Celebrating
Rutgers
250

1766-2016

Explorations
George H. Cook Campus Magazine
Fall 2015

1900

Rutgers
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Revolutionary for 250 Years
George H. Cook hired. The seeds of Rutgers' ascent as a major public research university can be traced to George H. Cook's 1853 appointment as professor of chemistry and natural sciences.

President Theodore Frelinghuysen fires every faculty member except George H. Cook, blaming declining enrollment, inadequate funding, and student and public apathy on an unruly faculty.

The Federal Morrill Act passes, creating America’s land-grant colleges, giving rise to the nation’s great public university system, and paving the way for establishment of the Rutgers Scientific School.

New Jersey’s land-grant school, the Rutgers Scientific School, is established.

First graduate student enrolls at the Rutgers Scientific School.

Nation’s first soil science journal is founded by Jacob G. Lipman (RC1898).

Rutgers tomato is introduced.

Streptomycin, tuberculosis cure, discovered by Selman A. Waksman (RC1915,’16) and his students, including graduate students Albert Schatz (AG’42,’45) and Elizabeth Bugie (DC’42, GSNB’44).

Selman Waksman awarded Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

College of Agriculture among nation’s first to offer air pollution course.

College of Agriculture is renamed College of Agriculture and Environmental Science.

College of Agriculture and Environmental Science is renamed Cook College.

Cook College is renamed the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.
contents

01 EXECUTIVE DEAN’S MESSAGE
02 250TH ANNIVERSARY
03 FEATURE - IFNH Opens for Business
07 STUDENTS - Unearthing a Buried Treasure
09 FACULTY - Experience Rutgers: Climate Change
11 NEWS AND EVENTS
13 RESEARCH - A Living Outdoor Classroom
15 FEATURE - The International Edge
17 ALUMNI - Stories
21 DONORS - Creating Legacies
23 ALUMNI NOTES AND MUSINGS

explorations

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WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF EXPLORATIONS, OUR NEW SEMI-ANNUAL MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, RETIRED FACULTY, DONORS, AND FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (SEBS).

On behalf of the school, I am pleased to share the exciting news of Rutgers’ 250th anniversary, which began on Charter Day (November 10, 2015) under the theme, “Rutgers. Revolutionary for 250 Years.”

The yearlong celebration is the centerpiece of two other notable observances in 2016, the 100th anniversary of Rutgers Gardens and the 70th anniversary of the Department of Food Science. We’ve planned several events, including the Executive Dean’s 250th Anniversary Public Lecture series and a student debate, and online highlights of the school’s research and teaching at SEBS250.rutgers.edu.

We’ve developed an anniversary theme for our school, “Exploring the Anthropocene: The Age of Us.” The term Anthropocene was first popularized by Paul Crutzen, an atmospheric scientist who was awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The word is derived from two Greek words, anthropos, meaning man, and kairos, meaning to change, and refers to the age in which humans have had an impact on the earth at a global scale.

Scholars offer differing opinions on when the Anthropocene began. Some argue that it started with the invention and spread of agriculture. Others argue it began with the Industrial Revolution or the post-Columbian period or the invention of the steam engine, or the dropping of the first atomic bomb. The list goes on.

My approach is more forward-looking. It’s a call to action in the face of unequivocal evidence of large-scale human impact on our world. This approach prompts important questions like: What is our collective role in sustaining our planet? How do we live in the era of “us?” How do we ensure our persistence as a civilization, indeed as a species, for another 250 years? Will Rutgers see its 500th anniversary? The pursuit of answers to these questions, I believe, underpins every aspect of our school’s research, teaching, and outreach, and defines our collective responsibility as a premier public university.

We’ve invited over a dozen celebrated speakers and authors to campus for a series of anniversary events that will continue through November 2016. Learn more about our events at sebsnjaes250.rutgers.edu/anthropocene, and follow SEBS on Facebook (RutgersSEBS) and Twitter (@RutgersSEBS). Supplementing these events will be “Voices from the Anthropocene,” a series of short interviews and podcasts.

In addition, each month during the RU250 celebration year, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) will feature a different seasonal product of our breeding programs at NJAES250.rutgers.edu. Among the breeds are several long-established products, like asparagus, cranberries, dogwood trees, tomatoes, holly trees, and shellfish; and new all-stars like basil and Scarlet Strawberry, which made its commercial debut this spring. A focus on RU250 will also be evident at our county fairs next summer.

I hope you’ll join us for one or several campus activities as we celebrate RU250. I urge you to think about what you can do to ensure a bright and sustainable future for our planet.

As we mark the 250-year history of Rutgers, I’m confident that our school faculty, students, alumni, and staff, and everyone associated with NJAES, will strive to be “revolutionary” for the next 250 years.

Executive Dean,
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
You’re Invited!

Rutgers’ history of revolutionary teaching, research, and service has endured for nearly 250 years—a milestone that few institutions in this country have reached. A yearlong celebration culminating in the anniversary on November 10, 2016 will feature many events, programs, and activities. You are invited to be a part of all of these.

How will you know which ones to choose? We’ve made it easy for you.

First, visit the “SEBS and NJAES in the Rutgers 250” website at sebsnjaes250.rutgers.edu.

That launching pad will transport you to the anniversary website specific to the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences: sebsnjaes250.rutgers.edu/sebs, and to the website of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station: sebsnjaes250.rutgers.edu/njaes.

Both sites are rich with vintage photographs and vibrant with news from the school and experiment station.

The school’s theme for the 250th anniversary year is “Exploring the Anthropocene: The Age of Us.” A wide-ranging array of events and programs will be linked to the theme, and you can learn all about them at sebsnjaes250.rutgers.edu/anthropocene.

Finally, you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter #SEBSanthropocene, and sign up for our monthly newsletter at discovery.rutgers.edu.

We look forward to seeing you in this celebratory year.
For starters, we might have fewer cases of heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes. Our blood pressure might be healthier and our “bad” cholesterol kept at bay. We might sleep a little better at night—not just because we’d have fewer cases of sleep apnea, but also because we’d rest easy knowing that many life-threatening cancers wouldn’t have the ammunition they find in unhealthy weight.

This goal is a worthy one and an achievable one, but it’s also challenging. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), more than two in three adults—and more than one in three kids—in the United States are overweight or obese.

In New Jersey, the news isn’t much better. Obesity rates increased more than 90 percent over the past 15 years, and now more than 15 percent of the state’s children and adolescents are considered obese.

So what’s the answer?

Here at Rutgers, the answer is attacking obesity and nutrition challenges from all angles—through cross-disciplinary collaboration and real-world community impact—with the formation of the New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health (IFNH).

IFNH is a new kind of institute. It pulls faculty, staff, and students from across the university to collaborate on our most pressing health and nutrition issues. Its mission? To transform New Jersey into “the healthy state” and a model for the nation as it rises to the challenge of fighting obesity and optimizing wellness through the power of nutrition.

“There is a growing appreciation that food and nutrition are an integral part of the human experience, and it is a major theme and factor that affects the quality of our lives,” says Peter Gillies, the institute’s founding director. “What was missing was an organization that could bring all the pieces together and establish Rutgers as a leader, not only in the scientific but also the cultural determinants of health.”

