Celebrating the Class of 2009

Spectacular weather was a perfect complement to the pageantry and celebratory mood of the Cook College Graduation Convocation held on May 22. Hundreds of graduating seniors accepted their diplomas on the banks of Passion Puddle on the G. H. Cook Campus. Dale Cruzan III, a former national FFA award recipient, served as the Class of 2009 representative. This year’s graduation speaker was Steven J. Mento, president, CEO, co-founder, and chairman of the board of Conatus Pharmaceuticals, Inc., who holds bachelor of arts, master of science, and doctoral degrees in microbiology with an emphasis in virology from Rutgers.

Making School Lunches Safe

Since 1979, Henryk Daun (Food Science) has ensured that food served in school cafeterias is nutritious and safe for consumption under the Quality Food Audit, part of the New Jersey Food Distribution Program (NJFDP) initiated by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, which distributes over 35 million pounds of USDA food commodities to more than 700 participating school districts. Daun, Paul Takhistov (Food Science), and graduate student volunteers evaluate the food’s nutritional value, packaging, and serving size, recommend samples of food products to be distributed, as well as address food quality complaints. Read more

Farmers Market

The Rutgers Gardens Farmers Market is open every Friday until October 30, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Rutgers Gardens off of Ryders Lane. The market, which began in 2008 as a partnership between the school and the experiment station, offers the local community, including residents, students, university faculty and staff, University Dining, and restaurants, the opportunity to experience and purchase fresh, locally grown or locally prepared food products. For a list of 2009 vendors, click here.
Spotlight on Gates Foundation Funding

Three researchers at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences are recipients of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funding in support of projects to combat threats to world health and hunger, particularly in developing countries.

**Eric Lam** (Plant Biology and Pathology; director of the Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment) is creating a new way to fight infectious disease through an innovative approach to disease prevention using RNA therapeutics and transgenic tomatoes. The Gates Foundation’s Grand Challenges Explorations program has awarded Lam a $100,000 Phase I grant.  
[Read more](#)

**Carl Pray** (Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics) wants to improve decision making on policies and investments in agricultural research, development, and innovation. With $500,000 from the Gates Foundation, Pray is leading a team from the United States, Canada, Europe, and developing countries that will collect and analyze data on private sector agricultural R&D and innovation.  
[Read more](#)

**Ilya Raskin** (Plant Biology and Pathology; Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment) is leading an effort to discover new drugs derived from botanical sources to treat malaria. In 2005, Gates committed $100 million over five years to Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMW), a nonprofit foundation supporting the development of new, affordable anti-malarial drugs. With more than $340,000 per year, the MMV is funding the U.S./South Africa Antimalarial Drug Consortium led by Raskin.  
[Read more](#)

**News from the Office Of Research**

The Office of Research, in tandem with the Office of Planning and Budgets, has reviewed 178 endorsement forms and booked $68.5 million in new proposals that, if funded, would yield $18 million in facilities and administrative costs. The top three producing units (essentially a three-way tie) were the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, the Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment, and the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology. The top three faculty members, in terms of number of proposals submitted, were **Nilgun Tumer** (Plant Biology and Pathology), **Dipak Sarkar** (Animal Sciences), and **Stacy Bonos** (Plant Biology and Pathology). In addition, Nilgun Tumer was the first faculty member at Rutgers to receive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding: $275,000 from NIH through its R21 program.

Congratulations and thanks to all the faculty and staff members who contributed so much to grantsmanship efforts during the first four months of 2009. We are on track for a $100 million year!
Academic Excellence Fund Grants
The following individuals were awarded Academic Excellence Fund grants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead Project Director</th>
<th>Co-PIs</th>
<th>Title of Project</th>
<th>Award</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel M. Goldstein</td>
<td>Peter Guarnaccia</td>
<td>Transnational New Brunswick</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl Herrup</td>
<td>Seiko Goto</td>
<td>The Garden as a Therapeutic Tool in Managing Behavioral and Cognitive Symptoms in Alzheimers Dementia in the Nursing Home</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uta Krogmann</td>
<td></td>
<td>Energy Consumption Monitoring Equipment</td>
<td>$49,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monica Mazurek</td>
<td>Mohsen Jafari, David Specca, Patrick Szary</td>
<td>Development of a Renewable Fuel (Hydrogen) Generating Facility for Transportation Infrastructure</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
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Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments

