

A MESSAGE FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DEAN  
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

December 2007

### Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments

The following awards were presented at the 2007 National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference in Atlanta, GA on October 25, 2007: **Laura Bovitz**, Middlesex County 4-H agent, received a National Met Life Foundation Award of Excellence (along with a \$1,000 award) and a Northeast Regional Excellence in Camping Award. Bovitz and **Abigail Kesely**, Middlesex County 4-H program assistant, received a Northeast Regional Communicators Award for Periodical Publication–Team. **Debi Cole**, Atlantic County 4-H agent, received the National Meritorious Service Award. **Macy Compton**, state 4-H program coordinator, and Bovitz received a National Beyond Youth Leadership Award Grant. **Gloria Kraft**, Burlington County 4-H agent, **Rachel Everett Lyons**, Morris County 4-H agent, and Curtis Myers received the Regional Power of Youth Award. Lyons, Kraft, and James Stanmore, received the Northeast Regional Communicators Award for Video Program. **Ginny Powell**, department chair, received the National 25-Year Service Award. **Chad Ripberger**, Mercer County 4-H agent; Debi Cole, Laura Bovitz, and Rachel Lyons received the National Excellence in Teen Programming (Team). Chad Ripberger also received the National Achievement in Service Award. **Alayne Torretta**, Warren County 4-H agent, received the National Distinguished Service Award. **Jerome L. Frecon**, Gloucester County agricultural agent, received the 2007 Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Award of Excellence for Extension faculty presented at the 2007 Annual Extension Conference by Karyn Malinowski, director of Cooperative Extension. Recipients received a plaque and a \$1,000 stipend for research and/or professional development.

The Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education awarded the eXtension Financial Security for All Leadership team the Outstanding Consumer Financial Information Award at its annual conference in Tampa, FL, last month. **Barbara O’Neill**, extension specialist, is a member of the winning team.

The **Rutgers NJAES Food Innovation Center** is piloting a program to serve food and beverage exporters, importers, packers, processors, and producers. This program will enable product design, development, analysis, commercialization, and ongoing manufacturing of products for sale to U.S. and worldwide retail and foodservice markets. New Jersey businesses seeking to export, enter the market, expand distribution, or license production will be provided with assistance and guidance in the areas of developing and implementing a marketing strategy, adapting products and packaging to local market and product design, development, and manufacturing.

For the past year, Executive Dean **Robert M. Goodman** has chaired the Executive and Steering Committees overseeing Rutgers’ preparations for reaccreditation (U.S. institutions of higher education must be reaccredited every 10 years). This huge project has reached an important milestone with the completion in the next week of the final Self-Study Report and other documentation supporting reaccreditation (see [www.middlestates.rutgers.edu](http://www.middlestates.rutgers.edu) for details, including the report and documentation). The Self-Study Report will be sent to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in January, and a site visit team, led by Dr. James Maher, provost at the University of Pittsburgh, will visit the university March 9–12, 2008.

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## Student Activities and Accomplishments

**Jessica Ware** (graduate program in Entomology) has been named by the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) as this year's recipient of the John Henry Comstock Graduate Student award. The award aims to promote interest in entomology at the graduate level and to stimulate interest in attending the ESA Annual Meeting. Each award consists of an all-expenses-paid trip to the meeting, a \$100 cash prize, and a certificate.

## Grants and Fundraising Efforts

**Carl Pray** (Agriculture, Food, and Resource Economics) has been notified of a \$562,400 grant in support of an assessment of the potential long-term impact for Asia of the Rockefeller Foundation's investment from 1985 to 2000 in drought-tolerant rice research and technology transfer activities. The grant period begins January 2008 and extends through the end of the year 2010. Collaborators in India, China, and Thailand will assist with the assessment.

**Gef Flimlin**, Ocean County Marine Agent, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County, received \$10,000 for "Supplemental Funding for Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program" from Ocean County.

**Jerome L. Frecon**, Gloucester County Agricultural agent, received \$4,900 for his research, "Testing and Evaluation of Peach and Nectarine Cultivars," from The New Jersey Peach Council. He also received \$3,000 for his project, "Testing and Evaluation of Peach and Nectarine Cultivars," from The New Jersey State Horticultural Society.

**Chad Ripberger**, Mercer County 4-H agent, received \$20,000 from the City of Trenton Department of Recreation, Natural Resources, and Culture for 2007–2008 Youth Development Programming in their after-school sites and summer day camps (in support of urban 4-H program associate).

Ed Rhodes, Sandy Macfarlane, and **Gef Flimlin**, Ocean County marine agent, received \$220,115 over two years for "The Development of a Code of Practice and Best Management Practices for East Coast Shellfish Growers" from the USDA Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center to East Coast Shellfish Growers Association.

