Rain did little to dampen the celebratory mood of the 2010 Cook College Convocation that was held on May 18 at the Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC) in Piscataway. The RAC was filled with the usual pomp and ceremony, made more poignant as the members of the last matriculated class of Cook College walked across the stage to accept their diplomas and awards. Delivering the convocation speech to this final graduating class of Cook College was Mark Robson (Entomology; dean of agricultural and urban programs) who received his Bachelor’s degree in 1977 as a member of the first class of Cook College students to matriculate in 1973. Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources Robert M. Goodman, paid tribute to the founders and the founding of Cook College and shared a letter sent by Charles Hess, the Founding Dean in 1973 of the newly-minted Cook College. Hess is now professor and dean emeritus at the University of California–Davis. Class Representative David Sorkin (Food Science ‘10) recognized his fellow graduates as a “new generation of leaders...that had arrived...and were reporting for duty.”

Read more.
Spotlights

Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day
A little bit of golf, play with some bugs, visit one of dozens of information booths!! Yea, that’s my day @ Rutgers Day celebrations on the George H. Cook Campus on April. The traditional Ag Field Day was a spectacular show of color and food as thousands of visitors made the annual pilgrimage to get early-bird plants and visit the campus farm, and yes, frolic on the grass around Passion Puddle.

Rutgers Rising Memorial Service
On a beautiful morning on Saturday, May 15, the George H. Cook Community came together to celebrate faculty, staff, and alumni who passed away in recent years. This event marked the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Rutgers Rising Memorial patio adjacent to the Cook Campus Center. The patio was designed and constructed by Scott Ernst (Class of 1985), and landscaped by Roy DeBoer (Land本科 Architecture).

This year family members and friends of Leland Merrill (Dean), Andy Forgash (Entomology), Francine Corley (Student Life), John Kuser (Forestry), Donald Sutherland (Entomology), and John Slavkovsky (Class of 1977) shared touching stories and memories from their lives. Following the ceremony, friends and family installed the name plates for their loved ones on the perpetual plaque on the Rising patio. This special event was organized by the Office of Community Engagement in cooperation with the Cook Community Alumni Association.
Spotlight

2010 Alumni Reunion Weekend

Eighty-five alumni and guests, including the Class of 1960 who were celebrating their 50th anniversary, toured the George H. Cook Campus on Saturday, May 15, as part of the 2010 Alumni Reunion Weekend. The tour began at the Rutgers Gardens where Bruce Crawford, manager, and MaryAnne McMillan, volunteer coordinator, led two groups on a walking tour through the many beautiful and unique collections and displays at the Gardens.

The tour continued at the campus farm, where Mike Fennell (director, Cook/NJ AES Animal Care Program) and students in the Animal Sciences program at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, provided an inside look at the animal care programs at the farm. It was hard to tell who squealed more—the piglets or the kids who got to pet them.

The group boarded the bus for the last stop on our tour, the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences and the C.O.O.L Room, where Cisco Werner, director, and Josh Kohut, physical oceanographer (Marine and Coastal Science) described the research being conducted at the institute and the transatlantic journey of RU27, nicknamed the Scarlet Knight. A visit to the robotics lab allowed guests to see the inner workings of the glider and learn how it was able to travel more than 2,000 miles across the ocean to Baiona, Spain.

Before heading off to their class dinners, alumni gathered at the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture for refreshments, friendly discussion, and a look at the insect collection provided by George Hamilton and Frank Carle (Entomology). The Alumni Reunion Weekend events were organized by the Rutgers University Alumni Association and the Office of Community Engagement of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

Top: Robert M. Goodman (back to camera) welcomes alumni at the Rutgers Gardens. Bottom: visiting alumni and their children enjoy feeding and petting the goats.
2010 Celebration of Excellence Awards Dinner

The School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station held its 2010 Celebration of Excellence Awards Dinner on April 19 at the Cook Campus Center. Award recipients are:

- Team Award – **New Brunswick Community Farmers Market**
- Research Excellence – **Thomas Rudel** (Human Ecology)
- Sustained Research Excellence and Impact – **Steven Handel** (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources)
- Academic Innovation – **Sarah Ralston** (Animal Sciences)
- Excellence in Teaching – **Nathan Yee** (Environmental Science)
- Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor – **George Clark** (Human Ecology)
- Barbara Munson Goff Teacher of the Year – **James Wohlt** (Animal Sciences)
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Faculty Excellence – **Chad Ripberger** (Mercer County agent, 4H Youth Development)

Others recognized at the dinner included the George H. Cook Scholars, the George H. Cook Distinguished Alumni awardees, the Dennis M. Fenton Distinguished Graduate Alumni awardees, and the Science Communication awardees. The annual awards dinner was organized by the Office of Community Engagement, especially Assistant Director Patty Kastner, with assistance from the Office of Communications, Office of Academic Programs, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

