Join Rutgers Student Alumni Career Connect, a professional networking and mentorship platform. Share industry experiences, mentor students, and build your own professional network with more than 486,000 Rutgers alumni worldwide.

As a professional you can:

• Search for and network with alumni experts in your field;
• Join or lead discussions related to your industry; and
• Make an immediate and lasting impact on a student or young graduate’s life by serving as a mentor.

It’s quick and easy to get started! Visit: careers.rutgers.edu/SACC
contents

01 EXECUTIVE DEAN’S MESSAGE
02 PASSION PUDDLE THROUGH THE SEASONS
03 FEATURE - The Doppler Effect
05 STUDENTS - Senior Snapshots
07 FACULTY - Achievement, Acclaim, and the AAAS
09 RESEARCH - Gut Reaction; Beating Bioterrorism; and
A New Endowed Chair, A New Frontier
13 FEATURE - Farming the Ocean
15 ALUMNI - Fast Track
18 DONORS - Following in the Footsteps of
Colonel Henry Rutgers
19 ALUMNI NOTES AND MUSINGS

Stay Connected

Help us keep you up to date! Send your email address to
discovery@aesop.rutgers.edu, and we will add you to our
distribution list.

Follow Us

Read All About Us

post-it!

What’s up with you? We want to hear from you.
@ dorb@rutgers.edu

Office of Alumni and Community Engagement
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
57 US Highway 1
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8554

Please include your name, school, class, mailing address,
email, and phone number.
A Message from Bob Goodman

We’re excited to share with you the fifth edition of our biannual magazine, Explorations, featuring stories about our students, faculty, and alumni, and how their endeavors push the boundaries of knowledge and add to the common good.

This graduation issue highlights several of our students who, though drawn from various backgrounds, came to Rutgers with the collective desire to succeed. Our responsibility is to nurture them to find their spark and help shape them to not only succeed in the world, but to change the world.

One such student is Jose Corporan SEBS’17, who overcame a number of obstacles to enroll at Rutgers and carve out a meaningful place of service that extended well beyond our campus. Both through his efforts as recruitment chairperson for the Latino Student Council to engage high school students interested in higher education and his mentoring youths through 4-H programs that bring scores of middle and high school students to campus to learn science in fun and interactive ways, Jose understood the potential pipeline for future students and also the larger context of creating future scientists to make their mark on the world.

Dedicated faculty mentors prepare all of our undergraduates to answer the call to action on multiple global challenges. If not all unique to this generation, these challenges have certainly become more compelling in their insistence for immediate, sustainable solutions. Chief among these are the parallel issues of rising global temperatures and rising sea levels, and the threat to our coastal communities; overpopulation and the challenge of feeding an estimated nine billion people by 2050; the drawdown of the world’s aquifers and its impact on agriculture, which uses 70 percent of the world’s freshwater supply; and the trend to global urbanization as rural areas become depopulated.

Also in this issue, we’re proud to recognize faculty like Henry John-Alder, professor and chair of the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, and Pal Maliga, professor in the Department of Plant Biology, who were recently elevated to the rank of Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a top national association that selects its Fellows based on their efforts in advancing science or fostering applications considered “scientifically or socially distinguished.”

Over the last month, we’ve enjoyed our usual season of celebration on campus where students and faculty, as well as the staff who ably support them, proudly receive accolades for a job well done. On April 25, we marked the 24th anniversary of the Celebration of Excellence. This event recognizes and salutes some of the finest work of our faculty and staff, as well as identifies the faculty member to be named Teacher of the Year, a highly anticipated award announced by members of the Cook Chapter of the Fraternity of Alpha Zeta—the national collegiate honor and service society for agriculture.

On May 12, students and faculty participated in the traditional Baccalaureate ceremony, the final gathering of the Class of 2017 before University Commencement and our School’s Convocation. During the ceremony, we follow the time-honored tradition of the candlelight walk around Passion Puddle followed by a champagne toast. We imagine that students and parents alike meet this day with a mixture of relief and excitement…that graduation is almost here!

