, received the NEAFCS National Living Well Award. **Maria Young**, Passaic County FCHS educator, received the Continued Excellence Award at the NEAFCS Conference. The award recognizes NEAFCS members who have been actively involved in professional improvement programs, the promotion of professional development of others, and leadership. All awards were presented at the NEAFCS national meeting in Denver, CO, October 2–6.

**Bruce Clarke**, specialist in Turfgrass Pathology, was made a Fellow of Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) at the American Society of Agronomy-Soil Science Society of America-CSSA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, November 2006. It is the highest honor the Society bestows on its members.

The following awards were presented at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents National Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 22–26, 2006: **Gloria Kraft**, Burlington County 4-H Agent, Distinguished Service Award; **Sharon Gore**, Mercer County 4-H Program Associate, Meritorious Service Award; **Annette Devitt**, Salem County 4-H Agent, National Communicator Award—Media Presentation; Somerset County 4-H Team (**Lisa Rothenburger**, **Carol Ward**, **Valerie Kreutler**, **Georgeanne Valis**, **Barbara Navatto**), National Communicator Award—Periodical Publication; NJ 4-H Communication, Marketing, and Promotion Committee (Team: **Lisa Rothenburger**, **Jeanette Rea-Keywood**, **Deborah Cole**, **Virginia Powell**, **Tina Hunter**, **Annette Devitt**, **Rachel Everett**, and **James Tavares**), National Communicator Award—Promotional Piece; **Jeanette Rea-Keywood**, **Laura Bovitz**, and **Peggy McKee**, Northeast Regional Winner—Natural Resource/Environmental Stewardship; **Macy Compton** and **Laura Bovitz**, Northeast Regional Winner—Beyond Youth Leadership Award; **Alayne Torretta**, Northeast Regional Winner—Communicator Award: Educational Package—Individual; Get Moving-Get Healthy with New Jersey 4-H Team (**Annette Devitt**, **Sharon Gore**, **Karen Mansue**, **Susan Makres**, **Virginia Krzyzanowski**, **Tina Hunter**, **Brittany Rigg**, **New Jersey Food & Fitness Ambassadors**), Northeast Regional Winner—Communicator Award: Educational Package—Team; **Annette Devitt**, Northeast Regional Winner—Communicator Award: Published Photo.

New Jersey Association of Extension 4-H Agents presented the Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2006 Northeast Regional Volunteer Forum, held October 12–15 in Long Branch, NJ, to **Buddy Nemetz** (Bergen) and **Chan Leung** (Somerset). **James Nichnadowicz** (Union) won the Team Award: High Distinction for Exceptional Programming in the area of Mixed Media—Youth and Teacher Education from the Southern Regional Extension Forestry Association for the Forest of Fun 4-H Forestry Curriculum.

**Gef Flimlin**, Ocean County Marine Extension Agent, with principal investigator John Kraeuter, associate director of Rutgers NJAES Haskin Shellfish Research Lab, received \$71,173 from the USDA Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center for the evaluation and genetic analysis of hard clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) stocks for quahog parasite unknown (QPX) disease resistance.



**Deb Keenan**, acting as PI in collaboration with individuals from multiple Cooperative Extension Departments and the UMDNJ School of Health Related Professions, has been granted Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program Funds totaling \$4,034,048, for federal fiscal year 2007, with matching funds from New Jersey municipalities, counties, and the state committed at the same dollar level.

**Gloria Kraft**, Burlington County 4-H Agent, and **Rachel Everett**, Morris County 4-H Agent, received \$26,910 for the 4-H Operation Military Kids program (subgrant from Kansas State University).

**Chad Ripberger**, Mercer County 4-H Agent, and **Ken Karamichael**, senior program coordinator at the NJAES Office of Continuing Professional Education, received \$50,000 from Mercer County Workforce Investment Board for the Mercer County Youth Farmstand.

**Jim Willmott**, Camden County Agricultural Agent, has developed and authored a Web-based newsletter called *Northeast Floriculture IPM Notes*. WebTracker statistics report that in the first nine months of 2006, there have been 18,370 visits to the site, including 580 from 19 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia/New Zealand, and South America.

**Ramu Govindasamy**, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, has been invited to serve on the editorial board of *ICFAI Journal of Agricultural Economics* published by ICAI press and has also been invited to serve as a guest editor for *Choices* (a policy-oriented publication of American Agricultural Economics Association) for a special theme issue on "Fresh Produce Marketing: Critical Trend and Issues."

**Jim Simon** (professor in Plant Biology and Pathology, principal investigator) and **Ramu Govindasamy** (co-principal investigator) were awarded \$1,600,000 from the United States Agency for International Development for two years to provide support for a program that promotes rural livelihood diversification in Southern Africa. The program is designed to strengthen and build partnerships between the public and private sector in the commercialization of natural African plant products by small farmers.

The **Department of Food Science** is partners with Gloucester County College on a FITS—New Jersey Careers food science/food manufacturing project, which has been funded with a \$2 million grant by the U.S. Department of Labor. The program will support the establishment of a food science and food process technology associate degree program at Gloucester and Salem County Community Colleges, as well as the implementation of strategic alliances with the **Rutgers NJAES Food Innovation Center** to provide support to farmers and agri-business.

**Elwin Orton**, professor in the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, will be awarded the American Society for Horticultural Science's (AHS) Luther Burbank award. The prestigious award will be presented this summer at the AHS' 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala.

**Albrecht Koppenhofer**, associate Extension specialist in entomology, was selected by the Department of Agricultural and Resource Management Agents for the annual "Specialist of the Year" award. Koppenhofer was recognized for his outstanding performance and generous assistance to department members over the past year.

**Jozef Kokini**, chair of the Department of Food Science, is profiled in the December issue of *Food Technology*. The article is a follow-up on past recipients of the Marcel Loncin Research Prize.



Six **Rutgers University** programs were found to be in the top 10 in faculty research productivity by the latest version of Academic Analytics' index. The six areas are marine biology and biological oceanography; pharmaceutical science/medicinal chemistry; philosophy; Spanish; women's studies; and atmospheric science. Rutgers also ranked second in the aggregated fields of philosophy and religious studies.

**Dipak Sarkar**, professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, received the prestigious gold and silver medals from the Physiological Society of India for significant research contributions in the field of physiological sciences. Sarkar gave the Suva Mukherjee Memorial Oration lecture entitled "The Potential Use of Neuronal Stem Cell Transplant Therapy in Stress Disorders" at the Annual Physiological Society of India Meeting in Kolkata in December, where he was presented with the medals.

### *The Dean's Corner...*

Dear Colleagues,

As we start a new year and a new semester, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many accomplishments of the past year. We now have an excellent and energetic leadership team in place for the School and Experiment Station. We have identified and pursued new growth areas, such as saltwater fisheries and aquaculture, renewable energy, nutrition, and public health. We have reshaped the relationship between NJAES and the School to maximize efficiencies and take advantage of synergies. We have established new partnerships and strengthened existing ones. As we move forward, we will continue to emphasize an atmosphere of innovation and purpose focused on our strong dedication to our constituents. I look forward to 2007 and the new challenges and opportunities that the new year will present. My thanks to you and to our many partners for your support in the past year, and my warmest regards for a prosperous, productive, and healthy 2007.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RM Goodman', is written over a white background.

Robert M. Goodman

Executive Dean for Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Dean of Rutgers' Cook College  
Executive Director, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station