**Writer Susan Dworkin Bridges the Gap Between Scientists and the Public**

With public support for science more crucial than ever, how does a scientist effectively communicate to laypeople the importance and impact of his or her work? Author Susan Dworkin told an audience of nearly 100 that the key is “telling a good story.” This is exactly what Dworkin does in her latest book, *Viking in the Wheat Field*, a nonfiction volume on the work of Bent Skovmand and his struggle to save the world’s wheat harvest from the devastating wheat stem rust known as UG99. Dworkin visited the George H. Cook Campus on April 27 at the invitation of the Center for Turfgrass Science and the Office of the Executive Dean. Her talk was arranged by the center and the Office of Community Engagement. According to Dworkin, the key to communicating complex science is to tell the story of the scientist - the human interest - and draw the reader/listener into learning about the science. Her lecture focused, with a fair dose of humor, on her conversations with her publisher about her concept for a book on the wheat rust crisis and her efforts to convince him that such a subject was an important story to tell and could be a commercial success. *Viking in the Wheat Field* demonstrates the power of a good story, enhanced by Dworkin’s early background as a staffer at the USDA. The lecture and book-signing event also featured a panel discussion that included Dworkin; Executive Dean Robert M. Goodman; Joachim Messing, director of the Waksman Institute of Microbiology; and Stacy Bonos (Plant Biology and Pathology).
Spotlights

Food Waste Recycling Investment Forum

New Jersey’s first-ever Investment Forum for food waste recycling will be held on June 16, starting at 8 a.m. and concluding with a reception at 4:30 p.m., at the Cook Campus Center, New Brunswick. The forum, a creation of Rutgers University’s Solid Waste Resource Renewal Group (SWRRG), will focus exclusively on the rapidly growing markets that convert something plentiful and local – food waste and other organic waste – into the soil, fertilizer, and energy products we all need to maintain our fast-paced lifestyle. Financial analysts have warned that we cannot expect a return to the “old normal,” and that those who wish to succeed in the new reality must look for new – perhaps once in a lifetime – opportunities that will enable them to continue to prosper financially. Food waste recycling as a new “green industry” presents unparalleled financial opportunities for post-recession growth, particularly in the heavily populated and food waste dense State of New Jersey and the immediate surrounding region. Read more.

FIC Collaborates with NJ BIN in Joint Venture with Global Business Organization

In a ceremony held on May 3 at the Rutgers EcoComplex, the New Jersey Business Incubation Network (NJBIN) formalized a joint venture with the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA), and became the first chapter affiliate that NBIA has established worldwide. Lou Cooperhouse (director, Rutgers Food Innovation Center), and member of the NBIA board of directors as well as past president of NJBIN, commented, “We are excited at the opportunity that this represents to our incubators in New Jersey, and the many clients that we collectively serve. As a result of this new partnership, we will serve as a statewide model for the integration of global best practices in entrepreneurship, business incubation, access to capital, and to job creation and community wealth.” Cooperhouse organized and moderated this event, whose speakers included, Caren Franzini, CEO, New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Peter Reczek, PhD, Executive Director, NJ Commission on Science and Technology; Katherine O’Neil, Executive Director, Jumpstart New Jersey Angel Network; Jim Jaffe, President & CEO, National Association of Seed and Venture Funds; David Monkman, President & CEO, National Business Incubation Association; and Mark Merclean, President, New Jersey Business Incubation Network.

Top: Lou Cooperhouse addresses attendees. Bottom: event attendees at the Rutgers EcoComplex auditorium
Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments

Jim Wohlt (Animal Sciences) received the 2010 Northeast American Society of Animal Science/American Dairy Science Association Distinguished Service Award in May for his outstanding contributions to animal and dairy science.

Max Haggblom (Biochemistry and Microbiology; Biotech Center) has been awarded a Visiting Professorship for Senior International Scientists of the Chinese Academy of Sciences for 2010 and will work in China from July 26 to August 30. Haggblom will visit the Institute of Urban Environment in Xiamen and the Research Centre for Eco-environmental Sciences in Beijing, and will establish research collaborations on pollutant degradation in estuarine and salt marsh environments and selenium and arsenic cycling in rice paddy soils (and impact on uptake by rice). As part of this professorship, Haggblom has been invited to speak at the GeoTrop 2010 Conference, the 6th International Conference on Environmental Geochemistry in Tropics-Urban Issues, in Xiamen on November 4-6.

Joan Ehrenfeld (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources) has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Wetland Scientists, considered the highest honor of the society, for her sustained body of work in wetlands conservation.

The urban ecology website, www.safari7.org, has been awarded the 2010 American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) National Honor Award for Communication. The site helps redefine the urban environment and engages a non-traditional audience, for example subway riders, about the environment through which they are traveling. Steven Handel (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources) wrote and recorded the “Weed Walk” component of the safari, explaining the ecological function and history of the more common plants in the urban sphere. The award will be presented at the ASLA national meeting in Washington, D.C., on September 10-13.

Mark Robson (Entomology; dean of agricultural and urban programs) received the Foundation of UMDNJ’s Excellence in Research Award that was presented at the School of Public Health Convocation Ceremony on May 24. The award recognizes “members of the UMDNJ faculty for outstanding research performed during the academic year.”

Changlu Wang (Entomology) received a joint $20,000 USDA award with BedBug Central, an authoritative online resource for information about bed bugs, to develop multimedia material to educate the public on bed bug and IPM methods. BedBug Central will work in collaboration with the Department of Entomology to create educational video material and website content detailing a step-by-step approach to community-wide bed bug management and IPM programs.

The Department of Food Science held a ReConnect with Food Science event on April 23-24 at the Cook Campus Center. The April 23 event was attended by 175+ alumni, faculty, and friends
of the department and the April 24 mornning event was attended by 70+ alumni, faculty and friends of the department.