At the request of USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Rong Di (Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment) has developed a Plant Biosecurity Certificate Program to train students with skills (including molecular technologies) needed in the U.S. plant quarantine system. On April 20, the Curriculum Committee of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences formally approved the new certificate program. As part of that program, the committee approved the new course “Plant Biosecurity Issues and Technologies” developed and taught by Di this spring. A second course, “Fundamentals of Pest Risk Analysis,” was also approved and will be taught by a USDA-APHIS-PPQ scientist at North Carolina State University every other fall and video-conferenced to Rutgers students with Di acting as the moderator. To receive the certificate, students must complete 25 credits from a roster of six required courses and six electives. Three students who were enrolled in Di’s first class have already completed the requirements and will receive a Plant Biosecurity Certificate.
Tamar Barkay (Biochemistry and Microbiology) has earned a European Union Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship to conduct research on mercury contamination in the High Arctic (Northwestern Greenland). The research will be conducted in collaboration with Danish scientists at the National Environmental Research Institute in Riso. The study will involve two field trips to Greenland in the spring and summer of 2010 and it will focus on mercury biogeochemistry in snow packs, coastal lagoons, sea ice, and atmospheric deposition. Barkay will provide the microbiological expertise while the Danish collaborators provide expertise in the atmospheric and environmental chemistry of mercury. The fellowships are highly selective, with just over 20 percent of the 665 proposals submitted being recommended for funding.

Lily Young (Environmental Sciences) received the 2009 Waksman Award in recognition of outstanding lifelong accomplishments in the field of microbiology from the Theobald Smith Society, the New Jersey branch of the American Society for Microbiology. In addition, Young gave the Waksman Honorary Lecture, “Microbes, methane, and mud,” at the society’s meeting held May 6 on the G.H. Cook Campus.

Beth Ravit (Environmental Sciences) met with Newark director of housing and real estate and department of economic development to discuss implementation of urban environmental extension projects in the City of Newark. This was to support and expand the outreach of Greg Rusciano, newly appointed Environmental and Natural Resource county agent.

David Tulloch (Environmental Sciences; CRSSA) served as the chair of the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board Visiting Review Committee for Florida International University. In addition, Tulloch was named chair of policy and legislation for the Universities Consortium for Geographic Information Science for 2009–2011.

Karyn Malinowski (Equine Science Center) won divisional honors in the fourth leg of the American Harness Drivers’ Club 2009 Spring Pacing Series on May 9 at Freehold Raceway. Malinowski steered her own horse, Jolee, 5-year-old daughter of Artiscape, and got her first victory in this amateur driving series with a time of 2:01 for the mile.

Mukund Karwe (Food Science) has been selected as the winner of the 2009 William V. Cruess Award by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), a nonprofit international society with 20,000 members working in food science, technology and related professions. The William V. Cruess award is given yearly to an IFT member who has achieved excellence in teaching food science and technology. The award will be presented at IFT’s Annual Meeting and Food Expo in Anaheim, CA on June 6 and includes a $3,000 honorarium from IFT and a bronze medal from the Northern California Section of IFT.

Karl Matthews (Food Science) is the recipient of the department’s 2008–2009 Professor Endel Karmas Award for Excellence in Teaching Food Science. The recipient of this award is chosen by graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in the department’s fall 2008 and spring 2009 courses.
Paul Takhistov (Food Science) will receive a Certificate of Recognition for having the most citations of any paper published in the *Journal of Food Science* during 2006. The paper cited is “Functional materials in food nanotechnology,” which was published in the Concise Reviews section of the journal. Takhistov will be recognized at the journal’s Reviewers’ Reception to be held at the annual Institute of Food Technologists meeting on June 8.

Bill Hallman (Human Ecology) was interviewed for the *New York Times* article *What, Me Worry? Putting Some Perspective on Panic* that appeared in the business section on May 22.

Sue Shaptes (Nutritional Sciences) was elected as a committee member for the Food and Nutrition Board: Dietary Reference Intakes for Vitamin D and Calcium, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences for 2009–2010.

