

A MESSAGE FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DEAN  
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

September 2007

**Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments**

The following awards and recognitions were presented at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents 92nd Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference, held July 15–19 in Grand Rapids, MI:

*National Finalist, Search for Excellence in Livestock Production*

—**Robert Mickel** (Hunterdon Co. agricultural agent) and **Steve Komar** (Sussex Co. agricultural program associate) for “Northeast Regional Small Farm and Rural Living Exposition and Trade Show.”

*Bayer Communications Awards*

—**Madeline Flahive DiNardo** (Union Co. agricultural agent) and **L. Orlofsky** (Union Co. agriculture secretary) for “Horticultural Therapy Workshop Promotional Piece.” Regional Finalist, Direct Mail Piece.

—**Madeline Flahive DiNardo** and **Joel Flagler** (Bergen Co. agricultural agent) for “Guidelines for Starting a Horticultural Therapy Program by Partnering with Volunteers.” National Finalist, Publication.

—**William T. Hlubik** (Middlesex Co. agricultural agent) for “Growing Holiday Tradition.” National Finalist, Feature Photograph and Caption.

—**William T. Hlubik** for “Plant Talk Column for the *Star-Ledger*.” National Finalist, Personal Column.

—**William T. Hlubik** for “Growing Holiday Tradition—Feature Article for the *Star-Ledger*” Regional Finalist, Feature Story.

—**William T. Hlubik**; **R. B. Weidman** (program associate); **D. Smela** (public information assistant); **M. McMillan** (Master Gardener); **C. White** (Master Gardener); **K. Dopart** (Master Gardener) for “The Garden Spade.” National Finalist, Team Newsletter.

—**Nicholas Polanin** (Somerset Co. agricultural agent) for “Reconnecting Families and Farmers—Telling the Story through the ‘Green and Growing’ Newsletter.” National Finalist, Individual Newsletter.

—**Nicholas Polanin**; **Richard Buckley** (Rutgers NJAES Plant Diagnostic Lab); and **M. Maletta** (Hunterdon Co. research assistant) for “Tree Decline in New Jersey Landscapes – A New Fact Sheet for Master Gardeners, Clients, and Tree Care Professionals.” Regional Finalist, Fact Sheet.

—**William Sciarappa** (Monmouth Co. agricultural agent); **Richard VanVranken** (Atlantic Co. agricultural agent); **Ramu Govindasamy** (Agricultural, Food and Resource, Economics), and **James Simon** (Plant Biology and Pathology) for “Economic Assessment of Ethnic Specialty Vegetables.” National Finalist, Slide Set, Transparencies, Graphic Presentations.

—**Mary Cummings** (Gloucester Co. agriculture program associate) received the NACAA Achievement Award.

—**William Hlubik** received the NACAA Distinguished Service Award.

**Michelle Infante Casella** (Gloucester Co. agricultural agent) was appointed national committee chair of the newly formed Sustainable Agriculture Committee of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). This new committee will develop educational programs through NACAA in cooperation with the National Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program.

**Rita Natale Saathoff** (4-H regional agent, south; interim department chair; county 4-H agent) will be posthumously inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on October 5 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center.

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**William Sciarappa** (Monmouth Co. agricultural agent) was re-elected national chair of the Organic Horticulture Working Group of the American Society for Horticultural Science. Sciarappa was also selected as national chair of the Natural Resources and Aquaculture Working Group of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

The **Rutgers NJAES Food Innovation Center** has been selected as the winner of the USDA-CSREES Partnership Award for Innovative Program Models. This award category recognizes a program or project that combines resources (including disciplines) in new ways and/or develops an unusual response to a common problem. Award-winning programs or projects should include a response to adverse or critical/emerging regional or national issues, or engagement of stakeholders or customers in program planning or implementation.