**Donald Schaffner** (Food Science) was elected as a fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists. According to the IFT website, “election as an IFT Fellow is a unique professional distinction conferred for outstanding and extraordinary contributions in the field of food science and technology.”

**Beverly Tepper** (Food Science) was awarded the Department of Food Science 2009-2010 Professor Endel Karmas Award for Excellence in Teaching Food Science on May 18.

In May 2010, **Get Moving–Get Healthy (GMGH) New Jersey**, a health promotion initiative developed by Rutgers Cooperative Extension’s Department of Family and Community Health Sciences and the Department of 4-H Youth Development, won two national awards. The Presidents’ Circle Nutrition Education Award from the American Dietetic Association recognized GMGH New Jersey for developing and disseminating scientifically sound nutrition information that is unique in concept and creative in presentation. The Society of Nutrition Education Public Health Division presented GMGH New Jersey its award for Outstanding Public Health Nutrition Program, in recognition of the excellence of the contributions to public health nutrition made by division members.

On April 29, **Lou Cooperhouse** (director, Food Innovation Center) made a special appearance at the World Bank in Washington, DC, in which he spoke at a special event titled “Impact of business incubation in the US: Lessons for developing countries.” Members of the audience included leaders of World Bank’s infoDev group, which supports a global network of 300 locally-owned/managed business incubators in over 80 developing countries, and the SASKI (Sustainable Agriculture Systems, Knowledge, and Institutions) Thematic Group, which contributes to the implementation of the World Bank’s rural strategy in areas such as agricultural education and training, rural institutions, and smallholder diversification. The World Bank, in association with the Gates Foundation, is evaluating new methodologies for supporting small business development in Africa, and Cooperhouse spoke about the Rutgers Food Innovation Center model, as well as his experiences in Uganda and Nigeria.

**David Tulloch** (Landscape Architecture) received the 2010 Award for Excellence in Research presented by the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture at its 2010 conference held in Maastricht, The Netherlands. Tulloch’s work is recognized for its consistent innovation and multidisciplinary emphasis, as well as for its integration into graduate and undergraduate education. His leadership in research within the discipline is recognized based on his roles in national organizations, review panels, and advisory groups.

The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Hall of Fame Task Force has announced that **Brevoort C. Conover** (former Warren County 4-H agent and department chair) is among its inductees into the 2010 National 4-H Hall of Fame. The inductees, who will be honored on October 8 at the National 4-H Center, exemplify outstanding work in “Making the Best Better.”
Nathan Yee (Environmental Sciences) was awarded a Rutgers Board of Trustees Research Fellowship for Scholarly Excellence as one of the university's most distinguished young faculty members. This award to Yee, who recently promoted to Associate Professor, recognized his outstanding scholarly accomplishments at the university. The Fellowship, which carries with it a grant of $2,000 from the Trustees, was presented to Yee and other honorees at a reception at the President’s home on May 5.

Diane Holtaway (associate director of Client Services, Food Innovation Center) was a speaker at the 2010 Women in Agriculture Educators Conference, held in Baltimore on March 23-25. The conference brings together private and public sector educators, crop insurance agents, lenders, and other agricultural professionals to share ongoing and emerging successful risk management education efforts directed toward women who are involved in production agriculture. Holtaway’s presentation, given in conjunction with FIC Business Development Specialist, Carol Coren, was titled “Assessing the Costs and Benefits of Participation in Community Farmers Markets.” The research behind this presentation was taken from a report that the Food Innovation Center released last summer. The full report is available for download.

Donna Schaffner (associate director of Food Safety, Quality Assurance and Training at the Food Innovation Center) was a speaker at the 2010 Food Safety Summit in Washington, D.C., and conducted a 4-hour HACCP workshop titled “HACCP - A Fresh Look” attended by around 150 people from all over the country. Schaffner was also one of three presenters for a session titled “Pitfalls of HACCP” which was a combination seminar and panel discussion attended by an additional 150 individuals. Food safety was the main topic of the conference, with many of the panel discussions focused on upcoming federal regulation changes that will affect anyone making or selling food products.

“Volcanoes of the Deep Sea,” the 2003 Rutgers IMAX film directed by Stephen Low of the Stephen Low Company, won the Silver Palm Award at the Mexico International Film Festival held on May 21-23. The film features Alvin, a deep-sea submersible that traveled some 12,000 feet underwater to probe volcanic vents around the Azores, documents the work of the Center for Deep-Sea Ecology and Biotechnology at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences. Congratulations to Richard Lutz (Marine and Coastal Sciences) and colleagues!

Daniel J. Hoffman (Nutritional Sciences) received the Expertise/Innovation Award from The Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University Alumni Association at a ceremony on April 11, in Boston, MA.

The New Brunswick Community Farmers Market–(William Hallman PI (Food Policy Institute), Nurgul Fitzgerald co-PI (Nutritional Sciences)- and multiple Rutgers colleagues, received the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences 2010 Team Excellence Award.

Judith Storch (Nutritional Sciences) received the 2010 Osborne and Mendel Award for basic science in nutrition from the American Society for Nutrition at its annual meeting in Anaheim, CA, on April 25.
Malcolm Watford (Nutritional Sciences) received the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Nutrition Award from the American Society for Nutrition at its annual meeting in Anaheim, CA, on April 25.