John Worobey (Nutritional Sciences) was invited to present a paper titled “Correlates of infant weight gain: A prospective study of minority families” as part of a symposium titled “Childhood obesity: Prevalence, predictors and implications for prevention efforts,” at the April meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development in Denver, CO. In addition, on March 12, he was invited to deliver Grand Rounds for the Department of Pediatrics, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. His talk was titled “Risk factors in infancy for early overweight.” The Family Health Forum of the Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, New Brunswick invited him to present an overview of his NIH-funded Rutgers Infant Nutrition and Growth (RING) Project.

Jo Anne Crouch (Plant Biology and Pathology) is the recipient of 2009 Musser Award of Excellence, in recognition of her outstanding potential as a researcher and educator in the field of turfgrass management. Crouch, whose research has largely focused on the population genetics of anthracnose on golf courses and other turf ecosystems, will also receive a stipend of $22,500 as part of the award from the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation, named in memory of turfgrass scientist H. Burton Musser.

**Student Activities and Accomplishments**

**Cook Baccalaureate Ceremony**

The Cook College Baccalaureate Ceremony was an exuberant affair as graduates of the class of 2009 mixed it up with faculty and staff at the Cook Campus Center on May 17. In a preview of his graduation remarks, Executive Dean Bob Goodman congratulated the students on their hard work and their accomplishments. The students chose Mark Robson (dean of Agricultural and Urban Programs) as their baccalaureate speaker. Photo by Reuben Gutierrez (center) flanked by John and Harriet Worobey (Nutritional Sciences).
Sixteen undergraduate students from the Intermediate Landscape Architecture class taught by David Tulloch (Environmental Sciences; CRSSA) competed on April 30 in the 2009 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Annual Mapping Contest to great success. The map Inventory and Analysis of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed took multiple first-place honors: Newbie of the Year, Place Best Software Integration, and Best Overall (Non-DEP). Several team members also garnered first-place for the Most Unique map with their entry titled Voices.

Emily Lamprecht (graduate student, Animal Sciences) attended the Equine Science Society Symposium from May 29–31 in Keystone, CO, and presented “Superoxide dismutase supplementation does not affect erythrocyte superoxide dismutase activity or systemic inflammatory cytokine responses in an equine exercise model” as part of the graduate student exercise physiology competition. Lamprecht received assistance to attend the conference through a graduate travel award of $200 given by the Graduate School–New Brunswick.

Nathalie Sanchez (undergraduate, Animal Sciences) won the 2009 Science Communicator Award for her poster titled “Factors in milk are important for the induction of estrogen receptor alpha in the neonatal porcine heart.” Her poster was awarded first place among other competitive undergraduate research posters. Natalie’s research, conducted in the laboratory of Carol Bagnell (Animal Sciences), focuses on the effect of nursing on the induction of estrogen receptors in the developing porcine heart. Photo: Bagnell and student Nathalie Sanchez. Photo credit to Kathy Manger (Animal Sciences).

Mike Strug (Animal Sciences, Biotechnology), will present his research at the Annual Society for the Study of Reproduction Meetings in Pittsburgh from July 18–22. Strug was a top graduating senior in both of his majors, receiving the Animal Sciences Endowed Award for Excellence in Academics and Research and the Biotechnology Curriculum Award for Academic Excellence.

Virian Serei (undergraduate, Biochemistry and Microbiology) won the Biotech Curriculum Award for Academic Excellence as well as the Biotech Curriculum Award for Outstanding Service and Leadership. In addition, Serei presented her research poster at the American Society for Microbiology annual meeting held from May 17 to 21 in Philadelphia. Serei worked in the laboratory of Gerben Zylstra (Biochemistry and Microbiology) and graduated summa cum laude on May 22.

Matthew Bruno (undergraduate, Environmental Sciences) whose research on “Chemoautotrophic arsenite oxidation in Nymph Creek, Yellowstone National Park,” was conducted in the laboratory of Lily Young (Environmental Sciences), received the Outstanding Student in Environmental Sciences Finstein Award.

Shravan Dave (undergraduate, Environmental Sciences), who worked in the laboratory of Lily Young (Environmental Sciences), will present his research “Arsenic concentrations and microbial
community structure” at the Northeast Microbiology, Physiology, Ecology, and Taxonomy (NEMPET) meeting on June 26–28.

Andrew Draganski and Ke Shi (graduate, Food Science) were the recipients of the Institute of Food Technologists Graduate Scholarship of $2,000 each.

Youn-Kyung Kim (graduate, Food Science) was the recipient of the 2009 NJAES student research poster competition.