Indeed, issues like childhood obesity are multifaceted, involving factors from the scientific to the socioeconomic. By their very nature, they require many different perspectives. That’s why interdisciplinary collaboration represents the very foundation of IFNH. Look no further than the building itself for proof of it.
There isn’t a director’s suite. You won’t find any faculty offices. The idea of a department taking ownership over a lab space is unheard of. “We got rid of all that,” says Gillies. “You won’t find that hierarchy here. Everyone is in the same facility and what’s left is people interacting, sharing coffee, talking to each other, and sharing ideas. What happens when you have people from different backgrounds working together in a common space? That’s when you form novel research connections you wouldn’t have otherwise.”

The building, designed by award-winning architectural firm Ballinger, replaces such private spaces and labs with open offices, modular workspaces, and shared labs. What glues it all together is the commitment among its participants to working together within the institute and also transforming the community outside its walls; though the research begins in the lab, the goal is to apply findings in the local population and to affect real change.

Healthy Dining

One example of this is the beautiful Harvest IFNH which, to the casual observer, may look like a café. But it’s so much more, says Joe Charette (CC’77), executive director of Rutgers Dining Services.

Yes, you’ll find some typical café mainstays like brick oven pizza, a commercial wok, a juice and smoothie bar, and a Mongolian grill. But in the center is a vast ingredient bar, where patrons can build a salad or wrap or, uniquely, choose exactly which ingredients they’d like in their meals and bring them to any station to be cooked or prepared to order. Ingredients are fresh, local, wholesome, and nutritious, and are prepared with “from scratch” techniques that develop flavor without additives. “We don’t have a special,” says Charette. “The special is what you feel like eating.”

Beyond offering nutritious food, Harvest IFNH will also host research and programs for the institute’s many academic units. “We will bring the community in on a regular basis, and it’s our hope to be able to show people what real food—whole food—tastes like,” Charette adds. In the works are collaborations with the Nutritional Sciences Preschool as well as community partner Chop Chop Kids.

(Continued on page 6)
New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health

Ribbon Cutting

A Living Portrait

It started as a casual curiosity in the Floriculture Greenhouse. Michael Coraggio (SEBS’06) and Ryan Burroughs (GSNB’12) wanted to know how to build a vertical garden and what that garden might need in order to last long-term on site using sustainable practices.

Before long, they had developed a prototype and were able to launch and grow their business, EcoWalls, LLC, with the support of the Rutgers NIAES EcoComplex, a comprehensive business development program and facility for companies in the clean energy, environmental, and controlled environment agriculture industries. That was in 2008.

Today, the pair’s EcoWall—a living, vertical garden—is an integral part of the Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health. It not only beautifies the space with a healthy dose of greenery, but it also provides a functional link to the programs housed there by growing plants and purifying the air, all with a sustainable watering system that’s 100 percent efficient. In total, the wall comprises more than 6,000 plants representing nearly 80 species. “It’s about the connection we have with the natural environment, and the building does a great job of inviting in those natural elements,” says Coraggio. “The living wall is an extension of that and it brings the outdoors in.”

The EcoWall was grown and assembled at the Rutgers EcoComplex before finding a permanent home in the stairwell of the institute. “This has been a process that we probably won’t have the opportunity to experience very frequently, if ever again, at Rutgers,” says Coraggio. “We started as students, finished our degrees, started a company, and are now working with Rutgers on the other side. It’s been a privilege and an honor.”
a nonprofit organization with a mission to fight childhood obesity by teaching children how to cook with their families.

Bringing it all together, interdisciplinary success at the institute might look something like this: Children are invited into the Center for Childhood Nutrition Education and Research, where they learn about nutrition and how to cook in an interactive environment. They’ll play outside to increase their physical activity, and they’ll meet Rutgers student-athletes training in the Center for Health and Human Performance, a full-service facility built to study the physical effects of exercise. They’ll have lunch at Harvest, where healthy food choices are available and encouraged. And they’ll take what they’ve learned back to their families and everyday lives, having learned how to lead a healthier lifestyle.

The result? “A little bit of research, a little bit of community work, a little bit of food law—it’s many parts coming together to work on a common problem,” says Gillies. “The competitive advantage of interdisciplinary research is the creativity engendered by its diversity.”

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**BUILDING FEATURES**

- A state-of-the-art, 145-seat seminar room
- Open modular laboratory with space to accommodate six to eight research groups
- Open office space for 70 faculty and staff, and 30 graduate and undergraduate students
- A 25-seat special events boardroom
- A 45-seat long-distance learning and video conferencing facility
- Fully equipped health and human performance lab
- Student health clinic and nutrition counseling services
- Harvest IFNH eatery and gathering place
- Childhood education and research lab

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**One Nutrition**

One Nutrition is an interdisciplinary initiative that emerged from the universitywide strategic planning process, designed to bridge science, policy, the arts, and the New Jersey community. The bridge? IFNH.

Components include the cultural role of food, performance nutrition, the impact of obesity and diabetes, health economics, and more.

“One Nutrition recognizes that, from an academic perspective, the discussion of nutrition is more than the science,” says Gillies. “It’s also about culture, ethics, and social impact, and how nutrition bears on each of them. So we believe that nutrition should be taught broadly to everyone at the university.”
In 1908, young Sydney Bleecker Carpender began his business career with the Brunswick Refrigerating Company. When he became the company’s vice president and general manager in 1911 at age 27, he had a manor built on his family’s property in New Brunswick for him and his wife, the former Louise Johnson, daughter of one of the founding brothers of Johnson & Johnson. A horticultural enthusiast, Carpender created a unique man-made landscape on the estate complete with rolling meadows, ponds, and a wooded trail established with select landscape plantings and trees.

One hundred years later, another young man came across the wooded trail, its glorious past buried under decades of inattention and debris. Rutgers environmental planning and design major Eliot Nagele (SEBS’15) stumbled upon the remnants of the trail when he was cleaning up a nearby creek. Nagele’s venture of renovating the abandoned trail began in his sophomore year in the spring of 2013 and his work is continuing until his graduation (fall 2015).

The Carpender estate, nestled on the Douglass Campus, was acquired by Rutgers in 1965, and is now the University Inn and Conference Center. The Arbor Trail, originally maintained by Cook College for educational purposes, was left untouched since the late 1970s.

The trail has come a long way since Nagele first encountered the grounds littered with downed trees and branches, invasive species creeping through the understory, and ponds filled with muck and debris. Except for the trail’s exposed stone borders, the trail itself was indistinguishable from the surrounding woods. As Nagele methodically worked his way through the renovation process, what emerged from the site was a landscape of possibilities. After the initial clean-up and an inventory of the plantings, Nagele could envision multiple uses for the site, and ways to enhance the setting through new plantings.

As he set about accomplishing the tasks of his mission, Nagele became as astute a manager of human resources as he was of natural resources—each presenting their own set of challenges. Managing the natural resources requires vigilance, but the result is a once again splendid landscape.