Water Resources Program honored by EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) marked the 40th anniversary of Earth Day this year by recognizing environmental achievers in New Jersey, awarding them the Agency’s Environmental Quality Award on April 23 in New York City. Receiving the award in the Environmental Education category was the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program for its “Stormwater Management in Your Backyard. The Stormwater Management in Your Backyard is a statewide program that focuses on rain gardens and rain barrels as a way to mitigate stormwater runoff. The program consists of educational workshops that show citizens how these simple ideas can be implemented at home.

Student Activities and Accomplishments

2010 Relay For Life at Rutgers

On April 9–10, the Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences graduate students participated in "2010 Relay for Life at Rutgers University," as part of a community of 67 teams that stayed up all night walking to show their support for the fight against cancer at the Sonny Werblin Recreation Center. Relay For Life is a unique volunteer-driven, community event that allows participants from all walks of life - including cancer survivors, families, friends, corporations, civic organizations, schools, faith-based institutions, and concerned community members - to join together in the fight against cancer. This annual celebration of survivorship centers around an overnight team relay that finds at least one member of each team walking or running around the track through the night, usually for a period of 18–24 hours. The team, led by Danielle Smarsh, raised $1,090 for donation to the American Cancer Society through the Relay for Life Foundation.

In celebration of National Student Employee Week held from April 11–17, the Rutgers Student Employment Office hosted the 2010 StudentEmployee of the Year Celebration Event on April 13 at the Busch Campus Center “to honor the more than 10,000 student employees who are currently employed on the Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick campuses, as well as in off-
campus programs. **Kendall Phelps** (undergraduate student, Animal Sciences) was the Department of Animal Sciences’ nominee and was chosen as one of Rutgers University’s “Top Ten” Student Employees of the Year. Kendall was selected from the 49 students who were nominated by departments on all three Rutgers campuses. Congratulations!

**WeatherWatcher Living-Learning Community on Campus**

A WeatherWatcher Living-Learning Community was established last fall at Perry Hall on the Cook Campus to provide weather-lovers with a place to live and the ability to broadcast weather information to the New Brunswick Campus. Rutgers students have actually been doing weather forecasts a decade ago through the WeatherWatcher program, which is open to all interested students regardless of where they live. Now, with the WeatherWatcher community established in Perry Hall, complete with broadcast studio, members can simply walk down the hall and broadcast their forecasts anytime. The broadcasts are shown through Wake Up Rutgers, channel 6 of RU-tv, the RU-tv website, the WeatherWatcher’s Twitter page, and the WeatherWatcher’s Facebook profile page. Community members are required to take a 1.5 credit class called “Weather, Climate & Television,” a new collaboration between the meteorology program at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the School of Communication and Information (SC&I). The course is co-taught on alternate semesters by **Alan Robock** and **Steve Decker** (Environmental Sciences), and SC&I’s Elizabeth Gough-Gordon, a part-time lecturer who specializes in television studies. Read more.

**Biotechnology Graduates Congratulated**

Congratulations to **Maria Montano** and **Mustafa Ergin** (undergraduate students, Biotechnology, working in the Nilgun Tumer lab) who graduated this month. Montano did her Cook Honors thesis on the “Analysis of ricin mutants” with **Xiao-Ping Li** and **Nilgun Tumer** (Plant Biology and Pathology; Biotech Center). **Shravan Dave** (undergraduate student, Biotechnology) graduated with honors and worked in the lab of **Lily Young** (Environmental Sciences), completing a Cook Honors thesis titled “Impact of low and high arsenic concentrations on bacterial diversity.”

**Biotech Center Applauds Aresty Student Researchers**

The 6th annual Aresty Student Research Symposium took place April 23 in the Rutgers Student Center. More than 340 students presented posters and papers during the day-long event. Biotech Center faculty worked with 15 students on their projects. Presenters and faculty advisors were: **Syed Abbas** and **Nicholas Greene** (Albert Ayeni, Plant Biology and Pathology), **Alyssa Cocchiara** (Wendie Cohick, Animal Sciences), **Alexander Conicella** (Rong Di, Plant Biology & Pathology), **Shravan Dave** (Lily Young, Environmental Sciences), **Brittany Durgin** (Eric Lam, Plant Biology and Pathology), **Nathaniel Girer** (Max Hägglom, Biochemistry and Microbiology), **Andrew Glaser** (Albert Ayeni), **Allan Gomes** (Elisabetta Bini, Biochemistry and Microbiology), **Allison Hicks** (Siobain Duffy, Environmental Sciences), **Jennifer Huang** (Slavko Komamytsky, Plant
Biology and Pathology), Nathalie Sanchez (Carol Bagnell, Animal Sciences), Mariya Skvortsova (Eric Lam, Plant Biology and Pathology), Sam Taddeo (Eric Lam), and Kristene Welch (Carol Bagnell). Elise Rodgers-Viera (former student of Gerben Zylstra (Biochemistry and Microbiology), served as a judge. Kudos to all!

