

A MESSAGE FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DEAN  
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

February 2007

### Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments

The newly redesigned New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station website is now up and running. Please visit [www.njaes.rutgers.edu](http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu) (this replaces the old RCRE site) and let us know how you like the new site, which has been designed to make it easier for you to find quickly and easily the information that you need.

On February 13, a number of Rutgers faculty and staff gathered to discuss the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report, released earlier this month. The event, titled "Global Warming: It's later than we think; but it's not too late!" featured presentations by **Alan Robock**, **Tony Broccoli**, **Paul Falkowski**, and **Kevin Lyons**. Following the presentations, **Yair Rosenthal** moderated a question-and-answer session.

**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.

**Nicholas Polanin**, Somerset County Agricultural and Resource Management Agent, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Marine Corps League of New Jersey for his assistance with digital photography for the Department of New Jersey's Uniform Code section of the Marine Corps Leadership Book.

**Gerben Zylstra** hosted a visit by two new teachers from the Monmouth County Biotechnology High School in Freehold. David Fusco and Shawn Cyran were hired as advanced biotechnology teachers last fall. The goal of the visit was to discuss ways in which the Biotech Center can help with curriculum, summer internships for advanced students, and student research projects.

Professor **John Worobey's** (Nutritional Sciences) book, *Nutrition & Behavior: A Multidisciplinary Approach*, will be displayed at the Fourth Annual Libraries' "Celebration of Recently Published Faculty Authors" Exhibition and Reception. The event, which will take place Tuesday, March 20, from 5–7 p.m. in the lobby of Alexander Library, honors faculty from Rutgers–New Brunswick who have published books during the 2006 calendar year.

**Steven Handel**, professor (Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources), was interviewed, along with John McLaughlin, director of ecological services at the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection, for the nationally broadcast news program "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio. The interview focused on projects to turn landfills into woodlands. The interview transcript and MP3 can be found at <http://www.wnyc.org/news/articles/73332>.

**Tony Broccoli**, associate professor (Environmental Sciences), was the subject of a live interview about the relationship between recent unusual weather and climate change on WNBC-TV (New York, NY) during the "Live at Five" broadcast on January 5. Later in the month, Broccoli was a panel discussion participant in the NJN (Trenton, NJ) television documentary entitled "Drought and Deluge—The New Weather," which first aired on January 15.

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**Mark Robson**, director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is co-editor of *Risk Assessment for Environmental Health*, a new book published by Jossey-Bass, a Wiley imprint.

### Student Activities and Accomplishments

Animal Sciences graduate student **Jim Lechner** was featured in a January 11 NJN segment on Goat World, the largest Boer goat farm in New Jersey. Links to several related newspaper articles can be found at [www.goatworldnj.com](http://www.goatworldnj.com).

**Mohamed Najjar, Katherine Nolen, Linda Rosenberg, Yumin You, and Xuntao Zhu**, all graduate students in Food Science, received \$1,500 scholarships at the New York Institute of Food Technologists and the Central New Jersey Subsection's Rutgers Night event, held February 13. Several students were also recognized for their excellent poster presentations: Xuntao Zhu (1st place honors), Mohamed Najjar (2nd place honors), Yumin You (2nd place honors), and **Kasi Sundaresan** (3rd place honors).

**Cindy Puzio**, an undergraduate working in **Jason Grabosky's** Urban Forestry lab, received an at-large student scholarship for \$1,000 from the Bartlett Tree Foundation. These scholarships are given to four students in arboriculture/urban forestry who have a genuine interest in a career in arboriculture.

**Alex Felson**, a Ph.D. candidate in **Steward Pickett's** (Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources) lab, is leading the design for the development of a master plan for the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries.