Similarly, the human resources Nagele managed presented both challenges and rewards. No classroom experience would have taught Nagele the lesson in life that he’s gotten from working on the trail. Getting university support for the project was not a problem, it was maintaining the momentum that proved challenging. Nagele reflects, “My original vision was that the university or someone would take on the project, but no one stepped up and so I found myself running from person to person.” Nagele came up with a strategy to keep things in motion: he would get other students to take on aspects of the project. This proved quite fruitful.

Nagele recruited student volunteers for clean-ups and plantings. He cooperated with several professors to incorporate student involvement into their classes and to involve several graduate students to conduct independent projects on the trail.

As Nagele winds up his undergraduate studies and the trail renovation, he is working to ensure the trail’s future care. For his senior year G. H. Cook Scholars thesis, he is writing a site management plan. He is also working with students to develop their own plans for the site so that progress continues after he leaves. He knows that those students, too, will soon be gone, but he doesn’t want the project forgotten. “That’s why part of my plan is to create a faculty advisory committee that works together on all these decisions and constantly comes back together,” he says. And, for reinforcement, something permanent will mark the trail. “One professor really pushed for signage”, he adds. “Once I leave, even if everyone forgets everything I’ve done, then the story will live on in the words on the signs.”
Since 2002, budding meteorologists who enroll at Rutgers get a head start on their careers thanks to a one-of-a-kind WeatherWatcher program where meteorology majors rub shoulders with non-meteorology undergrads who “live and learn” as peers tied together by their interest in weather broadcasting. One of several living-learning communities at Rutgers, the WeatherWatcher program is a partnership between the meteorology undergraduate program and the Rutgers University Television Network (RU-tv).

These “weather watchers” learn how to deliver daily pre-recorded weather broadcasts using the green screen in a professional television studio located on the first floor of Perry Hall, one of the residential dorms on the G. H. Cook Campus. Broadcasts are shared across the New Brunswick campus on RU-tv and streamed online.

Although open to non-meteorology students, the WeatherWatcher program has created a definite advantage for meteorology major Tyler Case (SEBS’15). Case knew coming into Rutgers that he wanted to major in meteorology and work in the field, so he enrolled in the WeatherWatcher program in his first year. He valued the close-knit feeling of both the living-learning community and the meteorology program. “It’s not every day that you walk down the hall and your professors all know you by name.”

According to Steven Decker, professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences and the new director of the meteorology undergraduate program, while students in the program get access to the weather science and the support of the meteorology program, they fairly independently produce high-quality weather broadcasts for the campus community.

In 2014, the WeatherWatcher program acquired a WSI Max Weather real-time forecasting system, the same technology used by broadcast outlets such as ABC, Fox, CNN, and CBS. Alan Robock, distinguished professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, who until June 2015 directed the meteorology undergraduate program, helped secure the funds for this state-of-the-art tool that’s helped prepare undergrads for professional broadcasting careers right out of college.

Even before he graduated in May 2015, Case was hired as a meteorologist at ABC affiliate KTWO-TV in Casper, Wyoming. He’s among notable alumni of the WeatherWatcher program, including Dylan Dryer (SEBS’03), meteorologist on NBC’s Weekend Today Show; Lauren Casey (SEBS’06), who just joined the CBS3 Eyewitness News weather team in Philadelphia in September; Alyssa Caroprese (SEBS’12), current weekend meteorologist on CBS affiliate WRGB in Albany, New York, who got her start at ABC affiliate KDRV-TV in Medford, Oregon; and Kelly Ann Cicales (SEBS’11), currently at WSAZ in Huntington, West Virginia, and the winner of the “Best Weather Broadcaster in the State of Wyoming” award in 2013.
After drawing impressive crowds in New York, D.C., and Philadelphia this spring, the “Experience Rutgers: Climate Change” event series went bicoastal, taking the show on the road to Los Angeles and San Francisco earlier this fall. On the agenda were customized presentations about climate change, touching on such issues as Hurricane Sandy and sea level rise on the East Coast as well as droughts and fires on the West Coast. The overwhelming response from attendees was that the talks were colorful, informative, insightful, engaging, and entertaining.

At the center of it all were three of Rutgers’ leading climate scientists—Jennifer Francis, Scott Glenn, and Benjamin Horton—all members of the Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS). What made this event series so successful was accessibility, education, and entertainment...mixed with a dash of controversy.

“The topic of climate change, of course, is a high profile one,” says Francis. “I think there are a lot of people who still have questions about it, and they’ve appreciated the opportunity to speak to an expert who is on the front lines of the research and doing work that’s really important not just for people living in the United States, but all over the world.”

The presentations, as well as the networking receptions and question-and-answer sessions led by President Robert Barchi, allowed Francis, Glenn, and Horton to educate and also engage with alumni on this hot-button issue and highlight SEBS as a resource and think tank. “There’s so much research going on in this area at Rutgers, and it’s the perfect time to reach out and explain and demonstrate this to our alumni and attendees,” adds Francis. “The great discussions we’ve had after the presentations tell us it’s a success, and accomplishing exactly what we hoped to do.”

The “Experience Rutgers” programs, sponsored by the Rutgers University Alumni Association, place laser focus on the excellent science that is taking place at The State University of New Jersey. Alumni commenting on the programs were understandably impressed—and proud—of their alma mater.

In surveying attendees after the events, typical comments included such compliments as, “My husband and I were very much impressed with the three lecturers and the competence the President displayed during the Q & A. He seems to be up to speed on everything. Rutgers is on the cutting edge in the field of climate change. I am proud to be an alumna of Rutgers.”
The “Garden State” is more than a nickname to Laura Lawson, dean of agriculture and urban programs. It’s an aspiration to engage and connect people with the productive landscape they live in. In the last 20 years, she has studied urban agriculture in its many forms: community gardens, small-scale urban and suburban agriculture, farmers markets, direct marketing, and more. Through the new Office of Agriculture and Urban Programs, Lawson works with faculty, students, community organizations, and growers to highlight and support the state’s thriving cultivation-to-consumption food network. One focus is the Rutgers Student Sustainable Farm, which started in 1993 and is in the process of moving to a new location adjacent to the Rutgers Gardens. Plots for organic cultivation, an outdoor kitchen, and demonstration areas will enable new educational and outreach programs linked to local food production and marketing, nutrition and education, and civic engagement in food justice and food security. Through this project and others, she is developing new paths into agriculture in our urbanized state, and supporting an informed public of consumers and advocates of a truly garden state.

Conflict between wildlife and humans is nothing new, and certainly not unusual in densely populated New Jersey. Bears, deer, Canada geese, and bats abound. Rutgers Specialist in Wildlife Ecology Brooke Maslo works to promote greater public understanding of the importance of wildlife in maintaining humans’ quality of life. She employs research on a variety of human-wildlife conflicts in New Jersey, including bat-human conflicts. While much of this research investigates the extinction risk of bat populations due to the fungal disease white-nose syndrome, Maslo understands that to truly conserve any wildlife species, the public must inherently value it. To achieve this, Maslo’s latest challenge is a quest to define the role bats play in national food security through the control of agricultural insect pests. While this means crunching datasets in the lab, you can also find Maslo and her team of enthusiastic undergraduates she endearingly calls “The Bat Brigade” in the field addressing landowner-bat conflicts. Through public programming, partnering with nuisance wildlife control companies, and installing artificial bat roost boxes, Maslo takes an active approach to translating her science into practical public conservation efforts.