**Donna Fennell's** (Environmental Sciences) work to reclaim chlorine-contaminated sediments in New Jersey's urban Meadowlands through environmental engineering and microbiological enrichment is one of the highlights in Partners, a video magazine produced by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). Her segment can be found [here](#) in Episode 19: The Soil Explorers.

**Ken Able** (IMCS) received letters from the Coast Guard and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection thanking him and the staff of the Rutgers Marine Field Station in Tuckerton for their help during the recent rescue and cleanup efforts surrounding the grounding of the vessel "Rough Seas" near Little Egg Inlet. The letters complimented both the location and condition of the facility, and cited its importance in the cleanup efforts and in protecting the surrounding Mullica River–Great Bay estuary region in general.

### Student Activities and Accomplishments

**Linda Rohleder, Kristen Ross, Denise Hewitt, Andrea Kornbluh, and Eva Gonzales** (all in the graduate program in Ecology and Evolution) volunteered with the Nature Conservancy on June 30 at the Blair Creek Preserve in northwestern New Jersey. The group was able to help implement a pilot vegetation sampling effort that will serve as a baseline for the preserve.

**Christa DiLalo** (undergraduate, Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behaviors) was awarded a \$7,500 Russell W. Myers scholarship from the Morris Land Conservancy. The scholarship aims to encourage future generations of conservationists, horticulturists, park administrators, and professionals in related environmental fields. DiLalo, who is in her senior year, plans to attend graduate school to obtain a master's in public affairs then apply for the Peace Corps' Environmental Education and Awareness Program.

### Grants and Fundraising Efforts

**Jeannette Rea-Keywood** (Cumberland Co. 4-H agent) received \$14,640 from a 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Community Learning Center Grant (Cumberland Empowerment Zone) valued at \$531,000 for staff (professional development) training and educational programs.



The **Northeastern IPM Center** recently awarded 29 grants through the Northeast Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program and the IPM Partnership Grants Program, totaling more than \$1 million. **George Hamilton** (Entomology) and **Cesar Rodriguez-Saona** (Marucci Cranberry and Blueberry Research Center) received Northeast Regional IPM Competitive Grants for “Integrated Pest Management to Control Vector Ticks on Public Lands” and “Development and Implementation of Novel Trapping Systems for Monitoring Cranberry Fruitworm and Cranberry Weevil Populations,” respectively. **Andy Wyenandt** (RAREC) received an IPM Partnership Regional IPM Publications grant for “Developing a Fungicide Resistance Management Guide for Vegetable Growers in the Mid-Atlantic Region.” Hamilton received a State Network Projects to inform federal and state regulatory agencies about IPM tactics used in each state, and to maintain websites and advisory committees to provide links among IPM-related groups as the New Jersey representative to the Northeast IPM network. Hamilton also received an IPM minigrant for “Holding a Working Group Meeting for Setting Objectives for Wireworm IPM in the Mid-Atlantic States.”

**Chad Ripberger** (Mercer Co. 4-H agent) received \$55,000 from the JCPenney After-School Fund to collaborate with the Boys and Girls Club of Trenton and Mercer County to create or sustain a total of 110 after-school slots for Trenton youth at risk of not having after-school programming during the 2007–2008 school year.

**Ellen Williams** (Monmouth Co. 4-H agent) received a competitive grant for \$27,999 from Monmouth Cares, Inc., a case management agency, to hire a part-time liaison to work cooperatively between Monmouth Cares and 4-H with the goal of promoting involvement of Monmouth Cares youth and families in 4-H.

The following faculty members received U.S. Golf Association grants: **James Murphy** and **Bruce Clarke** received a \$90,000, three-year award from the USGA in support of their project entitled “Development of Best Management Practices for Anthracnose Disease on Annual Bluegrass Putting Green Turf.” **Bingru Huang**, **Stacy Bonos**, and **Faith Belanger** received an \$89,912, three-year award from to support their research on the “Identification of Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL) Associated with Drought and Heat Tolerance in Creeping Bentgrass.” **Albrecht Koppenhöfer** and **Valerie Fournier** received a \$19,986, two-year award in support of their work on “Optimizing Oriental Mating Disruption through a Better Understanding of the Beetles’ Dispersal Behaviors.”