The pinnacle of our season of celebration is, of course, our School Convocation, where we applaud our faculty for their role in teaching and inspiring yet another generation of graduates, and, in turn, individually recognize the young men and women who make up the graduating class and Rutgers’ newest alumni.

I invite you—alumni, donors, and friends of the School—to stay connected in person through our annual campus celebrations or on social media, including our newly launched Instagram account. We’d love to get your feedback about Explorations, now published for the past two years. Let us know how we’re doing by visiting discovery.rutgers.edu.

Executive Dean, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Passion Puddle Through the Seasons

Post your favorite Passion Puddle photos and tag us @RutgersSEBS
The next time you visit the George H. Cook Campus, take a drive down College Farm Road. You’ll notice it peeking above the trees, a white globe hovering above the farms and foliage. It’s the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences’ newest technological resident: a cutting-edge Doppler radar called StormTracker 4.

Back in 2015, Rutgers was approached by NBC 4 New York with an interesting proposal. The network needed a location for its new Doppler weather radar, one that was within the New York metropolitan area but not in the city proper, where buildings and other considerations can interfere with radar coverage. NBC was also interested in partnering with a university, and Rutgers houses the only program in New Jersey that meets federal requirements for meteorology. Would the G. H. Cook Campus be interested in making a home for StormTracker 4?

Rutgers and SEBS were interested, but there had to be an academic purpose behind bringing StormTracker 4 to campus. As it turns out, explains Anthony Broccoli, chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences, this was an easy one: having a radar of this caliber on site is a tremendous learning opportunity for students.

**OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND**

With StormTracker 4 on campus, students will have access to its data in their classes and get hands-on experience about how radar works that will complement the instruction they get on the theory of how radar works. “The information they would have had access to previously is information that anyone can get on the internet,” Broccoli explains. “And while that information is wonderful, it’s not quite the same as having a radar locally.”

In the classroom, courses that focus on radar and remote sensing previously relied on examples from other systems. But there is no substitute for being able to see something this powerful in action, right here on campus, in different weather situations. Plus, students will be able to experience first-hand the different modes of operation allowed by a sophisticated radar like this. Broccoli imagines that StormTracker 4 will also open doors for meteorological research at the university.
both at the undergraduate and graduate level.

WeatherWatcher, a partnership between the School’s meteorology program and RU-tv, especially stands to benefit since a main component of it is that students are taught to produce daily weather forecasts and full-length science shows for the campus television station. Now, in addition to the video, sound, and editing equipment they learn to use, students will have access to the radar data from StormTracker 4 and broadcast their reports using this real-time data. RU-tv viewers, too, will benefit from the reports generated by the new imaging.

Having this kind of technology on campus also opens doors for Rutgers students once they leave, beginning with the fact that they’ll be able to add this hands-on experience to their resumes and audition reels. From data access to networking opportunities that may arise from this partnership, the StormTracker 4 is bringing more than a new piece of equipment to campus, says Broccoli: “It’s paving the way for a range of opportunities for our students down the road.”

The decision to bring this technology to Rutgers was also a win for NBC. “Supporting science education and cultivating a lifelong interest in weather are important to NBC 4 New York and Telemundo 47,” says a network spokesperson. “Through this unique partnership, our stations have a great opportunity to collaborate with a new generation of scientists and weather experts.”

And for the public? Anyone locally who depends on NBC’s media outlets for news—through their televisions or through a mobile application—will benefit from this radar. “For alumni,” Broccoli adds, “it’s the pride in knowing that this is right here on the Rutgers campus and students from our university are having opportunities they may not have otherwise had.”
Final exams, balancing work and play, and living away from home for the first time are just a few of the challenges common to college life. However, the students on these pages represent some of the strongest of our graduates: the ones who faced additional hurdles—from paying for college on their own to navigating life as an immigrant to taking on colossal home life responsibilities—and rose to meet them. Cheers to them, and to the whole Class of 2017.

