

A MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

March 2007

Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments



At the 2007 Rutgers NJAES Emma Lausten Symposium on Cook Campus, **Michael P. Parrella**, associate dean for agricultural sciences and professor of entomology at UC–Davis, received the Emma Lausten Horticulture Award from NJAES Director **Mark Robson**. Parrella is a Rutgers graduate who has made extensive contributions to floriculture integrated pest management (IPM). The 2007 symposium focused on the future direction of IPM in New Jersey. (Photo: Mark Robson, left, presents Michael Parrella, right, with the Emma Lausten Award.)

Distinguished Professor **Dipak Sarkar** (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 award ceremony. The lecture was presented at the Annual Physiological Society of India Meeting in Kolkata on December 8, 2006.

Nancy Maxwell (née Brill), field technician at RAREC, had her article, “My Turn: And on This Farm She Found a Future,” selected for publication in the March 5 issue of *Newsweek* magazine. The article can be found at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17300649/site/newsweek/>.

Karyn Malinowski, director of Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension, received an assembly commendation from Assemblymen Jeff Van Drew and Nelson Albano, representatives of New Jersey’s first legislative district, to recognize her selection for the 2007 Rutgers Lifetime Achievement Award. An article profiling Malinowski’s work was featured in the *Star-Ledger*.

Sarah Ralston (Animal Sciences) was featured in the “Research Advances” section of the Fall 2006 issue of *Association for Women in Science* magazine. Her research and her role as director of the Rutgers University Young Horse Teaching and Research Program were described by author Carmen Drahl of Princeton University.

Patricia Brennan, senior extension trainer, was the recipient of the 2006 Financial Planning Association (FPA) New Jersey Friendship Award for increasing public awareness about the financial planning profession and championing support for the profession at FPA’s dinner meeting at the Woodbridge Hilton on December 5.

The **Monmouth County 4-H Club–NJ Children’s Chamber Choir** performed at the White House in early December and stayed at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, during their visit. Their performance aired December 15 on the Home and Garden Television network.

RUTGERS

School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
SEBS.RUTGERS.EDU • EXECDEANAGRICULTURE.RUTGERS.EDU • NJAES.RUTGERS.EDU

Brad Majek, Extension Specialist in Weed Science, has been made a Fellow of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA). The recognition was bestowed upon Majek at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America in San Antonio, Texas.

Student Activities and Accomplishments



The Rutgers Turf Bowl Team, composed of **Tim Sibicky**, **Christopher Skvir**, **Justin Hughes**, **Danielle Skoba**, and **Zane Radenbush**, finished in ninth place in the 2007 Turf Bowl Competition at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, California. The Rutgers undergraduate team competed against 80 other teams from colleges and universities throughout North America. The competition tested the students' knowledge of all facets of turfgrass science, including pest biology and control, physiology, species identification, soil science, and turfgrass management. **Richard Hurley** and **Bruce Clarke**, Rutgers Turf Club Advisers, helped to prepare the team last fall by conducting a special problems course in turfgrass science designed to provide a practical review of key subjects in turfgrass science. (Photo l. to r.: Bruce Clarke, Christopher Skvir, Danielle Skoba, Justin Hughes, Tim Sibicky, Zane Radenbush, and Richard Hurley.)

Heather J. Orlando, a senior majoring in biological sciences and minoring in Spanish, and **Tiffany S. Tsay**, a senior majoring in biological sciences and minoring in mathematics, have been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest college academic honorary society in America. Phi Beta Kappa membership honors students who have done distinguished work in a liberal arts curriculum, including foreign language study, throughout their undergraduate years.

Inga LaPuma, a Ph.D. candidate in **Rick Lathrop**'s lab, has received a NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve Graduate Research Fellowship. LaPuma will receive three years of funding at \$20,000 per year. Her proposal was titled "Assessment of landuse and disturbance scenarios in the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve watersheds using spatial modeling." LaPuma also received a \$500.00 student travel grant from NASA-MSU to go to the Landscape Ecology conference in April.

Linda Rohleder, a Ph.D. candidate in **Joan Ehrenfeld**'s lab, was awarded a \$350 scholarship from the Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries, to attend the 2007 Special Pinelands Plants course offered by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

Grants and Fundraising Efforts

Dipak Sarkar (Animal Sciences) will receive \$242,953 from NIH for year 8 of his grant, "Alcohol and Hyperprolactinemia."

RUTGERS

School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
SEBS.RUTGERS.EDU • EXECDEANAGRICULTURE.RUTGERS.EDU • NJAES.RUTGERS.EDU



Julie Lockwood (Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources) received a \$152,000 grant from the Critical Ecosystems Science Initiative, National Park Service, for “Recovering small Cape Sable seaside sparrow subpopulations: The breeding and dispersal of sparrows in the eastern Everglades.”

Christopher Obropta, specialist in water resources, received \$120,013 from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 319(h) Grant Program as a subcontract to the North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. to assist in the development of a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Musconetcong River. Obropta also received \$103,975 from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 319(h) Grant Program as a subcontract to the New Jersey Institute of Technology to assist in the development of a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Neshanic River.