DNA is the blueprint of life. This aphorism holds some truth, but ignores the fact that it took nature over two billion years (i.e., natural selection) to create that blueprint to produce the multitude of species on our planet. The lab of evolutionary biologist Debashish Bhattacharya, which he calls dblab, works with a variety of talented scientists at Rutgers and around the world to connect genomes to function and the origin of biodiversity. Their work tackles fundamental questions: How did algae and plants become photosynthetic? How many genes does it take to make a complex cell? How do corals create minerals and how will they be impacted by global climate change? Can we find or breed a better source of algal biofuel? His lab also pioneered efforts to generate a genome sequence from a single cell captured in the ocean. To spread the tools of genomics to a wider community, Bhattacharya established the Genome Cooperative, a DNA sequencing and bioinformatics facility, in 2009 when he arrived at Rutgers. Scientists want to catch the rising star of genomics, and dblab has provided many at Rutgers with the ability to do just that.
Rutgers Mounted Patrol

For 35 years, the Rutgers Mounted Patrol (RMP) has been keeping a watchful eye over the Cook/Douglass Campus. The only student-run mounted unit in the U.S., RMP has a leg up over RUPD cruisers. Students have a higher vantage point on horseback, and can readily access paths and lawns far from campus roads. In addition to their speed and agility, horses have keen senses that alert their riders to unusual activity. And where no law officer can compete, a warm fuzzy animal is a magnet for people of all ages, and at Rutgers special events, RMP are champions.

Induction Ceremony 2015

Every September when the leaves begin to change and the temperature begins to fall, first-year students are welcomed to the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at the Induction Ceremony held at the Nicholas Music Center on the Douglass Campus. Students are welcomed and introduced to the deans who will guide them through their journey. They also are informed about what to expect in their first year by current students and faculty and receive the first of many Rutgers t-shirts.
Monster Mash ▲

Ag Field Day isn’t the only Cook Campus activity that grew into a universitywide event. In October of 2000, resident assistant Justin Gayliard (CC’03) and his staff started Monster Mash. It began as trick or treating in the dorms for disadvantaged kids from a local homeless shelter. Students set up their floors as haunted houses. As the event expanded, kids from local schools were invited and it moved to the Cook/Douglass Recreation Center where student clubs set up activities. While intended as entertainment for the kids, the Rutgers student volunteers always have a spook-tacular time.

Community Day 2015

Students at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) have the best of both worlds. While taking advantage of what a large state university has to offer, students at the George H. Cook Campus enjoy the cozy atmosphere of a small college. SEBS students form bonding relationships with their peers in their classes, dormitories or apartments, dining hall, student center, and even at the campus farms. SEBS students also have an opportunity for school-wide socializing in a broader setting at Community Day, a break from classes to enjoy food, fun, and frolic.

Early in the academic year, this September event takes place along Red Oak Lane and the lawn by Passion Puddle, with a giant barbecue dinner, raffle, DJ, and some surprises. Clubs and organizations line the lane with information tables so students get a taste of how to beef up their extra-curricular involvement. This is a gateway for students to interface with their peers on a social cause, academic or personal interest, or community service. The event’s name says it all—SEBS is a real community.

Fish Fry

The annual Fish Fry, sponsored by the Cook Community Alumni Association, is a tradition that has lasted for decades. In the early days, Roger Locandro, campus dean and professor, would travel with a band of hardy students in the early morning hours before the Fish Fry to select the day’s fare at the Fulton Fish Market in New York. These days, the fish is sourced locally and the batter-dipped morsels are supplemented by a full Italian buffet prepared by Twin Oaks caterers and served up at the Log Cabin and Alumni Pavilion at Rutgers Gardens. Here, Locandro carves the tradition Alaskan salmon at this year’s Fish Fry.
Charlie Kontos, Jr. loved wild places and all forms of wildlife. In fact, he was the first person to document and verify the return of the fisher (*Martes pennant*), part of the weasel family, to the woods of New Jersey after its extirpation in the 1900s.

Kontos passed away in 2010 while in the process of completing the doctoral program in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources (EENR). In his memory, his family dedicated a gateway kiosk on the 400-acre Rutgers Ecological Preserve. The kiosk leads to a new set of trails that students and others can access conveniently from the Livingston Campus. The Kontos Memorial Kiosk was designed and constructed by Brian Curry (SEBS’12), with help from EcoPreserve Faculty Director Rick Lathrop, professor of environmental monitoring in EENR and director of the Grant F. Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis (CRSSA) on the G. H. Cook Campus.

The core of the preserve is a mature forest of oaks—some over 150 years old—supporting habitat for a diversity of wildlife, and more than 7.5 miles of trails used by hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts. Generations of Rutgers students have also used the EcoPreserve as a natural laboratory for science and humanities education and research.

This was very much the case when SuperStorm Sandy swept through New Jersey toward the end of October 2012, when the mature trees in the preserve were still in full summertime leaf and carrying a lot of surface area. As Lathrop describes it, this made the trees vulnerable to windthrow and dozens of them were toppled. Immediately after the storm, several students in a natural resource management class taught by Lathrop used global positioning systems to locate the fallen trees. Their goal was to begin an inventory of the damage and create a database for future use.

### A Pipeline for Future Students
Rutgers 4-H has been working with New Jersey public schools to enhance science learning through enrichment programs and clubs, and for the past three years, has used the preserve as a teaching tool for urban high school students enrolled in the Rutgers Summer Science Program. Sponsored by the Samsung Corporation since 2013, this Rutgers program is an enrichment experience for pre-college youth. The goal is to spark their interest and improve their competency in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education.

The EcoPreserve was a perfect living laboratory to teach them about conservation and the environment. So, under the direction of Lathrop and with coaching from Rutgers students who serve as EcoPreserve land stewards, the high schoolers spent one day during each of the last three summers scrambling over fallen trees and adding to the inventory started by the Rutgers students. Back at the CRSSA lab, they were taught how to compile, map, and visualize their data, creating a mapped distribution of downed trees that is forever part of the EcoPreserve’s database. Their work will be used as a baseline to compare with future vegetation inventories.

And these budding scientists—all potential Rutgers students—learned invaluable lessons about forest regeneration, ecology, and restoration in the interactive, outdoor classroom of the Rutgers Ecological Preserve.
New Jersey Cranberries

**NOT ALL IS Backwards IN THE Backwoods**

Besides Rutgers, what else is scarlet and has origins in New Jersey? The cranberry—a native fruit that thrives in the sandy, acidic soil of the New Jersey Pinelands. Rutgers’ history merged with the cranberry’s well after commercial production began in the early 1800s in New Jersey.

In 1918, the Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension was first established as a Rutgers cranberry research field station at Whitesbog, New Jersey, and has been in its permanent location in Chatsworth since 1962. Today, the modern research facility, located in the midst of New Jersey’s cranberry industry in the Pinelands, is recognized by the federal government as the national center for Vaccinium (a genus of berry-bearing shrubs) research. In addition to providing information on the cultural needs of cranberries, the facility supports an extensive cranberry breeding program in cooperation with scientists from Massachusetts and Wisconsin.