The Early Bird

Brayden Donnelly started reaching out to School advisers nine months before he even arrived on campus. Having gone through the transfer process once before—transferring from the University of Rhode Island to Brookdale Community College—he knew he needed to get his ducks in a row if he wanted to graduate on time with a degree in environmental policy, institutions, and behavior. What he didn’t know was that his diligence would actually enable him to graduate early.

A bonus of his early graduation is that he also has a head start on his career, having landed a position overseeing the design and voice of internal and external communications for a green building consulting firm.

“My father is a park superintendent, so I spent my whole life in parks and camping on the weekends. My job is about taking the passion I have for the environment and bringing it to the urban age,” he says. “This is about taking my major and combining it with technical skills to communicate its importance to a wider range of people.”

The Steadfast Son

Holding a job, keeping up with extracurriculars, and building a resume are typical distractions for most college students. But Kevin Tveter had an additional responsibility, and one that could have derailed his studies: being the full-time and primary caretaker of his mother, who suffers from chronic illness. He’s responsible for her daily care, which includes everything from driving her to doctor’s appointments to grocery shopping for the household. It could have been a roadblock for him. “It’s the mental stress of worrying about your parent while you’re at school,” he says of the challenge. “But it’s also the stress of the time commitment it takes away from my studies.”

Instead, Tveter rose to the challenge, choosing to live at home so he could be available to help his mom, commuting to and from campus, and ultimately graduating magna cum laude from the undergraduate food science program. “The way I cope is by accepting who I am and my challenges, and being open about them to the people around me,” he says. “I found that people more often than not respond with care, and that has enabled me to perform at the level I do.”

Indeed, today he works in a lab at the Rutgers Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health, studying the effects of grape polyphenols on metabolic syndrome. “No matter what sets
The Newcomer

When she moved to America at age 16, Ankita Gupta, a self-described extrovert, thought her new high school wouldn’t be so different from the one she left behind in India. “My mom and I traveled a lot, so I thought it would be easy, but I had a harder time adjusting than I expected,” she says. “First, I had a hard time making friends. But the education system was different, too—in India, it’s very theoretical. Here, it’s more practical; for example, we didn’t have labs. So it was a challenge.”

When she decided to come to Rutgers, she also decided to start with a clean slate. And she parlayed her love of animals—one that took root in India, where she cared for stray dogs—into an animal science major and a goal of becoming a veterinarian. Beginning in her first year, she started working in the lab, contributing to several projects and even authoring a study that’s been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. This fall, she’ll take her pick of veterinary schools. “I had this idea that researchers are isolated in a lab all day,” she says. “But my mentors in this department showed me that I want to be a veterinarian but also pursue research as well.”

This story gets even better. Mom Bela works at Rutgers as a library associate, going to graduate school part-time. Both she and Ankita graduate in May 2017.

The Mentoring Maven

Naomi Watkins-Granville, biology major, always found the term “full-time student” to be ironic: “I am a full-time student,” she says, “but I’m also a 15- to 20-hour-a-week employee.” Holding down two jobs while balancing a full-time course load was rough, but this aspiring doctor let a goal-oriented philosophy guide her time: “If I needed to spend time away from the books and working, I wanted to make sure that the time I was spending away from school was going to help me in the future by being tailored to my career goals or major.”

For three years—first year through junior year—she worked at a local New Brunswick hospital, and during her senior year, she landed a job at the Sea Level Research Lab in the Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences. All the while, she also worked as a biology tutor and mentor for low-income and first-generation students. By her senior year, she became the academic coach, which entailed overseeing all the biology tutors, holding office hours, hosting weekly study groups, and offering round-the-clock support in a subject many students find difficult.

“I think these students just need someone to tell them they can do it—I know I did,” she says. “I struggled a lot in college but I made it. I know they have a lot of doubt being here, but to see someone who’s done it and comes from the same place as they did is really important. At the same time, it reassures me of my capabilities so I can enter my next chapter with confidence.”