Each year, the Department of Environmental Sciences honors the top graduating senior in each of its undergraduate academic programs: Bioenvironmental Engineering, Environmental Science and Meteorology. Awardees are nominated by faculty members, based on their academic achievement, professionalism, and performance, both in and out of the classroom. The awards were presented at the department’s graduation reception that immediately followed commencement exercises on May 18. This year’s recipients are:

- **Sean Carbonaro** - Bioenvironmental Engineering Award
- **Martin Mosteiro Romero** - Bioenvironmental Engineering Award
- **Mayble M. Abraham** - Melvin S. Finstein Award (Environmental Sciences)
- **Samuel A. Valente** - Melvin S. Finstein Award (Environmental Sciences)
- **Antonio G. Riggi** - Meteorology Award

Zeina Zahalan (undergraduate student, Landscape Architecture) received one of only two national awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects Council of Fellows Scholarships for leadership as well as academic excellence. This scholarship is part of the Leadership in Landscape Scholarship Program run by the Landscape Architecture Foundation.

Brian Johnson (graduate student, Ecology and Evolution in Mike Sukhdeo’s lab) won the 2010 NJAES Student Research Poster Competition in the Graduate Applied/Field Research category for his poster titled "Urban wetlands decrease disease risk for West Nile Virus."

Inga LaPuma (Ph.D. candidate, Ecology and Evolution, in Rick Lathrop’s lab) presented a talk at the US-Landscape Ecology Conference in Athens, GA, on April 7, titled “Defining the ecological wildland urban interface: Relating fire and altered land to forest succession in the pinelands of New Jersey.”

Karen Wylie (Ph.D. candidate, Ecology and Evolution, in Nina Fefferman’s lab (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources), has been selected to attend the joint DIMACS/MBI/US-African Biomathematics Initiative’s Advanced Study Institute on Conservation Biology from July 28-August 10, and their Workshop on Conservation Biology from August 11-13. Wylie has been granted full funding to attend the study institute and workshop, which will take place at the Kenyan Wildlife Service Training Institute in Naivasha, Kenya. The institute and workshop are jointly sponsored by DIMACS, the Mathematical Biosciences Institute at Ohio State University (MBI), and the National Science Foundation.

Sonja Mason (graduate student, Ecology and Evolution in Judy Weis lab (Biological Sciences-Newark) presented “The effects of contaminated sediment on the feeding habits of Uca pugnax” at the Spring 2010 Atlantic Estuarine Research Society meeting in Atlantic City, from March 4-6.
Mike Varco and Gaurav Bhargava (mentored by Cara Cuite and William Hallman - Food Policy Institute), and Radha Dhar and Mary Gromlowicz (mentored by Mary Nucci and William Hallman) presented their research at the Aresty Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 23.

Elah Steltzer (graduate student, Food Science) received the 2010 Jogue Inc. Scholarship Award administered by the Society of Flavor Chemists.

Hailong Yu and Xi Chen (graduate students, Food Science) received 2010 Walter Hopkins Memorial Scholarship awards administered by the New York New Jersey American Association of Candy Technologists.

Hailong Yu and Swetha Mahadevan (graduate students, Food Science) received 2010-2011 Institute of Food Technologists Foundation Scholarships.

Aishwarya Balasubramanian (graduate student, Food Science) received the 2010-2011 Institute of Food Technologists Food Packaging Foundation Scholarship.

Youngkyun Kim (graduate student, Food Science) and Lesley Wassef (postdoctoral associate in Loredana Quadro’s laboratory (Food Science) were invited to give a talk at the Vitamin A and Retinoids’ Minisymposium sponsored by the American Society of Nutrition at the Experimental Biology meeting held April 24-28.

Wenping Tang (graduate student, Food Science) was awarded the department’s 2009-2010 Professor Endel Karmas Award for Excellence as a Teaching Assistant on May 18.

Stacey Chung (undergraduate student, Food Science) received the Best Poster Award in Sciences for the Aresty Research Symposium on April 23.

Danielle Voss (undergraduate student, Food Science) was awarded the department’s Elizabeth F. Steir Scholarship of $500 on May 18.

Joseph Petho (undergraduate student, Food Science) was awarded the department’s C. Olin Ball Scholarship of $750 on May 18.

Joseph Donovan (undergraduate student, Food Science) was awarded the department’s Lloyd K. Riggs Scholarship of $500 on May 18.

Jennifer Komaiko (undergraduate student, Food Science) was awarded the department’s Dick H. Kleyn Memorial Award of $750 on May 18, 2010.

Lauren Landgrebe (undergraduate student, Food Science) was awarded the department’s Most Improved Student Scholarship of $500 on May 18.

Swetha Mahadevan (graduate student, Food Science) was selected as a 2010-2011 Fellow in the Rutgers Pre-Doctoral Leadership Development Institute, plus a $1,000 honorarium, in May.
Barbara Tangel (Nutritional Sciences) announced that 12 undergraduate students enrolled in the Didactic Program in Dietetics were successfully placed in a dietetic internship programs during the Spring 2010 match. Students will be attending prestigious programs such as Beth Israel Deaconess in Boston and the New York Presbyterian Hospital. Rutgers students will also be well represented in New Jersey programs at UMDNJ, Montclair State University, and the College of St. Elizabeth.

Susanna Andrew (graduate student, Nutritional Sciences; fieldwork advisor Nurgul Fitzgerald (Nutritional Sciences) successfully completed her Master's In Public Health degree at the UMDNJ School of Public Health in May. Her MPH project “Nutrition knowledge and food intake behaviors among adults with and without chronic diseases” was conducted as a part of the Get Moving–Get Healthy New Jersey initiative of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Grants and Gifts

A complete list of grants received can be found here.