### Grants and Fundraising Efforts

Faculty of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences received six of the 20 Academic Excellence Fund (AEF) awarded for 2006–07. **Ying Fan Reinfelder** (Departments of Environmental Sciences and Geological Sciences), received \$51,000 for “Global Wetland Distribution and Climate Change: A Seed Project.” **Ilya Raskin** (Plant Biology and Pathology), **Gerben Zylstra** (Biochemistry and Microbiology), and **Jim White** (Plant Biology and Pathology) received \$65,000 for “Expanding Pharmacological Screening Capabilities of the Global Institute for Bioexploration (GIBEX).” **Carl Pray** (Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics), along with **David Finegold** (dean of the School of Management and Labor) and **Clinton Andrews** (Program in Urban Planning and Policy Development) received \$50,000 to create the Rutgers Center for Innovation Studies. **Scott Glenn, Oscar Schofield** (both of the Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences), **Manish Parashar** (Electrical and Computer Engineering) and **Dimitris Metaxas** (Computer Science and Biomedical Engineering) received \$140,000 for “The Pervasive Dynamic Cyber-physical Ecosystem.” **Paul Falkowski** (Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences) received \$250,000 to establish the Rutgers University Energy Institute. **Joan Bennett** (Plant Biology and Pathology; associate vice president for the promotion of women in science, engineering, and mathematics), along with **Eileen Appelbaum** (director of the Center for Women and Work), **Teresa M. Boyer** (director, Education and Workforce Development Research Programs), **Nancy DiTomaso** (Organizational Management; Rutgers Business School), **David Finegold** (dean of the School of Management and Labor), and **Mary S. Hartman** (director of the Institute for Women's Leadership) received \$50,000 for “A leadership program at Rutgers University for women in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professions.”

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**Lily Young** (Environmental Sciences) is the PI on a multidisciplinary preproposal to the National Science Foundation's Partnerships for International Research program. The preproposal, titled "Stable Isotope Geochemistry and Contaminant Fate and Transport," was one of 71 selected from over 500 preproposals. Collaborators include the Chinese Academy Institute of Geochemistry and South China University of Technology, both in Guangzhou, China; Bates College in Maine; and Rutgers faculty from Environmental Science, the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Geology, and Civil Engineering.

**Jackie Taylor**, a master's candidate in **David Bushek's** lab, received a graduate student grant-in-aid from the New Jersey Water Resource Research Institute (NJWRRI) for her project titled "Restored oyster reef habitat use by the American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) in the lower Delaware Bay."

**Jozef Kokini**, professor in the Department of Food Science (PI), **Rieks Bruins**, assistant director of the Center for Advanced Food Technology (CAFT), and **William Franke**, associate director of CAFT (co-PIs) were awarded a contract for \$322,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense for 24 months.

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### DEAN'S CORNER...

This week, Mark Robson and Brad Hillman are in Washington, D.C., along with Dianne Lennon and Abbott Lee, our Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET) representatives for New Jersey. Together, this team aims to advocate on Capitol Hill in support of the land-grant programs of research, extension, and teaching—the programs that define the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, as well as Rutgers as a land-grant university. By educating our representatives in Congress about the work that we do on behalf of the residents of New Jersey, we hope to open their eyes to the legacy of value and service that we represent.

CARET representatives have been advocating on behalf of land-grant institutions since CARET was formed in 1982 by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges' (NASULGC) Division of Agriculture. Each state (as well as U.S. territories and the District of Columbia) generally has two or three representatives "dedicated to the proposition of enhancing national support and understanding of the important role played by the land-grant colleges in the food and agricultural systems as well as their role in enhancing the quality of life for all citizens of the nation."

We are grateful to Abbott and Dianne for their hard work and dedication, and we are extremely pleased to have them as our CARET representatives.

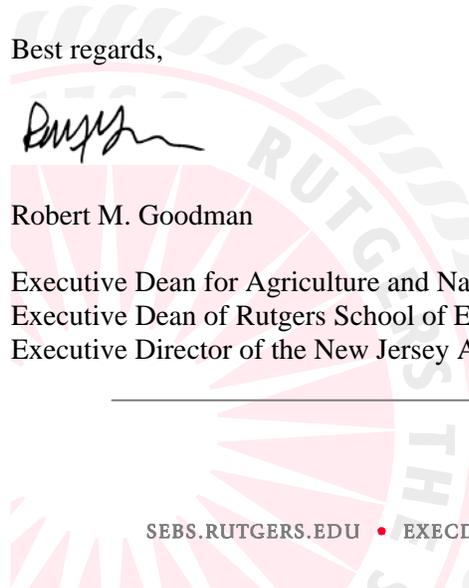
Best regards,



Robert M. Goodman

Executive Dean for Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Executive Dean of Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences  
Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

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