The Trailblazers

Amber Betances and Breanna Robles had just finished their junior year in the Department of Landscape Architecture when they each received an interesting email: the department was launching a new joint undergraduate and graduate program that would enable students to earn both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in landscape architecture in five years of full-time enrollment, rather than the normal six. Would they want to apply? It didn’t take much time for them to decide the answer was yes.

“We were two of three students to come from the undergraduate program into this new track,” Betances says. “There were some growing pains as we got used to the graduate-level classes, and our professors and advisers wanted a lot of feedback along the way.”

Both students credit their existing relationships with faculty with helping them get through the challenges of being the first students in a new program: “We had such a great support system in each other but also in the professors,” Robles says. “We had a history with them, so it was great to be able to go into their offices and talk things out, even if we didn’t have a class with them that semester.”
Every year, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) names its newest Fellows: researchers from around the world who have been nominated by their peers for their outstanding scientific work. Fellows are recognized for achievements across disciplines, from research and teaching to technology and administration. This year, 10 Rutgers faculty members were honored with the title, two of whom hail from the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences: Henry B. John-Alder of the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, and Pal Maliga of the Department of Plant Biology.

These newest Fellows are two in a 22-strong contingent of AAAS Fellows at the School. Joining this elite club means they gain access to annual programs and meetings, from speeches and symposia to conferences and other events. It also places them squarely within a network of exceptional scientists. But for SEBS, having such a strong representation of Fellows is a recognition of excellence as a school, especially because the majority of nominations for an individual must originate from members not affiliated with the nominee’s institution.

“One thing this means is that we have a strong contingent of senior faculty who are widely recognized across the nation as having done distinguished work, and it’s a select group,” says Executive Dean Bob Goodman. “The other significant point that this speaks to is the breadth of excellence in the School, having been recognized across various areas like microbiology, atmospheric sciences, ocean studies, agriculture, environmental sociology, and others.”

Goodman estimates that about eight percent of the association’s total membership have been recognized as AAAS Fellows. At our School, that percentage jumps to about 10—a bit above the national average. And it’s no coincidence, as over the course of the past 10 years, SEBS has made significant investments in the faculty, allowing each professor and researcher to pursue the kind of work worthy of recognition by organizations like AAAS.

Paying Dividends

“it starts the day that we issue an announcement of an opening for faculty recruitment, and it’s an ongoing academic lifetime process that we try to provide from that point on,” says Goodman of the School’s commitment to faculty support.

Indeed, its investment in its faculty begins with startup packages to get new professors and researchers up and running in the lab—often including a budget to renovate lab spaces—and pairing new hires with a mentor, particularly in their pre-tenure years. But it doesn’t end there. In order to facilitate grant applications, the School recently opened a special office that helps faculty hone their federal grant-writing skills to earn funding from
federa from other agencies. “We also do our best to create an academic and scholarly community, recruiting excellent students for them to teach,” Goodman adds. “Of course, all of this is a big investment, but it’s at the core of what we do.”

The result? More than 100 new hires over the course of the past 10 years, with about half of those new hires being women. “We have made a major reinvestment in faculty over the last decade,” says Goodman. “That changes the context for everyone already here and enriches the environment for everyone.”

What is the AAAS?

AAAS is a nonprofit organization that dates back to the 1800s. On paper, its goal is to advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world. In practice, it does so by enhancing communication among its members, strengthening support for the sciences, promoting science in public policy, diversifying the workforce, publishing a family of scientific journals, and more. Its membership hails from nearly 100 countries.

In order to become a Fellow, AAAS members must be nominated by either the association’s steering groups, the CEO, or any three previously elected Fellows as long as two of the three are not affiliated with the nominee’s institution. Fellows must have been an AAAS member for four years, and they’re considered based on their top 10 most significant publications, CVs, and letters of recommendation. To become a Fellow, nominees must ultimately receive a majority vote by the steering committee.

Meet the Newest Members

Pal Maliga
Department of Plant Biology and the Waksman Institute of Microbiology

Pal Maliga’s (pictured left) research focuses on plastids, double-membraned organelles found in plant cells that are necessary for a range of life processes. The best-known plastids—chloroplasts—convert sunlight into chemical energy.