Despite the Pineland’s reputation for being the backwoods of New Jersey—known more for its ghost towns, lore, and legends—the Marucci Center and New Jersey’s cranberry industry are a hotbed of advanced technologies for cutting-edge research and farm applications.

Here is a taste of research and technology supporting the cranberry industry from the station deep in the backwoods:

- Marucci researchers have isolated specific compounds from cranberry fruit, called proanthocyanidins, which were found to prevent infectious *E. coli* bacteria from attaching to cells in the urinary tract.
- Marucci cranberry breeders have developed new highly productive varieties that are being grown in all cranberry regions around the world.
- To manage cranberry fungal diseases, Rutgers pathologists utilize tools such as remote sensing and unmanned aerial drones to detect, map, quantify, and track plant pathogens as well as classical mycological and molecular methods to characterize the pathogen populations.
- Researchers in cranberry entomology are investigating insect-plant interactions, as well as interactions with the insect predators and parasitoids, and how to promote these tritrophic interactions for improved biological control. Their efforts include tools such as chemical ecology and host-plant resistance.

Each May, scores of seniors wearing distinctive gold cords on their regalia graduate with the designation “George H. Cook Scholar” at the school’s convocation. Each has earned this award through the successful completion of a year-long program of independent study, culminating in a research thesis that participants defend publicly before faculty advisors and an honors committee during their final semester at Rutgers. Traditionally, all SEBS academic departments participate, and a wide variety of majors are represented.

Selected by the end of their junior year, George H. Cook Scholars commonly use the summer to get a head start on their senior year theses. Scholars benefit from strong faculty mentorship, which begins with rigorous consultation regarding the research topics they select and helps them focus on their thesis project objectives. Informal evening workshops on writing and other communications skills offer them additional support for the preparation of their final public presentations before graduation.

Many George H. Cook Scholars go on to earn graduate degrees in their fields of study or in veterinary school, medicine, or other professional programs. Others start their careers immediately after graduation from Rutgers. In each case, these accomplished graduates benefit from their unique experiences in the proving ground of the research-intensive George H. Cook Honors Program.
This quote, often attributed to Benjamin Franklin, has no better application than in the context of study abroad. Just ask Francene Matias, an animal science major in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS), who traveled to Belize during the summer of 2015 to study large animals in a hands-on environment. Over the course of two weeks, with the support of her fellow students and under the close supervision of her instructor, she examined, assessed, vaccinated, neutered, spayed, and sutured animals in their natural habitat, from cats and dogs to chickens, pigs, and cows.

Matias’ two-week experience is already paying dividends in her academic career by enriching her understanding of the course material taught in her classes. “Since my study abroad experience was so hands-on, classes are more than memorization”, she says. “I actually understand the materials better because I experienced it.”

Beyond the university’s gates, Matias speculates that veterinary schools will take notice of her application, as her international experience helps to set her apart from other applicants. But perhaps more importantly, studying abroad opened her eyes to a different life. “Before I went abroad, I was a little scared of the experience,” she admits. “But coming back, I have a totally new mindset. It taught me to pursue what I want. It gave me the confidence to get more involved on campus. And it showed me a new world and a new culture. It was truly a life-changing experience.”

Making Study Abroad Possible

Thanks to the work of the International Programs Office, Matias is not alone. SEBS students of all majors have access to a varied and vast range of opportunities that span all seven continents and countless areas of study. This type of office—one solely dedicated to enhancing study abroad for students of a specific school—is a unique model.

The office was formed in September 2008, and sent just four students abroad the following summer. Today, a mere seven years later, International Programs is celebrating a banner season, having sent 35 students abroad this summer alone.

“Part of this is that more students are learning about the opportunities and that interest in study abroad overall is growing,” says Megan Francis, assistant dean of international programs. “But the other part is that study abroad within the sciences has surpassed all other majors nationally, whereas previously, it was the least likely major to study abroad.”

That’s because science students often find it difficult, if not impossible, to spend a full semester away from campus. Their course load is too large, and their schedules are too packed. Yet another hurdle, affecting all students, is that it’s also very expensive to study abroad, and cost is a barrier for many Rutgers undergraduates.

The Summer Scholarship Program, a merit-based scholarship offered specifically to SEBS students, tackles these challenges in one fell swoop. By providing financial aid, it eases the cost burden associated with studying abroad; by financing opportunities that take place in the summer, it all but eliminates the course load barrier posed by academic year travel. And by bringing this opportunity to SEBS, science students get the hands-on experience they can’t achieve in labs alone.
“I’ve had so many students tell me that they never knew studying abroad could be an option for them until now, and it’s because of that scholarship,” says Francis. “It’s a worthy investment in our students because we want to make sure that if they choose not to study abroad it’s because they’re not interested, not because they can’t afford it.”

Despite this success, Francis fields a lot of skepticism. Why should students study abroad when universities offer state-of-the-art labs right on campus? And why invest in student opportunities to study abroad when they can travel internationally on their own after graduation?

“I get these questions all the time. Here’s my answer: Travel and study abroad are two different things. With study abroad, students are integrated into the community and education system, and learn how to communicate on a different level—through body language, through research—which puts them a step ahead of their peers,” she says. “It’s one thing to study in a lab. It’s another to actually go to the native habitat and explore that wildlife and that ecosystem. To see how it works, hands-on, is one of the best learning experiences a student can have.”

Abroad and At Home

Though study abroad represents a central priority, many other initiatives are housed in and supported by the International Programs Office. Here’s a sampling:

**Faculty research**: SEBS faculty who want to collaborate with colleagues overseas will find an advocate and partner in the International Programs Office. From drafting contracts to facilitating connections, the office works hard to support international research among Rutgers’ esteemed faculty.

**University partnerships**: Sending Rutgers students and faculty abroad is just half the story; the International Programs Office also works to bring international students to Rutgers’ campus. One example is the 2+2 program, which allows international students to spend two years at their home institution, and two years immersed at Rutgers. At the end, they emerge with a degree from both institutions. The 3+2 program allows international students to spend three years at home and two years at Rutgers, earning a bachelor’s degree from their home institution and a master’s from Rutgers.

**Semester programs**: Summer might be the best time, but it’s not the only time to study abroad. Through myriad programs, students are able to enroll directly into an international university or participate in an exchange program to spend a semester or even a year abroad. The International Programs Office helps match international institutions’ curricula to Rutgers’, so students gain credits for their time overseas.
Chasing Dragonflies

Celebrated in art and literature over the centuries, dragonflies continue to fascinate people, and none more than Jessica Ware (GSNB-Entomology ’08). An assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the Rutgers–Newark College of Arts and Sciences, Ware credits her Canadian upbringing for her passion for dragonflies.

“I thank my grandparents, Gwen and Harold Irons, for giving me my love of insects,” she says. “I lived with them every summer up at their lakefront house in northern Ontario and learned about insects through gardening, hiking in the brush, picking berries for pies, and seeing dragonflies land on the dock when swimming.”

During her undergraduate years at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, she had a work-study assignment in the lab of a professor who studies damselflies, an insect in the same order, Odonata, as dragonflies. Very quickly, a summertime fascination turned into a scientific calling.

