

A MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

May 2007

Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments

Tung Chin Lee (Food Science) has received the Institute of Food Technologists' Babcock-Hart award. The award, which comes with a \$3,000 honorarium and plaque, is meant to "honor an IFT member who has attained distinction by contributions to food technology which result in improved public health through nutrition or more nutritious food."

Gef Flimlin, Ocean County Marine Extension Agent, has been appointed co-chair of the Industry Committee on the Executive Committee of the National Shellfisheries Association.

Rutgers University has been recognized as a foundation school by the Bartlett Tree Foundation. **Jason Grabosky** (Ecology, Evolution & Natural Resources), a board member of the foundation, reports that there will be an annual scholarship from the foundation to a Rutgers undergraduate.

The following individuals and teams won New Jersey Association of 4-H Agents awards:

Friends of 4-H—**SEBS and NJAES Office of Communications**

Volunteers of the Year—**Chan Leung** and **A. Buddy Nemetz**

Excellence in 4-H Programming Awards

—**Gloria Kraft**, Burlington County 4-H Agent and **Rachel Everett**, Morris County 4-H Agent for the Young Heroes video

—**Rachel Everett**, Morris County 4-H Agent, **Gloria Kraft**, Burlington County 4-H Agent, and **Macy Compton**, State 4-H Program Coordinator, for the Speak Out for Military Kids Leadership Weekend

—**Chad Ripberger**, Mercer County 4-H Agent, **Laura Bovitz**, Middlesex County 4-H Agent, **Debi Cole**, Atlantic County 4-H Agent, and **Rachel Everett**, Morris County 4-H Agent for the New Jersey Teens Teaching Middle School Youth Workforce Preparation Skills

—**Carol Ward**, Somerset County 4-H Agent, for the New Jersey 4-H Horse Program

—**NERVF Steering Committee** for the Northeast Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum

Educator/Educational Program—**Jeannette Rea-Keywood**, Cumberland County 4-H Agent

Outstanding Achievement in Recycling Award—New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection


The Rutgers **Center for Remote Sensing & Spatial Analysis** (CRSSA) has signed a one-year contract with the New Jersey Forest Fire Service to provide a variety of digital mapping services to assist in fire management planning and other firefighting operations.

Student Activities and Accomplishments

Tom Nack, graduate student (Food Science), is the recipient of the Institute of Food Technologists' Proctor & Gamble Fellowship. The fellowship provides \$2,500 to encourage "outstanding research in food science and technology."

Kasi Sundaresan, graduate student (Food Science), is the recipient of a \$1,000 Institute of Food Technologists' scholarship.

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Jeremy Feinberg (graduate program in Ecology and Ecology) was awarded \$19,713 by the New York State Biodiversity Research Institute for his project, “The Decline of Southern Leopard Frogs from Long Island: Investigating Causes and Conservation Strategies.”

Wes Brooks received \$1,000 for his proposal to study “Species Richness and Habitat Invasibility: Lessons from Habitat Restoration.” **Jeremy Feinberg** received \$900 to study “The Decline of Southern Leopard frogs from Long Island: Investigating Causes and Conservation Strategies.” **Wayne Rossiter** was awarded \$1,000 for his proposal titled “Determining mechanisms that produce aggregated distributions of trematode parasites in salt marsh systems.” All three are in the graduate program in Ecology and Ecology.

William Landesman and **Jennifer Adams Krumins** (both in the graduate program in Ecology and Ecology) will share the Ralph Good Award for Pinelands Research.

Zac Freedman (graduate program in Ecology and Ecology) won a \$1,100 travel award from the Yellowstone National Park Research Coordination Network for a proposal titled “Spatial Diversity of Mercury-Resistant Bacteria at Yellowstone National Park.”

James MacDonald (graduate program in Ecology and Ecology) received a grant of \$3,700 from the PADI Foundation for fieldwork in Honduras.

Jeanmaire Molina (graduate program in Ecology and Ecology) received \$1,470 from the Systematics Research Fund of the Linnaean Society of London.

Grants and Fundraising Efforts

Ed Green (Ecology, Evolution & Natural Resources) obtained a two-year, \$20,000 grant from the Endangered and Nongame Species Program of NJ Department of Environmental Protection to provide statistical expertise for the department’s various research projects.