In the 1990s, Maliga and his team at Rutgers developed the technology of chloroplast transformation in tobacco plants, which uniformly alters thousands of plastid genome copies in a cell. This has led to an explosion of research concerning the chloroplast genome’s role in photosynthesis, functional analysis of plastid genes by reverse genetics, and mechanisms of plastid gene regulation.

“IT sounds very abstract but it’s become very important because this is the key to engineering photosynthesis,” Maliga explains. “What photosynthesis does is convert sunlight energy into biomass. This conversion is what sustains life on Earth.” Maliga estimates that if there are currently about 7.5 billion people on Earth and by 2100 there will be about 9.5 billion people, we need to produce twice the amount of grain we do now in order to live better and eat meat amidst a population boom. “To achieve this without increasing the land under cultivation,” he explains, “we need to improve the efficiencies of crops to transform sunlight into biomass.” Indeed, the ultimate goal is to replace native chloroplast DNA with engineered forms and add in new functions to enhance crop productivity for future generations.

Henry B. John-Alder
Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources

A self-described evolutionary and ecological physiologist, Henry John-Alder’s (pictured right) research is generally focused on how animals manage to work and succeed, how they maintain themselves and reproduce in the face of environmental challenges, and how they have evolved to meet these challenges over time.

His most highly cited work surrounds the effects of temperature on the exercise capacities of animals. According to John-Alder, animals either need to maintain a fairly constant temperature or have mechanisms to cope with variations. One of the strategies that evolved is warm-bloodedness, or using metabolism to generate heat and maintain a constant warm temperature. The downside is that this is very expensive energetically and requires that animals eat a large volume of food. Cold-blooded animals, on the other hand, were the subject of John-Alder’s work, in which he examined why even they prefer to be active at a warmer temperature.

He has since turned his attention to the way hormones regulate energy and impact body size in lizards and is involved in a large-scale genomic analysis of testosterone’s impact on growth. And most of the work he’s done has been right in Rutgers’ home state of New Jersey, in the Pinelands. “There’s something about the environment of the lab versus the field that changes the responsiveness to hormonal manipulation,” he says. “A lab is advantageous because you can, obviously, control anything you want. But in the lab you cannot replicate mother nature, which causes animals to respond differently. My feeling is that if you want to know how animals respond, you need to analyze them in the field where they live.”
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than one-third of American adults are obese and about 17 percent of kids are obese—that’s about 12.7 million children and adolescents nationwide. Further, as of the CDC’s last count in 2016, more than 29 million Americans are living with diabetes, and a whopping 86 million have prediabetes.

At SEBS, the Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health (IFNH) is leveraging the university’s expertise in a variety of areas—100 members from 28 departments to be exact—to put the latest research to work in the service of these and other health problems at the forefront of our society. And its newest addition, a technology called SHIME, has the capability to completely transform researchers’ understanding of the human gut and its impact on such diseases.

Short for Simulator of Human Intestinal Microbial Ecosystem, SHIME is a sophisticated piece of technology that recently found a home at the IFNH. On lease from a Belgian company called ProDigest, SHIME is a platform for studying microbial, physical, and chemical processes in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract.

“It’s as close as you can get to mimicking the actual conditions in the human gastrointestinal system,” explains Michael Chikindas, director of the IFNH Center for Digestive Health and professor of microbiology in the Department of Food Science. Specifically, researchers can mimic conditions in the stomach, small intestine, and colon, while controlling various parameters from pH to temperature. Experiments and controls are run side by side, and researchers can monitor changes in real time as they happen.

What this means is that SHIME can minimize or eliminate the need for animal studies and, because it is so similar to what’s observed in human subjects, it can help researchers move projects quickly from lab to human clinical trials. The result? The kind of research that can make a difference in people’s lives.

“The translational research possibilities are truly endless,” says Chikindas.