Joseph Petho, Nidhi Singla and Danielle Voss (undergraduate, Food Science) and Andrew Draganski and Ke Shi (graduate, Food Science) were the recipients of the 2009–2010 Eastern Frosted Foods Association Scholarships in the amount of $1,000 each.

Niti Lathia (undergraduate, Food Science) was the recipient of the Department’s 2008–2009 Most Improved Student Award in the amount of $500.

Jennifer Merle (undergraduate, Food Science) was the recipient of the Department’s 2008–2009 Triumph Award in the amount of $500.

David Sorkin (undergraduate, Food Science) was the recipient of the 2008–2009 C. Olin Ball Scholarship in the amount of $750.

Tiffany Wang and Blasé Ferraris (undergraduate, Food Science) were the recipients of the 2008-2009 Dick H. Kleyn Memorial Award in the amount of $750 each.

Joseph Donovan (undergraduate, Food Science) was the recipient of the 2008–2009 Lloyd K. Riggs Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Jennifer Merle (undergraduate, Food Science) was the recipient of the Elizabeth F. Stier Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Jonathan Baldasare (undergraduate, Food Science) was the recipient of the 2009–2010 Myron and Rona Solberg Renaissance Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Seung-Wook Sea (graduate, Food Science) is the recipient of the 2008–2009 Professor Endel Karmas Award for Excellence as a Teaching Assistant in Food Science. The recipient of this award is voted upon by undergraduate students enrolled in the department’s fall 2008 and spring 2009 courses.

Deeptha Sukumar (graduate, Nutritional Sciences) made an oral presentation on the “Effect of protein intake and weight loss on bone in overweight-obese postmenopausal women” at the Experimental Biology national meeting in New Orleans in April. Sukumar was also the student winner of the Energy and Macronutrient RIS (research interest group) abstract competition. In addition, he made one of three student oral research presentations at the Annual Graduate Student Symposium for Nutrition, Endocrinology, and Animal Biosciences (NEAB) at the Cook
Campus Center on April 3 and received a special award from the Energy and Metabolism Research Interest Section of the American Society of Nutrition.

Peter Shupper (undergraduate, Nutritional Sciences) made an oral presentation on “Early methoxychlor exposure reduces growth and bone mass in rats” at the Experimental Biology national meeting in New Orleans in April.

William Lagakos (graduate, Nutritional Sciences) was awarded an ASBMB Travel Award to make a presentation on “Differential enterocyte partitioning of fatty acids in intestinal fatty acid-binding protein-null mice” at the Experimental Biology national meeting in New Orleans.

Grants and Gifts

A complete list of grants received can be found here.

In recent weeks, the EcoComplex has secured a number of grants for projects that will help develop greater expertise and recognition for NJAES in the bioenergy arena.

- **Northeast Sun-Grant Initiative Grant, $150,000; Dave Specca PI**: “Hydrogen, natural gas, electricity, and heat from landfill gas: Integration of emerging technologies for a quad-generation demonstration project.” This grant will fund the cost of a preliminary engineering analysis of an integrated system that can produce electricity, heat, compressed natural gas (CNG), and hydrogen from landfill gas. Margaret Brennan, Arend-Jan Both, Dave Specca, and Mark Galgano from NJAES and Monica Mazurek and Jill Mesonas from the School of Engineering are participating in the grant. Industrial collaborators on the project are Airion (landfill gas cleanup), Fuel Cell Energy (molten carbonate fuel cell), and Linde (CNG and hydrogen fueling station).

- **Rutgers Academic Excellence Fund grant, $100,000; Monica Mazurek, School of Engineering PI**: “Development of a renewable fuel (hydrogen) generating facility for transportation infrastructure.” The role of the EcoComplex in this grant is to be the site for alternative fuel field laboratory teaching facilities that will provide hands-on opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students in energy technology courses. It builds upon the work being done for the Sun-Grant Proposal and strengthens our collaboration with the School of Engineering.

- **U.S. EPA, Methane to Markets Grant, $190,000; Mark Robson (dean of Agricultural and Urban Programs) PI**: “Pre-feasibility study and capacity building for landfill gas utilization in Nigeria.” This grant will fund the cost of an analysis of the major Nigerian landfills and dumps to determine if there are any good candidate sites for landfill gas development. GreenPrimate LLC, an incubator company at the EcoComplex, will provide the expertise to perform most of the field work, in coordination with the EcoComplex’s own expertise in landfill gas utilization and outreach.

