

A MESSAGE FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DEAN  
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

January 2008

### Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments

James Ford Nussbaum and Galileo Productions have been named silver award winners at the, International Academy of the Visual Arts' 2007 Davey Awards for "Jump!" produced for Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. "Jump!" is a short video profiling the **NJ 4-H Double Dutch Jump Rope Team from Cumberland County**.

**James Lashomb**, specialist in ornamental pest management, received the NJNLA Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association at their Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony on December 4.

**Barbara O'Neill**, specialist in financial resource management, and her eXtension Financial Security for All Community of Practice Leadership Team, were awarded the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education, Outstanding Consumer Financial Information Award.

**Bill Sciarappa**, Monmouth County agricultural agent, received an honorary award as "Master Gardener" at the graduation dinner held November 9 at the Hominy Hill Golf Course in Colts Neck.

**Nurgul Fitzgerald**, Specialist in Health Promotion and Behavior, was appointed, by the Department of Health and Senior Services Commissioner Fred M. Jacobs, to the New Jersey Diabetes Advisory Council. The Council is being established as a part of the requirement of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Cooperative Agreement with State-based Programs to incorporate multi-disciplinary planning efforts to reduce the burden of diabetes.

### Grants and Fundraising Efforts

**Ellen Williams**, Monmouth County 4-H Agent; **Arlene Sciarappa**, Director, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Easter Seals New Jersey; **Bill Sciarappa**, Monmouth County Agricultural Agent; **Rachel Tansey**, FCHS Program Associate; **Sharese Porter**, Senior Program Coordinator, FCHS; **Virginia Krzyzanowski**, 4-H Program Associate; **Diane Zahorsky**, County Extension Horticulturist, received \$2,500 for Building Skills For Youth and Families Through Horticulture, Nutrition and the Arts, from Cultivating Youth and Communities for Positive Futures, New Jersey Children, Youth And Families At-Risk grant.

**Sharon Kinsey**, Camden County 4-H Agent, received \$4,000 in funding for two mini-grants for CHARACTER COUNTS! Everywhere, All the Time and Growing Junior Master Gardeners in Camden, NJ from Cultivating Youth and Communities for Positive Futures, New Jersey Children, Youth and Families At-Risk grant.

**Tamara Pellien**, Bergen County 4-H Program Associate, and **Jennae DuBois**, Passaic County 4-H Program Associate, received \$4,000 in a mini-grant for Junior Master Gardeners from Cultivating Youth and Communities for Positive Futures, New Jersey Children, Youth And Families At-Risk grant.

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Cipriano Landscape Design, based in Ramsey, New Jersey, kicked off its Keeping It Green Foundation with a \$10,000 donation to Rutgers University for four \$2,500 scholarships to recipients in the **Department of Landscape Architecture** and the **Department of Plant Biology and Pathology**. Scholarship recipients will be named this spring, with the scholarship taking effect in fall 2008. Designed to foster eco-friendly practices, Cipriano's Keeping It Green Foundation encompasses scholarships, internships and workshops to promote environmental responsibility. As part of the company's new Keeping It Green program, Cipriano's goal is to collaborate with Rutgers to develop activities that foster awareness for environmental conservation. The Cipriano Keeping It Green Foundation is the company's latest step in integrating environmental conservation into the company's everyday practices. Photo (l. to r.): Chris Cipriano, president of Cipriano Landscape Design and Marie B. Prieur, director of development.

Rutgers Fruit and Vegetable IPM/ICM Programs in the Northern New Jersey Highlands Region received \$75,000, FY08, from the NJ Highlands Council. (**Win Cowgill**, Hunterdon County Agricultural Agent; **Dean Polk**, State Fruit IPM Agent; **Kris Holstrom**, Program Associate; and **George Hamilton**, Extension Specialist in Pest Management.)

### Conferences, Seminars, and Other Events

The Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Center for Urban Environments (CUE) recently launched two pilot programs in the New Brunswick area. The purpose of the Volunteer Leader Development for Latino Audiences project was to develop and implement culturally sensitive leader training materials and delivery methods in order to build the Latino community's capacity to support 4-H youth development programs in New Brunswick. Ten Latino men and women participated in the training, including individuals who were non-English speakers. The participants are in the process of completing the required paperwork, and expect to have their first 4-H Club established in the very near future. Project principals are **Lydia B. Blalock**, Assistant Extension Specialist for Youth Development, **Laura K. Bovitz**, County 4-H Agent for Middlesex County and Niki Learn, CUE Program Coordinator. The project was funded with a mini-grant from the NJ Children, Youth and Families at Risk program. The NJAES CUE Youth Research Team project was designed as a pilot project to interest youth in participatory action research and civic engagement. Ten youth are members of the CUE Youth Research Team, including eight young men and women from the Latino community. The team members were instrumental in designing and implementing the New Brunswick Programmatic Needs Assessment. The youth developed the data codebook and are now engaged in data entry using the Software Package for Social Sciences. Next steps for the team include data analyses and the creation and delivery of a formal presentation to share results with interested parties in the New Brunswick community. Youth Research Team project principals are **Lydia B. Blalock**, assistant extension specialist for youth development, and Niki Learn, CUE program coordinator. This project was funded by a Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Community Enhancement Award.