Soon after she arrived on the G. H. Cook Campus to begin her graduate studies, she found Michael L. May, now a professor emeritus in the Department of Entomology, whose primary research interest was dragonflies, specifically their systematics, phylogeny, and character evolution. “When I saw his work on insect taxonomy with an evolutionary slant, I was hooked,” she says.

Dragonflies have been around for more than 300 million years, with some 6,000 species found throughout the world. More than 300 species flourish in North America. They are considered predators—but in a nice kind of way. They have prodigious appetites for mosquitoes and other insects, and their appearance in the height of summer makes them welcome guests. So popular is this insect that there are clubs, similar to bird-watching societies, devoted to spotting and photographing Odonata.

Her combined interest in evolution and insects has led Ware to an important role in an international research initiative on the evolution of insects, called 1KITE (for 1K Insect Transcriptome Evolution). The 1KITE team comprises scientists from Australia, Austria, China, Germany, Greece, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, and the U.S. They are studying the transcriptomes, or the entirety of expressed genes, of more than 1,000 insect species (hence, 1K) representing all recognized insect orders. The initial report on their groundbreaking work was the cover story of the November 7, 2014 issue of Science, the world’s largest general science journal, published weekly by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

What the researchers found is that insects originated at the same time as the earliest terrestrial plants about 480 million years ago, suggesting that insects and plants shaped the earliest terrestrial ecosystems together. They also determined that insects developed wings long before any other animal could do so, and at nearly the same time that land plants first grew substantially upwards to form forests.

Why is it important to understand the evolution of insects? According to Ware, while life on Earth began in the water, the first creatures on land and in the air were insects. “Whatever people do, insects did it first,” she explains. “They waged war; they took slaves; they learned to work cooperatively; they flew; they farmed.” Humans developed many millions of years after the first insects, she adds, and so “people have been squashing bugs ever since humans appeared on Earth.”

A natural-born teacher, she conducts an “Explore Bugs” class for children ages 5 to 10 at the Cranbury Public Library; she works with high school students through Aim High, a summer research program run by Rutgers, as well as with the NJ SEEDS program and Peddie Academy; and she teaches evolution to graduate students at Rutgers–Newark.

“I wanted to go into academia since I was much younger as a student at the University of British Columbia,” Ware says. “My mentors there were very happy in their work, and I thought what they were doing was a dream job. I am so lucky to be in this position, being able to do the research I love and work with interesting students every year. It’s a dream come true!”
ANDREA COCHRAN’S JOURNEY FROM ART TO

ARTIST OF THE LAND

“Landscape architecture has been a pathway for me to be an ‘artist of the land.’ It has been a way for me to combine my interests and craft a career in the arts and the environmental sciences.”

Of the many awards that Andrea Cochran (CC’76) has received, two very important, recent honors stand out for her work as a landscape architect: a 2014 National Design Award, conferred by Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, and a 2014 Design Medal from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Her designs have been extolled by her industry, by media, by clients, and by such publications as Architectural Digest, Metropolitan Home, Dwell, and many more. In 2013, she was featured in an article in LAYER, the magazine of the Department of Landscape Architecture in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

How Cochran, went from growing up in northwestern New Jersey to earning worldwide acclaim in her field, is a fascinating story.

“I wanted to go to art school but my parents told me that when I graduated from college I had to support myself,” she recalls. “They didn’t think I could do this as an artists so I decided to pursue a career as a veterinarian. I chose Rutgers for their program in animal science.

“When I arrived on the first day of school, I thought I would be able to sign up for my animal science classes, but I found out that you were supposed to pre-register during the summer. By this time, all of the freshman chemistry labs were full. I went to the dean’s office in tears with my parents, and I thought my life was over. The dean recommended that I take my animal science class the following year and take a one-credit survey class called Perspectives on Agriculture and the Environment. This class, he explained, featured guest lecturers from various disciplines.

“I followed his advice, and one of the speakers that year was Roy DeBoer, the head of the landscape architecture program. He introduced me to landscape architecture as the study of natural sciences and art. The following semester, I took Environmental Design Analysis 101, and I enjoyed this class so much that I never took an animal science course and changed my major to landscape architecture.”

After graduation, she attended graduate school in landscape architecture at Harvard University, then went to work for a firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that did landscape projects in the Middle East. In 1981, she teamed up with another Rutgers graduate, Jeffery Grote (RC’66), joining his firm in San Francisco. Then in 1998, she founded Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture in San Francisco. Her projects include corporate headquarters, hotels, urban redevelopment, wineries, public spaces and parks, and high-end residential designs.

Cochran summarized her journey from art to landscape architecture this way: “Landscape architecture has been a pathway for me to be an ‘artist of the land.’ It has been a way for me to combine my interests and craft a career in the arts and the environmental sciences.”

As for journeys, a visit to her website (acochran.com) is a tour through breathtaking images—and well worth the trip.
As the leading architect of the popular "Jersey Fresh" marketing campaign focusing on locally grown produce, Art Brown (GSNB ’77) was tireless in promoting New Jersey agriculture in its various forms. He is shown tasting a spoonful of honey at a fair, eating Jersey corn or a leg of Jersey-bred turkey, posing with a prize-winning rabbit, sampling fresh oysters, picking pumpkins, sitting astride a cutting horse, making the rounds at the county fairs, shaking hands at the Horse Park of New Jersey, promoting Jersey Fresh products for school lunches—always with an enthusiastic grin.

By his side, in many cases, was one of the eight New Jersey governors under whom Brown served. They were Tom Kean, who appointed him in 1982; Jim Florio, starting in 1990; Christie Whitman, beginning in 1994; Donald DiFrancesco, who took office in 2001; three who held the office ceremonially in early 2002: John Farmer Jr., John O. Bennett, and Dick Codey; and finally Jim McGreevey, inaugurated on January 15, 2002. “It didn’t matter whether they were Republican or Democrat, I got along with all of them,” he says.

Brown retired from the Department of Agriculture in 2002, but he continued his career by coming back to the faculty of Rutgers’ School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (it was called Cook College back then) to teach, consult, and return to his roots as an agricultural and resource management agent with Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Jersey Fresh was an important milestone in Brown’s career, but only one of many. An article appearing around the time of Brown’s retirement enumerated other significant accomplishments:

“His second priority was farmland preservation,” the Times wrote. “The numbers tell the story: In 1953, farms covered 1.7 million acres of New Jersey; by 1997, that had fallen to 830,000, according to the latest Census.

“Today the state is in a close race with developers, permanently preserving about as much farmland as it loses each year—10,000 acres—under a program developed by Mr. Brown that is considered the most aggressive in the nation.”

He also was a champion of strengthening the Right to Farm Act, which protects farmers from nuisance complaints; he devised an increased compensation plan for farmers in the Pinelands; and he led a group of legislators through bone-dry fields in Somerset County and got them to back a $20 million drought relief package.