Daniela Sharma (Animal Sciences) is part of a team led by Lisa Karr-Lilienthal from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and Amy Fischer, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, which is collaborating on a proposal to create an eXtension Community of Practice for Companion Animals via eXtension.org. Their proposal will be funded at $75,000 over three years. This resource
will help to deliver easy-access online extension material and will offer experts across the country to assist with material development and answer user questions.

Rieks Bruins and Jeff Canavan (Center for Advanced Food Technology) received a contract award in the amount of $168,884 from Combat Ration Network Short Term Projects – CORANET STP – for “Manufacturing a hydrogen-free ration heater.”

Costa Vetriani (Marine and Coastal Science) PI and Elisabetta Bini (Biochemistry and Microbiology) were awarded $373,721 from NSF for a three-year study of the transcriptional response of the deep-sea vent epsilon-proteobacterium Caminibacter mediatlanticus to changing environmental conditions.

Harriet Worobey (Nutritional Sciences) received a $25,000 grant from the “Johnson & Johnson/PLAY SAFE Nutrition and Fitness Project” to integrate nutrition education and healthy cooking activities into the existing PLAY SAFE summer camp program for New Brunswick youth, ages 6 to 12.

Hans Fisher (Nutritional Sciences), in collaboration with George Wagner and Bonnie Nolan (School of Arts and Sciences), has been named a recipient of a $10,000 incentive award for 2009 from the United Soybean Board’s Soy Health Research Program.

Conferences, Seminars, and Other Events

Sarah Ralston (Animal Sciences) was invited to present “Young Horse Research and Teaching Programs” at the first Meeting of the National Association of Equine Affiliated Academics in Keystone, CO, on May 27. She also presented two talks at the Equine Science Society Symposium in Keystone on May 28–30, titled “NMR-based metabonomic analysis of serum from standardbred yearlings with or without hock osteochondrosis dessicans lesions: Preliminary study” and “Growth response of draft cross weanlings fed 90% forage total mixed ration cubes versus traditional hay/concentrate rations.”

Elisabetta Bini (Biochemistry and Microbiology) gave an invited lecture on “Archaeal interactions with copper at extreme temperatures” at the meeting of the American Society for Microbiology held May 17–21 in Philadelphia.

Alan Robock (Environmental Sciences) spoke on “The many problems with geoengineering using stratospheric aerosols” in an invited presentation to the American Physical Society’s April Meeting in Denver, CO. In addition, he made the following invited presentations in April:
- Sigma Xi Distinguished Lectures at Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan; Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine, Kirkville, MO; Truman State University, Kirkville, MO; Carnegie Mellon University; and Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ.
- “Are we ready for the next volcanic eruption?” to the Board on Atmospheric Science and Climate, National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.
- “Smoke and mirrors: Is geoengineering a solution to global warming?” at Lafayette College, Easton, PA.
Anthony Broccoli (Environmental Sciences) had the following invited presentations:

- “Regional perspectives on past and future climate change” at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, in May.
- “What everyone should know about climate change” at the Great Swamp Watershed Association in Harding, NJ, in May.
- “Impact of climate change on New Jersey infrastructure” at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Climate Change Working Group in Newark, NJ in April.

Madeline Flahive DiNardo (Union County Agricultural and Resource Management agent), Greg Rusciano (Essex County Environmental Resource Management agent), and Amy Boyajian (Environmental Sciences) partnered on April 2 and 4 with Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension to present several rain garden site selection, installation, and maintenance sessions, as well as “Train-the-trainer” sessions for professional landscapers, Master Gardeners, and others in Frederick County, VA.

Beth Ravit (Environmental Sciences) was the invited speaker for the Township of Voorhees and Voorhees Environmental, Cultural, and Education Foundation on April 22 in Voorhees, NJ. In addition, she was an invited speaker at the Restoring the Urban Oyster Conference held on April 24 on Governors Island, NY.

Carol Byrd-Bredbenner (Food Policy Institute) was invited to present “Sources of key nutrients in the home food environment” at the National Nutrient Databank Conference in New Orleans.

Murkund Karwe (Food Science) visited the Department of Family Sciences at Kuwait University College of Women in March and reviewed its undergraduate program in Food Science and gave four seminars on research, curriculum design, and evaluation.