**Mike DeLuca** (IMCS) received \$560,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the Jacques Cousteau Estuarine Research Reserve Program Operations Budget.

### Publications and Editorships

**Sarah Ralston** (Animal Sciences) had the following book chapters published in July:

—Ralston, S.L., Anderson, H., & Johnson, R. (2007). Growth and glucose/insulin responses in draft cross weanlings fed total mixed ration cubes versus hay/concentrate rations. Pages 233–239 in *Applied Equine Nutrition and Training*. A. Lindner (Ed.) Wageningen Academic Publishers, Netherlands.

—Ralston, S.L. (2007). Evidence-based equine nutrition. Pages 365–384 in *Veterinary Clinics of North America Equine Practice: Evidenced based Veterinary Medicine*. D.W. Ramey (Ed.) *Vet. Clin. Equine* 23.

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The July 2007 issue of The Vegetable Growers News features an article on the rise of ethnic crops. **William Sciarappa** (Monmouth Co. agricultural agent) was interviewed for the article, which can be found online at <http://www.vegetablegrowersnews.com/pages/arts.php?ns=645>.

An [article](#) by **Andrew Pleasant** (Human Ecology) has been named one of the 10 best resources for health research capacity strengthening. This article is permanently labeled “highly accessed” by the journal and was among the most accessed articles in 2006 for all Biomed Central journals.

—Kuruvilla, S., Mays, N., Pleasant, A., & Walt, G. (2006). Describing the impact of health research: A Research impact framework. *BioMedCentral Health Serv. Res.* 6:134.

### Conferences, Seminars, and Other Events

**Rutgers NJAES Food Innovation Center** will hold five seminars this fall, targeted at farmer entrepreneurship training in value-added agricultural products. These seminars were specifically developed as a result of a need identified at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station over the past year for education in this area. The conference title for these five seminars is “Growing Your Business: Farmers’ Marketing & Business Planning for Value-Added Agriculture.” Further information about these seminars, including links to a press release, registration, and directions, can be found at <http://foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/GrowingYourBusiness.html>.

**Raul Machado**, visiting scholar from the University of São Paulo, ESALQ/USP, coordinated a visit from aquaculture expert Jose Eurico (“Zico”) Cyrino to Rutgers September 4–6. Cyrino is visiting professor of fisheries and allied aquaculture at Auburn University, on sabbatical from ESALQ/USP. At the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, they met with Executive Dean **Bob Goodman** and NJAES Director **Mark Robson**, then traveled with Acting Director **David Specca** to the EcoComplex for a day of meetings there. In New Brunswick, they met with Biotech Center faculty, as well as **Fred Grassle**, **Paul Falkowski**, and **Josh Kohut** from IMCS. Cyrino made several recommendations to expand the exchange programs with Brazil to include fisheries projects.

**Macy Compton** (state 4-H program coordinator) provided 4-H after-school curriculum and resource information during the New Jersey After 3 Curriculum and Arts Expo held at the Busch Campus Center, July 18. Over 60 full-time after-school site coordinators from around the state participated.

**Alayne Torretta** (Warren Co. 4-H agent) along with two New Jersey 4-H teens, Jordan Race and Eric Thiel, traveled to Moscow, Russia, to teach at a two-week linguistics camp as part of the 4-H Teen Russian/American International Leadership Program (T.R.A.I.L.), June 19–July 3. The trip was funded by Mr. English Tour Club, Moscow, Russia, Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Warren County 4-H Teen Council, and the Somerset County 4-H Association. One hundred Russian youth ages 7–16 were introduced to leadership skills, team building, problem solving, conflict resolution, principles of 4-H,

**Chad Ripberger** (Mercer Co. 4-H agent) is co-chairing 4-H After School: Realizing the Possibilities, a two-day preconference to the NAE4-HA Conference in Atlanta, GA, including 16 peer-reviewed workshops and 10 professional posters. Ripberger is chairing the workshops/posters.