Weilin Huang (Environmental Sciences) received a grant of $175,000 from the Philadelphia Water Department for “Sediment pollution and its effect on surface water quality from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Ariel Igal (Nutritional Sciences) received the Johnson and Johnson-Centocor R&D pilot project award for "Autotaxin: A novel biological target for cancer intervention" in the amount of $63,000.

A $419,000 NIH grant was recently awarded to Nilgun Tumer (Plant Biology and Pathology, Biotech Center) and colleagues through the Shared Instrumentation Grant program, for the purchase of a single photon multifluorescence/spectral confocal laser scanning microscope. Matching support was provided by Executive Vice President Philip Furmanski, Vice President for Research and Graduate Professional Education Michael Pazzani, Executive Dean Robert M. Goodman, the Biotech Center, and Senior Associate Dean Arnold Rabson of UMDNJ. The microscope will be the nucleus of the Multi-user Biological Imaging Core facility in Foran Hall at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, and is expected to increase collaboration among faculty throughout the university and at UMDNJ.
Conferences, Seminars, and Other Events

Wendie Cohick (Animal Sciences; Biotech Center) visited Michigan State University from May 2–3 where she presented a seminar to the Department of Animal Sciences titled “Multiple Roles for IGF Binding Protein-3 in Regulating Cell Growth and Apoptosis in Mammary Epithelial Cells.”

Joan Ehrenfeld (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources) was the distinguished speaker at the University of Wisconsin’s spring ecology symposium organized by Wisconsin Ecology, the organization that pulls together the various departments and students working in ecology matters throughout the university. Ehrenfeld was selected by the graduate student committee that organizes the spring symposium. During her visit, she gave two public lectures: “Understanding plant invasions in fragmented landscapes” and “Invasive plants, soils and ecosystem processes: What have we learned so far?”

Nina Fefferman (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources) gave an invited talk at the AAAS meeting on Uses of Virtual Worlds in Scientific Education and Research, held in San Diego, CA. Her talk was titled “Playing with plague: Exploring disease dynamics from within.” Fefferman was also invited to present a talk titled “Self-organizing networks, social complexity, and disease dynamics” at the Computer Science Departmental seminar series at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Marci Meixler (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources) gave the following two invited presentations:
- “Applications of satellite imagery in mapping and spatial modeling”. TIROS 50th Anniversary, Science on Saturday, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, on April 10.
- “Non-target fish timing and extent of seasonal movements” to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Sea Lamprey Research Board meeting, Ann Arbor, MI, on March 3.

Mark Miller (Environmental Sciences) was invited to present “The Climate of the West African Sahel Region and its representation in global climate models” at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on April 7 and at Purdue University on April 8.

Beth Ravit (Environmental Sciences) was invited to present “Oyster Restoration in an urbanized estuary: Lessons learned at the NJ-OHHI Oyster Roundtable” at Monmouth University, NJ, on April 8.

Alan Robock (Environmental Sciences) made the following invited presentations:
- “Global warming” to South Salem High School, Salem, OR, on April 19, and to the Puffin Foundation and the Teaneck Creek Foundation, Teaneck, NJ, on April 29.
- “Smoke and mirrors: Is geoengineering a solution to global warming?” to Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, on April 19.

Loredana Quadro (Food Science) chaired the Vitamin A and Retinoids Minisymposium sponsored by the American Society of Nutrition at the Experimental Biology meeting on April 24-28.
Richard Ludescher (Food Science) gave an invited lecture titled "Cold light, delayed luminescence, and the invention of the triplet state" to Fluorescence Subgroup at the 54th Annual Biophysical Society meeting in San Francisco in February.

Donald Schaffner (Food Science) was invited to the following:

- Food Science Communicators Expert Meeting in Washington, DC, on March 12 to discuss the evaluation of risk communication materials on the topic of bioterrorism and food defense.
- Conference for Food Protection, Council III (Science and Technology), in Providence, RI, in April. The conference brings together representatives from the food industry, government, academia, and consumer organizations to identify and address emerging problems of food safety and to formulate recommendations.
- National Academy of Sciences Standing Committee on the Use of Public Health Data in USDA FSIS (Food Safety and Inspection Service) Food Safety Programs on April 15-16, in Washington, DC.
- World Food Logistics Organization, Scientific Advisory Council at its annual meeting in Scottsdale, AZ, in April.
- Strategic Planning Session for the International Association for Food Protection. Schaffner was elected Secretary of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) in March 2010, and will take office at the conclusion of IAFP 2010 in Anaheim, CA, and will fulfill a five-year commitment to the association, serving as its president in 2013-2014. The IAFP represents more than 3,400 food safety professionals committed to advancing food safety worldwide. The association includes educators, government officials, microbiologists, food industry executives, and quality control professionals who are involved in all aspects of growing, storing, transporting, processing and preparing all types of foods. Working together, IAFP members, representing more than 70 countries, help the association achieve its mission through networking, educational programs, journals, career opportunities, and numerous other resources.
- Expert panel meeting for the Institute of Food Technologists project funded by the Food and Drug Administration on Food Defense titled “Expansion of factors related to foods of concern.” The objective of the panel was to provide the FDA with a list of risk factors needed to rank the relative bioterrorism risk posed by different foods.