Carol Bagnell (Animal Science) and **Gerben Zylstra** (Biochemistry and Microbiology) arranged the donation of two Qiagen BioRobots from Wyeth. The two robots will be a valuable addition to the robotic core facility in the Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment, which is used to support faculty research and to train undergraduates in high-throughput methods of analysis.


Albrecht Koppenhöfer, specialist in turfgrass integrated pest management, along with others, received \$90,000 for “Integrated management and resistance management of annual bluegrass weevil on golf course turf” from the USDA-CSREES-NE Regional IPM Special Grants Program. Koppenhöfer also received \$16,000 for “Granular sex pheromone formulations for oriental beetle mating disruption” from the Horticultural Research Institute.

Gloria Kraft, Burlington County 4-H Agent, and **Rachel Everett**, Morris County 4-H Agent, received \$17,681 for Army Troop Surge as an addition to the 4-H Operation Military Kids grant.



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Valerie Fournier (post-doctoral associate), **Albrecht Koppenhöfer**, specialist in turfgrass integrated pest management, and **Jim Lashomb** (Entomology), received \$106,876 for “Mating disruption for the management of Oriental beetle in ornamental nurseries” from USDA-CSREES NE-SARE. This team was also awarded a \$10,000 grant for the evaluation of sex pheromone to control Oriental beetle white grub in nurseries from the USDA IDR-4 program.

George Hamilton, specialist in integrated pest management, and J. Ingerson Mahar, received \$3,000 for “Holding a working group meeting for setting objectives for wireworm IPM in the mid-Atlantic states” from USDA-CSREES, NE IPM Center. Hamilton, along with others, also received \$60,000 for “IPM to control ticks on public lands” from the USDA-CSREES, NE Regional IPM Program. Further, he received a \$12,000 grant for “New Jersey information network for pesticides and alternative systems from USDA-CSREES, NE IPM Center.

Linda Strieter, Gloucester County 4-H Agent, **Luanne Hughes**, FCHS educator, **Peggy McKee**, 4-H program associate, and **Mary Cummings**, ARMA program associate, received \$10,760 from the Valero Benefit for Children Golf Classic for the 2007 Seeds to Success Youth Farmstand Program.

Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, (PI, Marruci), Rufus Isaacs (MSU), Anne Averill (UMass), and Lukasz Stelinski (MSU), received \$130,000 for the “Development and implementation of novel trapping systems for monitoring cranberry fruitworm and cranberry weevil populations” from the USDA-CSREES NE Regional IPM Program.

William Sciarappa, Monmouth County Agricultural Agent, received \$5,000 from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for outreach communication in conjunction with Monmouth University on bacterial source tracking in three Monmouth County coastal waters: Deal Lake, Wreck Pond, and Shark River.

Eric Powell, director of the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, has received \$25,000 to fund a graduate student fellow, as well as \$5,000 for a seminar program, from the DuPont Delaware Estuary Initiative’s Clear into the Future program. The seminar program will be offered in conjunction with Cumberland Community College.

Conference, Seminars, and Other Events

Gladis Zinati, Extension specialist, was invited to present a talk at the American Rhododendron Society’s Tappan Zee Chapter Meeting in Park Ridge, NJ, on March 24.

Nicholas Polanin, Somerset County Agricultural Agent, facilitated Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers for the 2007 NJ Flower and Garden Show held in Edison, February 15–18. A total of 73 Master Gardeners volunteered 146 hours at the Rutgers display area of the show.



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Peach Marketing Summit II was organized and chaired by **Jerome L. Frecon**, Gloucester County Agricultural Agent, on December 14 in Clayton, NJ. Sixty-eight peach shippers, marketers, and allied industry personnel heard food buyers from major retailers and wholesalers discuss the needs of the industry. Prominent wholesale shippers and direct marketers shared their success stories and future direction. Frecon presented a statistical review of the industry, **Wes Kline**, Cumberland County Agricultural Agent, presented an overview of arising food safety issues and training programs, and Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus discussed a new food safety task force to address the needs of the produce industry.

DEAN'S CORNER...



May marks the end of another academic year and the graduation of another class of Cook students. This year, as in previous years, we had an exceptional group of students eager and nervous to begin the next chapter of their lives. We have students going to Yale, to Penn Vet Med, to jobs in industry, and to far-flung locales for some time abroad. We have students pursuing interests in everything from organic farming to cancer research to environmental economics.

Seeing our students reach such a momentous milestone is always a thrill, and I am thankful to all of you who were able to attend and share in the joy that is this annual rite of passage.

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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