## DEAN'S CORNER

As many of you are aware, Rutgers is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, a voluntary, nongovernmental, peer-based membership association. Our university has been accredited by Middle States since 1921 and was last reaccredited in 1998. Because major reaccreditation evaluations take place on a 10-year cycle, with a report on the state of the institution at the five-year point between decennial reviews, we are now undergoing reaccreditation review. Last year, President McCormick asked me to serve as chair of the executive and steering committees. The steering committee has recruited and overseen the work of over 160 faculty, staff, and students to draft sections of the Self-Study Report. A draft of the Self-Study Report is nearing completion and will be available for public comment soon after October 15. A draft preliminary executive summary of the Self-Study Report is available [here](#). The chair of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education External Review Team will make an initial visit to the university at the end of next month. I will keep you informed of our progress as we move through the reaccreditation process.

Middle States accreditation takes into account the use of research to enhance undergraduate education, education and research in an urban setting, and the community context of Rutgers' campuses. The work that the Coastal Ocean Observatory Lab (COOL) is doing is an excellent example of how a center can bring together and serve students, researchers, and community members. At a retreat held at the newly remodeled Liberty Science Center, individuals from COOL and IMCS, as well as those who are members of the Rutgers Energy Institute and the Climate and Environmental Change initiative, gathered to share their work in areas such as K-12 education, outreach with the Coast Guard, and stewardship of natural and cultural resources. This group also explored opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary research. After the retreat, we toured the newly reopened Liberty Science Center, which features an exhibit with Scott Glenn and Oscar Schofield speaking about our oceans and coastal habitats. The COOL group has been working closely with the Liberty Science Center, which has incorporated suggestions and research from this team in its exhibits.

Best regards,



Robert M. Goodman  
Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station  
Executive Dean of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

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## SPOTLIGHT ON....*Boyd Woodruff and Rutgers Antibiotics*

A new permanent exhibit on the discovery of antibiotics at Rutgers opened with a ceremony at the Library of Science and Medicine on Wednesday, August 15. The exhibit, “Selman Waksman and the Discovery of the Rutgers Antibiotics—Out of the Earth Shall Come Thy Salvation,” was unveiled at a luncheon that honored Boyd Woodruff, the co-discoverer with Selman Waksman of the first Rutgers antibiotic, actinomycin, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Woodruff was also presented with the Theobald Smith Society’s Annual Waksman Honorary Lectureship, which is “awarded to a scientist who has a distinguished career in science and who has made a significant contribution to the field of microbiology.” Boyd had a long and distinguished career at Merck, where he continued to break new ground in the discovery and production of new antibiotics. He and his wife, Jeanette, although officially retired, have founded Soil Microbiology Associates to continue the search for new antibiotics. The Woodruffs are also longtime supporters of Rutgers research and scholarship, and their contributions to Rutgers have been recognized with the Rutgers University Medal for Philanthropic Excellence.

Guests at the event included President Richard McCormick and his wife, Joan, Executive Dean Robert Goodman, and Associate Vice President for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics, Joan Bennett, among others. Senator Robert Dole, who benefited from antibiotics discovered at Rutgers when injured during World War II, sent a letter of congratulations to Woodruff. The exhibit, which highlights how the Rutgers antibiotics revolutionized world health, was designed by Mei Ling Lo, Kristi Conover, and Michele Tokar, all staff of Rutgers Libraries. The exhibit is the first on the Busch campus illustrating the era of discovery that led to Selman Waksman’s Nobel Prize in 1952. The exhibit can be viewed in the new Conference Room of the Library of Science and Medicine. (Photo: Jeanette and Boyd Woodruff)



Michele Hujber



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