Donald Schaffner (Food Science) hosted a visit by Merlin Mann, an independent writer, speaker, and broadcaster based in San Francisco. Mann spoke on "Managing time and attention" at the Cook Campus Center on April 1. The video of the speech is available here.

Czamecki, N. and Fitzgerald, N. (Nutritional Sciences) presented "Perceived barriers to eating fruits and vegetables among adults in New Jersey" at the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, in New Brunswick, NJ, in May.

Grenci, A., Quick, V., and Byrd-Bredbenner, C. (Nutritional Sciences) presented “TV affects nutrition cognitions and intended behaviors of 9- and 10-year-old girls” to the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, in New Brunswick, NJ, in May.

Gunning, C., Agel, M., Ling, H., Bostrom, E., Lian, and B., Policastro, P. (Nutritional Sciences) presented “Students' caffeine consumption habits and their perceived reliance on caffeinated beverages to the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, in New Brunswick, NJ, in May.

Hallissey, N, Agel, M, Kim, Y, Lian, B, Hoffman, D. (Nutritional Sciences), Policastro, P (Nutritional Sciences) presented the “Association between amount of sleep and body mass index in college students” at the Aresty Undergraduate Research Symposium, Rutgers University, in New Brunswick, NJ, in April.

Hallissey, N, Policastro, P. (Nutritional Sciences) presented “Assessing college student awareness of and membership in the American Dietetic Association” to the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, New Brunswick, NJ, in May.

Heberlein H, Fincher J and Worobey, J. (Nutritional Sciences) presented “Children with peanut allergies: No fun for parents either” to the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, in New Brunswick, NJ, in May.

Heller, R., Quick, V., and Byrd-Bredbenner, C. (Nutritional Sciences) presented “Television food advertisers response to FTC and IOM Challenge to improve self-regulation during children’s programming” at the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, in New Brunswick, NJ, in May.

Daniel J. Hoffman (Nutritional Sciences) gave a seminar titled “Role of Metabolic Dysregulation as a risk factor for obesity in stunted children” to the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica, on February 25.


Lian, B., Agel, M., Bostrom, E., Policastro, P., (Nutritional Sciences) presented “Effect of stress on oral hygiene compliance in college students who are conscious of the link between nutrition and oral health” to the Aresty Undergraduate Research Symposium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

Ling, H., Gunning, C., Tosi, M., Policastro, P., (Nutritional Sciences) presented “College students' perspective on nutritive and non-nutritive sweeteners” to the Aresty Undergraduate Research Symposium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
Quick, V. and Byrd-Bredbenner, C. (Nutritional Sciences) presented “Behavioral factors affecting young adults’ health and body weight to the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, in New Brunswick, NJ, in May.

Quick, V. and Byrd-Bredbenner, C. (Nutritional Sciences) presented “Weight teasing history and disordered eating behaviors in healthy young adult women” to the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, in New Brunswick, NJ, in May.

Quick V., Weiner A., Shu, E., Horacek, T., and Byrd-Bredbenner, C. (Nutritional Sciences) presented “Nutrient-density of foods sold in vending machine at Rutgers University-New Brunswick” to the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, in New Brunswick, NJ, in May.


Szymona, K., Quick, V., and Byrd-Bredbenner, C. (Nutritional Sciences) presented “Health-related advertising on the Rutgers University-New Brunswick Campus” to the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, in New Brunswick, NJ, in May.

Tosi, M., Hallissey, N., Lian, B., Policastro, P. (Nutritional Sciences) presented “College students’ perceptions towards fad diets” to the New Jersey Dietetic Association annual meeting, in New Brunswick, NJ, in May.

Malcolm Watford (Nutritional Sciences) was invited to deliver a lecture titled “Hans Krebs and the discovery of the Krebs Cycles: A personal viewpoint” to the Rutgers Undergraduate Chemistry Society, Busch Campus, New Brunswick, NJ, in March.

Malcolm Watford (Nutritional Sciences) presented an invited lecture titled “Glutamine and glutamate: Nutrition and metabolism” at the 2010 Sigma Xi Spring Symposium, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX, on March 22.

Malcolm Watford (Nutritional Sciences) spent the week of March 12–21 teaching a graduate mini-course titled “Tissue Specific Metabolism and Metabolic Regulation” at the China Agricultural University, Beijing.

John Worobey (Nutritional Sciences) served on an NIH/NHLBI Study Section, charged with reviewing applications for the Request For Applications titled “Childhood obesity prevention and treatment,” in March, in Bethesda, MD.

Team Presents Papers at the Ribosomes 2010 Conference
Nilgun Tumer (Plant Biology and Pathology; Biotech Center), Xiao-Ping Li, and Jia-Chi Chiu attended the Ribosomes 2010 conference from May 3–7 in Orvieto, Italy. Tumer presented work on genome-wide analysis of ricin cytotoxicity. Xiao-Ping Li (Biotech Center) and Jia-Chi Chiu (graduate assistant, Biotech Center) presented results from research on the interaction of ric in A
chain with ribosomes. While in Europe, Tumer visited Dirk Inze’s group in the Plant Systems Biology Department at Ghent University in Ghent, Belgium, and the Chemical Genetics and Compound Screening Facility at Ghent University on May 19. Tumer then traveled to Germany to visit Paul Schulze-Lefert and Erich Kombrink at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding in Cologne on May 20.