Even in retirement, Brown is still farming in Atlantic County. He describes himself as “a seven-day-a-week guy,” a product of his farming background. Colleagues describe him as eternally positive, persuasive, and savvy. In referring to the Garden State Preservation Trust Act, The New York Times noted: “Mr. Brown was one of its most visible cheerleaders, prompting a colleague to joke that he was running out of green clothes to wear to promotional events.”
She is a member of the university’s Board of Trustees, a regular at Scarlet Knights women’s basketball games, a familiar figure at High Point Solutions Stadium, “owns” a few greens on the Rutgers University Golf Course, was co-chair of the search committee for the new athletic director—in short, “an avid fan of all things Rutgers.”

With a successful, busy career as a senior vice president, financial adviser, and portfolio management director with Morgan Stanley in downtown New Brunswick, Kate Sweeney (CC’79) serves a roster of clients that includes many members of the Rutgers family.

She gives back generously of her time and knowledge, conducting frequent financial workshops for Rutgers groups. She also was instrumental in achieving an endowed scholarship through the Rutgers University Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Alumni Association, providing support for students in the LGBT community. For these contributions and more, Sweeney recently was the recipient of the Rutgers Loyal Sons and Daughters award.

However, like many alumni, Sweeney wasn’t always so involved with Rutgers. Her deep re-engagement began at about the time Rutgers was revamping its alumni organization. She was invited to join the initial board of directors of the new Rutgers University Alumni Association. “The meetings were intense,” Sweeney recalls. “They would bring in Rutgers speakers to talk about a wide range of university programs and facilities. With each speaker, I found myself in awe, thinking ‘I didn’t know Rutgers did that.’”

Sweeney’s journey from her undergraduate days to her successful career as a financial adviser, really began on Skelley Field, where the Rutgers women’s lacrosse team used to play its games.

A faculty member, the late Al Meredith, taught agricultural economics and marketing and was a lacrosse fan. He would stop to watch practices and games on Skelley Field. “Sometimes Al and I would chat. When I asked Al for career advice, he declared that I would make a good stockbroker. So he put me in touch with a former student who was at E.F. Hutton, and I guess the rest is history,” Sweeney says.

“Eventually, Al called me up to say that he and his wife Doris wanted to engage me as their financial adviser. That was in 1999, and I now work with his kids and grandkids. That is very special to me—to be able to work with three generations,” she says.

As a student, Sweeney was captain of both the lacrosse team and the Lady Knights basketball team. She earned three letters in each sport and recently was invited back to a special celebration of the Varsity R Letterwinners Association, where she was one of two featured speakers.

She talks passionately about the value of college athletics. “All sports require the same level of commitment,” she says. “You have two jobs—you’re a student and you’re an athlete. You learn to time-block, prioritize, communicate, and adapt to changing conditions. Athletics teaches you a lot that you can’t learn in the classroom.”

As an afterthought, Sweeney says: “If I have two candidates for a job, I will take the athlete almost every time. They are high achievers. They don’t give up.”
What is a legacy?

It can be a bequest, as in a will. It can be a tradition that survives the test of time. It can be a body of work, set of values, or an achievement that lives on after one retires or dies.

In the case of the late Professor Roy H. DeBoer, it is all of these.

DeBoer founded Rutgers’ landscape architecture program, and was a professor of landscape architecture from 1955 to his retirement more than 50 years later. He chaired the department for 25 years, and he designed the Evergreen Garden in the Rutgers Gardens and the “Heron Rising” patio adjacent to the Cook Student Center, the setting for the moving Rutgers Rising memorial service each year. And his influence is felt far and wide.

Let’s start with his fabled EDA course. Officially, it is Environmental Design Analysis, a course offered by the Department of Landscape Architecture as an elective, taught for decades by DeBoer mainly to first-year students. But to the thousands of alumni who took the course in their freshman year, it was an experience that opened their eyes to the world and to realizations that would last a lifetime. As one alum recently put it: “I learned that bushes shouldn’t be shaped like meatballs, trees shouldn’t be round, and parks shouldn’t be concrete with a locked gate.” Another reported that even though his profession has nothing to do with landscape architecture, he still uses—30 years later—the DeBoer principles of foreground, background, texture, context, color, and more.

Then there is DeBoer’s beloved Rutgers Gardens. He was director of the gardens for many years and influenced its development and design, and he supported the gardens with donations throughout his career. In 1998, his evergreen display was officially named the “Roy DeBoer Evergreen Garden,” and in 2013, he received the Hamilton Award for Dedication and Outstanding Commitment to the Rutgers Gardens, an award named after Bruce “Doc” Hamilton, DeBoer’s colleague and friend and his successor as a director of the gardens.

A deeply personal legacy is the Roy H. DeBoer Travel Prize in the Department of Landscape Architecture. DeBoer passionately believed that students should have an educational travel experience as undergraduates. For many years, he led summer study-abroad courses for the department and saw the profound impact that travel has on the appreciation and study of landscape architecture. To encourage students to develop their own independent study-travel experiences, he founded and supported through his gifts a competitive Landscape Architecture Travel Prize that awards a stipend to help underwrite an educational study trip.

These days, upwards of six students a year receive these stipends to travel domestically or abroad to study wide-ranging areas of interests from gardens to water catchment systems to composting techniques. Students have traveled to Japan, California, New Mexico, Italy, Rwanda, Chile, Iceland, Columbia, and many more destinations around the globe.

According to Laura J. Lawson, chair of the department, one requirement of the Travel Prize is a presentation that each student gives in the fall semester following the trip. She said DeBoer would attend these presentations and “speak from the heart” about the deep transformation that occurs with travel.

“The Roy H. DeBoer Travel Prize continues to receive donations from alumni because they know it meant so much to him,” Lawson says.

DeBoer, who also was an alumnus (GSNB–Horticulture ’59), was especially proud of the fact that he succeeded in having landscape architecture recognized by the State of New Jersey as a licensed profession. In fact, DeBoer received LLA #00001.

One additional legacy that would have especially pleased him is the new Roy H. DeBoer Endowed Scholarship. A fundraising effort was launched a few years ago by grateful alumni, and the endowment was achieved in record time. The department was planning an announcement and celebration of the scholarship honoring DeBoer, when sadly, he passed away on March 17, 2014, just days before the event.

Roy DeBoer
His Presence Lives On

Photography by Nick Romanenko.
"On the Banks of the Old Raritan" has a special resonance for Gretchen and James Johnson. True to their passion for preserving and improving the Raritan River watershed, the couple, along with several members of the Johnson family and an anonymous donor, have funded the Johnson Family Chair in Water Resources and Watershed Ecology. The university Board of Governors is expected to officially appoint the chair at its meeting in December 2015.

With its North Branch and South Branch headwaters in Morris County, the Raritan River is the largest river basin located entirely within New Jersey's borders. It covers 1,100 square miles and touches parts of seven counties, all or part of 100 municipalities, and furnishes drinking water for thousands of homes in Morris, Hunterdon, Somerset, Mercer, and Middlesex counties. It empties into the Raritan Bay, supporting both freshwater and saltwater ecosystems.

“The importance of this endowed chair cannot be overstated,” says Executive Dean Bob Goodman. “The amount of fresh water on which all human life depends is tiny, so the topic and focus of work supported by this chair are essential for the future of civilization. The Raritan River has been part of Rutgers for the past 250 years, and our work will influence the sustainability of this important resource for the next 250 years and beyond.”