## Conferences, Seminars, and Other Events




On December 1, members of the New Jersey Arborists Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (NJISA) gathered on the G. H. Cook Campus for the 2007 NJISA Work Day. Work days provide an opportunity for members to donate their time, equipment, and other resources to institutions each year, while learning about new techniques and technologies.

(Photo credit: Michele Hujber)

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A Fruit Variety Showcase of 280 samples of peach, nectarine, plum, apple, and wine grape cultivars was coordinated and staged by **Jerome Frecon**, Gloucester County agricultural agent, on September 5 in Clayton, New Jersey. Sixty-five growers, nurserymen, and fruit breeders from Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, and New Jersey evaluated samples and attended presentations on development and performance. **Joe Goffreda** presented samples and information on Rutgers NJAES peach and nectarine cultivars, and **Dan Ward** presented samples and discussed a group of new Italian grape cultivars.

**Jerome Frecon** organized and chaired a twilight fruit research meeting, tour, and picnic at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Upper Deerfield Township in late June. Specialists **Norm Lalancette**, **Bradley Majek**, **Peter Shearer**, and **Dan Ward**, as well as Rutgers NJAES Research Professor **Joe Goffreda** and Rutgers NJAES Director **Mark Robson**, led a team of speakers sharing educational information and demonstrating the latest fruit science research and technology with an emphasis on peaches and wine grapes at the center to 111 growers and allied industry members.

A short course and field training “Equine Farm and Land Management” was held October 5–6 in Freehold and Allentown, NJ. The sessions were organized by Equine Science Specialist **Carey Williams** and Monmouth County Agricultural Agent **Bill Sciarappa**. Approximately 80 participants attended these Equine Science Center sponsored/USDA-SARE grant-supported sessions. Presentations were made by **Karyn Malinowski**, director of Cooperative Extension; **Daniel Kluchinski**, ARMA department chair; **William Bamka**, Burlington County agricultural agent; **Stephen Komar**, Sussex County agricultural agent; **Chris Obropta**, water quality specialist, Sciarappa Williams, and USDA-NRCS representatives.

The **2007 Master Gardener Fall Conference** was held on October 13 at the Cook Campus Center. Over 200 Master Gardener volunteers attended, and individual and team accomplishment awards were presented. The Master Gardener Program trains volunteers who assist NJAES Cooperative Extension in its mission to deliver science-based and environmentally sound horticulture and related information to the general public. Upon completion of their training, volunteer service in local outreach programs and communications across the state is required as part of their annual certification process. In 2006, 18 county-based programs trained 328 new Master Gardener interns. A total of 1,760 certified Master Gardeners volunteered 122,946 hours during the year, valued at nearly \$2.7 million. Established in 1984, the program has trained 4,381 residents who have provided 1.08 million volunteer hours valued at \$19.8 million.

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County** hosted the Coastal Watershed Seminar Series in collaboration with the Urban Coast Institute of Monmouth University on October 20. An EPA Region 2 sponsored seminar titled “Streamside Living in Monmouth County” was moderated by Monmouth County Agricultural Agent **Bill Sciarappa** and Monmouth University Dean John Tiedemann. Designed to educate home owners about impacts on local streams and coastal water bodies, the agenda featured “Taking Action” presentations on “Sound Landscaping” by Middlesex County Agricultural Agent **Bill Hlubik**, “Sound Gardening” by Monmouth County Master Gardener **Carol Smith**, and “Rain Garden Construction” by Sciarappa and Monmouth County Program Assistant **Vivian Quinn**. The sessions ended with an on-site tour of the demonstration projects around the county agriculture building, including the rain garden, butterfly garden, youth garden, and sustainable gardening sites created by the Monmouth County Extension team. Approximately 40 people attended.

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**Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension** personnel collaborate with the N.J. Environmental Federation, N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, and others to develop and conduct training focusing on landscape and turf components for school district IPM programs. Five sessions have been held:

- October 4, Montclair: 96 attended with 11 attending break-out sessions. **Madeline Flahive DiNardo**, Union County agricultural agent, presented.
- October 25 in Colts Neck: 93 attended with about 20 attending break-out sessions. **Bill Hlubik**, Middlesex County agricultural agent, presented.
- October 29, Edison: 36 school staff attended, including 20 principals and 16 facility managers. Bill Hlubik presented.
- November 1, Bridgewater: 99 principals and facility managers/maintenance staff attended the school at Somerset VoTech. Madeline Flahive DiNardo presented.
- November 7, Camden: 37 head custodian/facilities staff attended at the Catto School. **Mary Cummings**, Gloucester County program associate, presented.

**Tony Broccoli** (Environmental Sciences) was a keynote speaker at the statewide Environmental Congress of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions at Mercer County Community College in West Windsor, NJ, on October 12. His talk was entitled “The Climate Ahead: Global Changes and Local Impacts.”

## DEAN’S CORNER

*Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!*



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