Richard Ludescher (Food Science) was invited to present research in March at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society in Boston, MA, and at the 237th meeting of the American Chemical Society in Salt lake City, UT.

Allan Shearer (Landscape Architecture) gave an invited talk titled “Analytic speculation: Scenarios in the planning process” to the Department of Geography at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Nurgul Fitzgerald (Nutritional Sciences) was invited to talk about the associations between food insecurity, socioeconomic status, and type 2 diabetes among Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites in the United States at the Experimental Biology Conference in New Orleans, LA, on April 21.

Daniel Hoffman (Nutritional Sciences) was invited to give a seminar on “Human energy metabolism: Techniques and applications at the faculty of human development” at the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, in May.
Sue Shapses (Nutritional Sciences) was invited to speak on “Protein intake during weight reduction: Effects on bone” at the International Symposium on the Nutritional Aspects of Osteoporosis, in Lausanne, Switzerland, on May 7.

Judith Storch (Nutritional Sciences) was invited to give talks on “Niemann-Pick C2 and intracellular cholesterol trafficking” at Tufts New England Medical Center on March 30 and to the New York Lipid and Vascular Biology Club on April 14.

Michael Lawton (Plant Science) and Eric Lam (Plant Biology and Pathology) were invited speakers at the Brazilian Plant Molecular Genetics Symposium held March 31 to April 3rd in Rio de Janeiro. Lawton spoke on the application of the Physcomitrella patens system as a pipeline for testing plant genes and chemicals involved in fungal resistance. Lam presented on deciphering the epigenetic regulator network in Arabidopsis.

Publications and Editorships


International Projects

The Global Institute for BioExploration (GIBEX), based at Rutgers, played host from April 27–29 to David Gammon, associate professor of organic chemistry and senior associate of GIBEX-Africa, based at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. Gammon, who will become chief coordinator of GIBEX-Africa in January 2010, met with institute members to discuss GIBEX activities in the U.S. and Africa, and toured the laboratory of Ilya Raskin (Plant Biology and Pathology), where some of the screens to nature (STN) innovations are being developed for transfer to GIBEX partners around the world. Gammon discussed plans to expand GIBEX-Africa activities through collaborations with UCT faculty in the bio-conservation disciplines to open opportunities for exploring the biodiversity around Cape Town and beyond for biotherapeutic properties using the STN technology. In addition, Gammon will promote collaboration with strategically selected universities in Africa. As part of his visit, he presented a seminar on “The evolution of natural products chemistry: Reflections on explorations of molecular diversity in South African plants and microbes.”

A delegation from the University of São Paulo in Brazil arrived in late April for the annual undergraduate student exchange visit to Rutgers. Three undergraduate students, one faculty member, and a staff person spent four days at the university from April 22–25. The students presented posters at the Aresty Research Symposium and participated in Ag Field Day on the G.H. Cook Campus. The visit was coordinated by Lily Young (Environmental Sciences) and Gerben Zylstra (Biochemistry and Microbiology).
Mark Your Calendars!

Rutgers’ pioneering role in mosquito control will be highlighted as part of the Executive Dean’s Distinguished Lecture series. Gordon M. Patterson, professor of history at Florida Tech will deliver the Distinguished Lecture in Entomology on June 22 in a presentation titled “Waging war on the insect menace: Rutgers and the origins of the American anti-mosquito crusade.” In April 2009, Rutgers University Press published Patterson’s book, The Mosquito Crusades: A History of the American Anti-Mosquito Movement from the Reed Commission to the First Earth Day. Members of the community are invited to attend this free lecture and reception, starting at 4 p.m. in the Neilson Dining Hall, on the George H. Cook Campus, New Brunswick. Please contact Patricia Kastner by email at kastner@sebs.rutgers.edu or by calling 732-932-7000, ext. 4211.

Communicating Conservation to Citizens
WHEN: June 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Horticulture Farm 2 - Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center
WHAT: Lecture and seminar sponsored by the NJAES Office of Continuing Professional Education
MORE INFO: Contact Jenna Kimock, ocpe@njaes.rutgers.edu, 732-932-9271

This report is produced by the Office of Communications. For information or to provide comments, please contact Paula Walcott-Quintin at quintin@aesop.rutgers.edu or 732-932-7000, ext. 4204.