**Eric Lam** (Plant Biology and Pathology; Biotech Center) attended the 2010 Annual Project Meeting of National Science Foundation’s IGERT Program in Washington DC, from May 23–25, in his capacity as Principal Investigator of Rutgers’ IGERT Project on Renewable and Sustainable Fuels Solutions. Also representing the Fuels IGERT were Program Coordinator **Linda Anthony** (Plant Biology and Pathology; Biotech Center) and Fuels IGERT trainee **Jason Hackenberg** (Chemistry and Chemical Biology). Together with colleagues from each of the more than 100 IGERT projects currently active nationwide, Lam, Anthony, and Hackenberg attended presentations, workshops, and networking sessions on topics that ranged from “Teaching Science in a Digital World” to “Science Ethics Case Studies” to “Post-IGERT Trainee Careers and Paths.”

**Publications and Editorships**

**Daniel J. Hoffman** (Nutritional Sciences) has been appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of “Annals of Human Biology.”

The **Debashish Bhattacharya** (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources) lab reports the following publications:


- Yoon, H.S., G.C. Zuccarello, and **D. Bhattacharya**. “Evolutionary history and taxonomy of red algae.”
- Reeb, V. and **D. Bhattacharya**. “The Thermo-Acidophilic Cyanidiophyceae (Cyanidiaceae).”

**Joan Ehrenfeld** (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources) and two of her former students, **Jonathon Schramm** (Ph.D. 2008) and **Heather Bowman-Cutway** (Ph.D. 2004), report the following publications:


Julie Lockwood (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources) and two of her former students Ben Baiser (Ph.D. 2009) and Alison Seigel (Ph.D. 2008) have the following publications:


Weilin Huang (Environmental Sciences) had the following publications:


International Projects

Delegation from Thailand Visits to Discuss Graduate Degree Programs

Lily Young (dean of International Programs; Environmental Sciences; Biotech Center), hosted a faculty delegation from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, from April 29–May 5. Professors Hunsu Punnapayak, Supachitra Chadchawan, and Sehanat Prasongsuk are exploring the development of an international graduate degree program in partnership with the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences' programs in plant sciences, microbiology, and biotechnology. The visitors met with Executive Dean Robert M. Goodman, Doug Eveleigh and Max Häggblom (Biochemistry and Microbiology), and Brad Hillman, Jim White, Don Kobayashi, John Dighton, Joan Bennett, Eric Lam and Barbara Zilinskas (Plant Biology and Pathology), and Michael Braverman (IR-4).

Annual Exchange Visit of Brazilian Students

A delegation of students accompanied by a faculty member from the University of São Paulo (USP) in Brazil visited Rutgers’ School of Environmental and Biological Sciences in late April. Their trip was part of the annual undergraduate exchange program in which each institution hosts the other’s students in conjunction with their undergraduate research symposia. The school hosts USP students in the spring, and sends students down to USP in the fall. This year, four Brazilian undergraduate students and one faculty member spent six days at Rutgers from April 21–26. The USP students participated in the Aresty
Research Symposium with poster presentations of their research. The students also participated in Rutgers Day activities and especially enjoyed Ag Field Day on the Cook Campus. The USP visit was coordinated by Monica Emery (International Programs), Lily Young (dean of International Programs; Environmental Sciences; Biotech Center), and Gerben Zylstra (Biochemistry and Microbiology; Biotech Center).

Mark Your Calendars!

**Container Gardening with Vegetables**
**WHEN:** June 5, 2010, 10 a.m. to noon
**WHERE:** Rutgers Gardens, 112 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick.
**WHAT:** Workshop designed to teach you the art and science of gardening in confined environments.
**MORE INFO:** Contact Mary Ann Schrum, 732-932-8451, rugardens@aesop.rutgers.edu.

**Annual Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association meeting**
**WHEN:** June 13 to 15, 2010.
**WHERE:** Cook Office Building, 55 Dudley Road, George H. Cook Campus.
**WHAT:** Annual meeting of the association, sponsored by the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.
**MORE INFO:** Contact Sanjin Bhuyan, 732-932-9155, ext. 213, bhuyan@aesop.rutgers.edu.

**Evening in the Gardens**
**WHEN:** June 17, 2010, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
**WHERE:** Rutgers Gardens, 112 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick.
**WHAT:** A lively tour of the Gardens with Bruce Crawford, manager, highlighting the extensive collection of plants in bloom.
**MORE INFO:** Contact Mary Ann Schrum, 732-932-8451, rugardens@aesop.rutgers.edu.

**Hutcheson Memorial Forest Tour**
**WHEN:** June 27, 2010, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
**WHERE:** Tour leaves from the entrance of the forest at 2150 Amwell Road (Route 514), Somerset, NJ.
**WHAT:** Julie Lockwood, conservation ecologist at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, will conduct a guided tour of the forest.
**MORE INFO:** Contact Peter Morin, 732-932-3214, pjmrin@rci.rutgers.edu.

For even more information of these calendar items and other events hosted and facilitated by Rutgers University, please visit the Rutgers Calendar at [http://ruevents.rutgers.edu/events/](http://ruevents.rutgers.edu/events/).

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.