On November 7, a special seminar for the **Microbial Source Tracking Group** was held at the Monmouth County Extension office organized by **Bill Sciarappa**, Monmouth County Agricultural Agent, and Monmouth University Associate Dean John Tiedemann. Forty-four participants attended the program that centered on new PCR-technology and emerging programs to identify the source of indicator bacteria and pathogenic microorganisms. Collaborators included representatives from EPA Region 2, NJDEP, County Boards of Health, watershed managers and environmental organizations. At the end of the day, SEBS Dean of Academic Affairs Jerry Kukor began to forge a new MST effort among RCE, the Water Resources Department and the Rutgers Biotechnology Departments.

**Joel Flagler**, Bergen County agricultural agent, initiated a specialized Horticultural Therapy and Training Program for youth aged 14-21 with Down's syndrome and mental retardation in collaboration with the Bergen County Special Services School District.

**Brian Oleksak**, agricultural program associate, with **Mark Vodak**, specialist in forestry, hosted the North Jersey Forest Stewardship Meeting on October 4. Thirty woodlot owners from northern New Jersey attended the program, "Insects and Diseases of North Jersey Woodlots."

**Bill Sciarappa**, Monmouth County agricultural agent, organized a Rain Garden Construction Seminar on November 20 that was attended by 25 landscapers. The purpose was to train professionals in building landscaped water recharge systems for homeowners and municipalities. Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County Program Assistant **Vivian Quinn** gave a presentation on rain gardens, and in combination with **Brian Hulme**, program assistant, led a tour of the newly constructed rain garden at the County Ag Building. **Rich Obal**, Monmouth County agricultural agent, and horticulturalist **Diane Zahorsky** discussed proper plant selection. Union County Agricultural Agent **Madeline Flahive DiNardo**, talked about her successful efforts in North Jersey, and Chris Obropta, specialist in water resources, provided important technical details.

Future Farmers of America held their annual Career Development Day on the G. H. Cook Campus on November 15. Approximately 200 students from 27 high schools attended to test their agricultural skills in various disciplines. Monmouth County Program Assistants **Vivian Quinn** and **Brian Hulme**, and Monmouth County Agricultural Agent **Bill Sciarappa** managed the vegetable identification and fruit judging sessions.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension personnel continue to collaborate with the NJ Environmental Federation, NJ Department of Environmental Protection and others to develop and conduct IPM trainings focusing on the landscape and turf component for school district IPM programs. A session was held on November 15, 2007 in Bordentown, NJ. 105 principals and facilities managers/head custodians attended. **Bill Hlubik**, Middlesex County Agricultural Agent, presented.



## DEAN'S CORNER

At the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, we are working hard to address some of the most pressing problems of our time. Problems that require multidisciplinary, collaborative, and intensive commitment reach the level of signature initiatives. Climate and environmental change is an issue that society will be facing for generations to come; successfully adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change will require a well-informed society that understands the causes and consequences of climate change, as well as possible solutions. By fostering a greater understanding of climate change, we will enable the healthy development of New Jersey's citizens, communities, and economy.

The climate and environmental change initiative has three major goals:

- To understand the mechanisms that drive global and regional climate change
- To predict the future of the climate system, as well as the impacts of change on a densely populated, coastal state
- To educate students and society about the causes and consequences of climate change

We are meeting these goals through numerous programs, departments, and outreach efforts, such as

- New Jersey State Climatologist
- Center for Environmental Prediction
- Coastal Ocean Observation Lab (COOL)
- Initiative on Climate Change, Social Policy, and Politics
- Rutgers Energy Institute
- Grant F. Walton Center for Remote Sensing & Spatial Analysis

To learn more about this initiative, please visit <http://climatechange.rutgers.edu>.

One additional note as we head toward Super Bowl XLII—I'm sure that you all noticed that the turf on Lambeau Field during the Packers v. Giants game was particularly nice. That turf has its roots right here at Rutgers. Perhaps that East Coast turf was just the edge the Giants needed to pull off their overtime win!

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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