For example, SHIME enables researchers to study drugs like they never have before, by looking at the efficacy of different drugs in the GI tract and seeing the real life kinetics of drug delivery throughout the system and whether it’s stable along the way. They can see if and how different substances influence and impact the gut and whether those impacts are positive or negative. And they can see how natural products can enhance the activity of already existing medical formulations.

The implications for human health extend to understanding the changes in microbiota that occur when the body is disordered in some way, for example, when the body experiences obesity or diabetes. “We are planning to study the influence of plant-derived bioactives on the gut microbiota of preschool children with a predisposition for obesity,” explains Chikindas, using something called Baby SHIME, which mimics the gut microbiome of children from infancy on. “If we can modulate the gut microbiota in scientifically sound ways in children who may become obese, imagine the potential impact for future generations,” he adds.

Further research can inform IFNH scientists about how the gut may impact diabetes and Crohn’s disease—the list is endless because SHIME is so flexible that it can mimic the microbiome of a range of subjects including healthy and disordered adults, children, and even animals.

Chikindas and Maria Falduto, a postdoctoral associate at the IFNH, both received intense training from ProDigest in Belgium and at the IFNH labs in order to use this new technology. Now, they are looping students in on the action, with four currently working with the SHIME system. “Rutgers is a research university, and the important thing about research universities is that students are learning not only in the classroom, but also through actual participation in a variety of research projects from the undergraduate through graduate level,” says Chikindas. Hands-on education—a proud Rutgers tradition.
It’s a poison naturally found in castor beans. It’s viable in powders, pellets, and water-based mists. If inhaled, ingested, or injected, it can cause death in merely 36 hours. And, there’s no known antidote, inhibitor, or vaccine should someone be exposed.

“Ricin is one of the most potent toxins known,” explains distinguished professor of plant biology Nilgun Tumer, who recently earned a grant of over $2 million from the National Institutes of Health to study the ricin intoxication pathway and identify inhibitors that can impede its activity. What makes ricin so dangerous is that it binds tightly to the ribosome ultimately causing cell death, so Tumer’s research focuses on preventing or reversing this binding.

In the new grant, she will utilize peptide arrays and a technology called fragment-based lead discovery (FBLD) to discover inhibitors of ricin. “We are using new approaches to identify the inhibitors,” she says. “The goal is to use this information and the compounds we identify, whether it’s the peptide or a fragment, and convert them into potent therapeutics against ricin toxin in the future.”

Ultimately, Tumer hopes her findings can provide new information about the mechanism by which ricin binds to ribosomes and destroys them: What is the recognition event? What is the sequence? What are the key components of the ribosome that lead to such tight binding with ricin? Her research may hold the key to future therapeutic applications.

A New Endowed Chair, A New Frontier

For Liping Zhao, world renowned researcher and the School’s new Douglas and Linda Evelleigh and Dennis and Linda Fenton Endowed Chair in Applied Microbiology, the study of the human microbiome brings to mind the Indian parable of the blind men and the elephant: in the story, each blind man touches and studies a different part of the elephant but, because they do not communicate with one another, they come to be in complete disagreement about the animal as a whole. This, he says, represents the historical limitations of biomedical research, in which each area has been largely independent of the others. The study of the microbiome, he believes, has the capability to break the mold.

“By definition, the study of the human microbiome needs to be collaborative,” he says. “The blind men in the parable didn’t talk to each other. It is my goal to help create the conceptual framework so that we can all work on the same elephant, so to speak, and communicate about the totality of the system.”

Zhao’s part of the elephant is the gut microbiome, and his research has centered on how diet and gut microbiota influence chronic diseases like obesity and type 2 diabetes. “The beauty of microbiome research on human microbiota is that it’s basic research, but it’s also translational and translatable,” he says. “We are understanding why gut bacteria can make people obese and develop diabetes, but we can also change the diets of these people to restore their gut to a healthy structure.” Indeed, translational applications of his research can run the gamut from nutritional guidelines to developing better or new food to prevent disease onset.