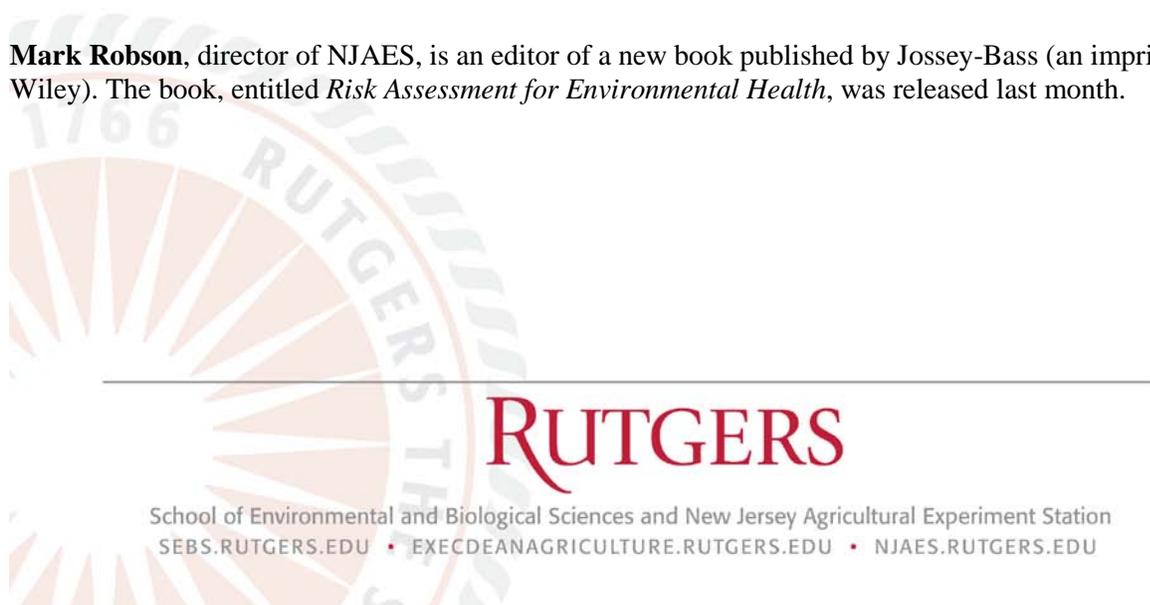
Barbara O’Neill, specialist in financial resource management, received \$10,000 from the New Jersey Credit Union Foundation for working with the New Jersey Coalition for Financial Education to develop a tabletop youth financial simulation and teacher training. O’Neill also received \$10,000 from the National Council on Economic Education for working with the New Jersey Coalition for Financial Education to update and distribute the newspaper tab “Money: What Young Adults Need to Know” and \$1,200 from the Consumer Federation of America with the NJ Coalition for Financial Education for New Jersey Saves Week activities.

Gef Flimlin, Ocean County Marine Extension Agent (co-PI with Fred Wheaton, UMD, project coordinator), received \$20,000 from the Fourth National Aquaculture Extension Conference, USDA funding for NRAC Extension Travel and Program Support, for the period September 15, 2006–August 15, 2007.

Publications and Editorships

Jennifer Krumins (Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources), a doctoral candidate in Peter Morin’s lab, has been selected to receive the 2006 JBS Haldane Prize for her article published in the journal *Functional Ecology*. In addition to the £250 prize money, the award includes a year’s membership to the British Ecological Society and a year’s subscription to *Functional Ecology*. The Haldane Prize recognizes the best paper published by a young author in *Functional Ecology*. The article, “Indirect effects of food web diversity and productivity on bacterial community function and composition,” appeared in the June 2006 issue.

Mark Robson, director of NJAES, is an editor of a new book published by Jossey-Bass (an imprint of Wiley). The book, entitled *Risk Assessment for Environmental Health*, was released last month.



DEAN'S CORNER...



Members of the Cumberland County Board of Agriculture visited Cook Campus earlier this month to take part in tours and informational sessions on a variety of topics. They visited the turf farm (photo, left) to learn about Rutgers' turf programs and germplasm from **Bill Meyer**, the horticulture farms to learn about ornamental plant production from **Joseph Goffreda, Tom Molnar**, and **Elwin Orton**, and heard a presentation on geographic information system (GIS) use in farming from **Jack Rabin** over lunch. The group finished their visit by touring **Jim Simon's** (Plant Biology and Pathology) laboratory.

I invite all of you to come with your county boards of agriculture to Cook Campus and see what we are doing for agriculture in New Jersey and beyond. Our programs in turf grass, GIS/GPS, plant breeding, and more are and have been on the cutting edge nationally and internationally. There have been tremendous advancements just in the last few years alone and I encourage you to see for yourself the work that faculty at the school and experiment station are doing.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Goodman", written in a cursive style.

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



RUTGERS

School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
SEBS.RUTGERS.EDU • EXECDEANAGRICULTURE.RUTGERS.EDU • NJAES.RUTGERS.EDU