Gretchen Johnson, a Douglass College alumna (DC’63), spent her college and middle years along and on the river, and so it holds a special place in her heart. James Johnson is the son of J. Seward Johnson, and the grandson of Robert Wood Johnson, co-founder of Johnson & Johnson. As longtime Rutgers benefactors, the Johnson family, in fact, donated the land on which the Rutgers Ecological Preserve on the Livingston Campus is located (see related story on page 13). The endowed chair also will serve as director of the preserve.

The chair will attract top academic research talent to lead a vital and compelling program to study the relationship between natural freshwater and saltwater ecosystems and the influence of human activities in the Raritan River drainage basin and its estuaries. The chair focuses on restoration of habitat and ecosystem services, teaching that prepares the next generation to be effective stewards of the land and its watersheds, and outreach that empowers communities and their residents to be stewards of land and water resources.

Rutgers already is heavily involved with the study, cleanup, and preservation of the river and environs through its work in the Rutgers Ecological Preserve and the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, a collaboration between SEBS and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Public Policy.

“For Faculty and Staff

Enduring Dedication to the Environment

Travel prizes aren’t just for students. Faculty and staff broaden their horizons and enhance their careers by having the opportunity to travel to out-of-state conferences, symposia, and speaking engagements, and being able to collaborate with colleagues at other universities.

Sometimes, however, funding is scarce for these trips, especially for faculty and staff associated with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Enter Ken and Jenny Osterman to remedy the situation.

The couple has a history of giving to the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, starting with the Osterman Family Scholarship established in 2004 by the Gardeners of Somerset Valley in honor of Ken’s father George. Osterman Nursery in Neshanic Station, New Jersey, which specialized in the production of specimen-size ornamentals for the wholesale market, was the family business started by George Osterman and carried on by Ken until his recent retirement.

Knowing that these units traditionally have not been supported by tuition dollars and have limited resources, the Ostermans initiated a new gift to help Extension maintain and expand its national presence. Each year these funds allow dozens of faculty and staff affiliated with the agricultural, youth development, and community health initiatives of Extension to travel to important meetings and conferences.

Recently, the couple joined the ranks of the Colonel Henry Rutgers Society, a generous group of donors who have included Rutgers in their estate plans. Thus, the couple has ensured that the Osterman legacy of service will live on in perpetuity.

To make a gift, visit go.rutgers.edu/c1ypdcgw
Bill Suter AG’43 has traveled much of the globe and enjoys gardening, birding, and volunteering at a local library. As to his gardening, tomatoes and strawberries top the list, according to class correspondent J. Domer Zerbe Jr. RC’43.

Sam Freiberg AG’48, GSNB’51 has celebrated both his 90th birthday and his 65th wedding anniversary. He has moved to an assisted living facility in Maryland and still stays active, reports Class of 1948 correspondent Bart Klon RC’48.

Hank Hohenstein AG’53 and wife, Susan, have packed up and moved to Oregon as they grew “tired of the congestion and politics in California.” They are both healthy and stay active in mission work, both domestically and in Central Asia. Hank invites any fellow classmates en route to Crater Lake National Park to stop by his home in Shady Cove. Norbert Pendegast AG’53, his wife, Pat, and their son, Glenn, have closed down and sold Willow Run Nursery and Garden Center. The business, located in Cresskill, NJ, was in the Pendegast family for three generations.

Lester Brown AG’55 announced that he has decided to step down as president of the Earth Policy Institute (EPI), the think tank he founded, and end its work as of July 1, 2015. The Lester R. Brown Reading Room has been established in Martin Hall on the G. H. Cook Campus, housing the original English-language editions of his books as well as some 600 foreign language editions. Rutgers will also take over the hosting of EPI’s website, earth-policy.org, and maintain it as an archive.

Ray Dull AG’58, GSNB’60, is currently writing poetry, singing, and enjoying regular get-togethers with friend and former classmate Bob Langford RC’58, says Bob Max, RC’58, GSE’78 class correspondent.

Many alumni from the Class of 1964 went to the Quick Lane bowl game in Detroit last December, including John Petronko AG’64. They watched the Scarlet Knights easily defeat the University of North Carolina and agreed that Rutgers exceeded expectations in our first year in the Big Ten, reports class correspondent Mark N. Busch RC’64. The Class of 1964 also supported with donations the new Honors College, which opened this fall on the College Avenue Campus. In response to the class’ generosity, the coffee shop in the Honors College will be named the Class of 1964 Coffee Bar.

Doug Campbell AG’65 retired as a colonel after 28 years of active service in the U.S. Army. He is now spending his free time on his 1790 Pennsylvania farm house and property. This news comes to us from Class of 1965 correspondent Chuck Hennings RC’65.

Rick Stier AG’74 and Class of 1974 correspondent is sad to report the passing of his father, Ted Stier ED’49, GSE’50. After his dad’s passing, Rick discovered a file documenting the history of how the Class of 1946 bought the cannon to Rutgers and the football stadium. The cannon, manned by students in Revolutionary War-style uniforms, is fired whenever Rutgers scores.

Heather Hoyns CC’77 celebrated 10 years of ownership of Evergreen Equine of Vermont in West Windsor, Vermont. Michael Schiffer CC’77 lives in Dana Point, California, where he is
vice president and deputy general counsel for Beckman Coulter Inc. The news of Heather and Michael comes to us from Class of 1977 Correspondent Marcia Smith Fleres RC’77, RBS’93.

Currently, Phil Scarpa CC’83, RW-JMS’88, is president of the Aerospace Medical Association. It is the premier organization in the world dedicated to promoting the health, safety, and performance of those involved in air, space, and undersea travel. Gail Seigel CC’83 is author of Academania: My Life in the Trenches of Biomedical Research, a memoir of her time as an undergraduate researcher at Rutgers.

Lynn Luczkowski CC’84 is celebrating the 10-year anniversary of L2 Communications, a public relations and marketing consulting group.

Jill Nappi CC’87 is director of business development at Rizco Design, a branding and interactive agency in Manasquan, New Jersey.

The votes are in and Frank Newman CC’89 is one of Springfield, Missouri’s Top Doctors of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Denise Mattes CC’90 is a landscape architect in the parks department in New York City. She is working with other Rutgers alumni on the mayor’s community initiative program.

As a coordinating producer in studio production at ESPN, Francine Rotella CC’92 works on shows such as NFL Primetime, NFL Live, NFL Insiders, and SportsCenter.

Christopher Norton CC’95, ‘96 joined the executive team of Defense Mobile Corporation, a new 4G wireless service provider available only to members of the military and veteran community. He is still serving in the U.S. Army Reserve and is active in veterans’ advocacy efforts.

Joselyn Mormile CC’08 will be attending the University of Cape Town in South Africa to begin her Ph.D. She completed her master of science degree in primate conservation at Oxford Brookes University in Oxford, England, and is a licensed veterinary technician.

Be sure to hold April 29 to May 1, 2016, for Alumni Weekend. The annual event will coincide with Rutgers Day/Ag Field Day on April 30, 2016, and promises to be the best ever as Rutgers celebrates its 250th anniversary, featuring the best work of our students, faculty, and staff. It will mark the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1966, so plan to visit then.