“When you work on the microbiome, you must bring all kinds of expertise on board,” he says. “That’s why this area of study is so powerful, and has the capability to transform the whole landscape of biomedical research.”
Download this image of Passion Puddle
Post your favorite Passion Puddle
Puddle at discovery.rutgers.edu. photos and tag us @RutgersSEBS.
“Jersey Fresh” doesn’t end at the water’s edge here in the Garden State

If New Jersey’s 720,000 acres of farmland are enough to classify it as the Garden State, what do we make of its 120 miles of coastline, 420 miles of open estuary and bay waters, and 661,000 acres of freshwater wetlands?

Thanks to the efforts of several Rutgers researchers and extension specialists at the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, aquaculture—in this case, breeding and farming shellfish—just may be the new frontier.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET

Breaking into the oyster and shellfish market in New Jersey is a difficult feat, explains Lisa Calvo, aquaculture extension program coordinator. First, aspiring oyster farmers need to gain access to a harvesting area, which is impeded by the fact that the state’s current system is a leasing program with many of the leases already spoken for—especially in waters that are deemed to be of high enough quality for harvesting.

Provided that the harvester can secure a lease in a safe area, there’s a whole series of permitting that needs to take place from up to nine different agencies (“There are a lot of hoops to jump through,” Calvo says, “and it’s not an easy thing to do.”). Plus, there’s a bit of a public relations problem that shellfish aquaculture faces in that it doesn’t conjure up the bucolic images that field farming does.

But shellfish farming may be on the precipice of a reputation turnaround, since it’s one of the most environmentally friendly food production systems in the world, Calvo says. “Shellfish filter water, so they cycle nutrients to bottom systems,” she explains. “Their shells provide excellent habitat for other critters to settle on, and that’s important for the ecosystem. And, even though aquaculture is happening in a contained system, the oysters are placed in cages in the open bay so there are no antibiotics, and all you’re doing is protecting the young oysters from predators and maintaining them in a way that they have room to grow and be consistent in shape, size, and quality.” That consistency gives them high value in the marketplace, she notes.

In order to apply Rutgers’ expertise to this burgeoning market, Calvo and her colleagues have invested significant time into working with state and local officials, agency stakeholders, and shellfish growers to address current policy barriers. The result? New bills signed into law that streamline state rules for aquaculture farming and aim to create a one-stop shop for project permits. But there is more work to be done.

“‘It’s a positive trajectory, but there’s work to be done,’” Calvo says. “‘We are bringing as much science as we can to bear on these critical issues.’

POPULATION CONTROL

Maintaining a robust aquaculture industry is also dependent on maintaining a robust oyster population. And Rutgers has played various roles in this area for the better part of 70 years.

In the 1950s, local fishermen concerned with overharvesting approached the university to help assess oyster populations. At that time,
Harold Haskin, for whom the laboratory is named, decided on a 40 percent rule: essentially, if farmers pulled in a harvest with fewer than 40 percent live oysters, it was time to stop. Today’s system, also informed by Rutgers population assessment, is a bit different.

“We have what we call a total allowable catch, or fixed quota, and once that number is caught by however many fishermen are active, they have to stop,” explains David Bushek, director of the lab. “This means that it’s in everyone’s best interest to increase the overall population of oysters, because it would raise the quota.”

One way Rutgers helps boost populations is through partnering with farmers to return the shells back to the water, which helps put these crucial habitats back into the environment where more can grow. But another way is through breeding, both for disease resistance and for better meat quantity.

According to Ximing Guo, professor of shellfish genetics and breeding, just two diseases—MSX and Dermo—could wipe out up to 90 percent of oysters. Dermo, in particular, is a concern since warming waters and milder winters could move this southern-based disease up the coast. So far, two new oyster strains have been bred at Rutgers to address these diseases, and further genetic improvement is constantly underway.

“Breeding for disease resistance is a big part of the program,” says Guo. “But the other part is trying to breed an oyster that can grow faster and meatier.”

The way that breeders have done this is by developing oysters that have three sets of chromosomes—called triploids—rather than two sets, as they are found in nature. The triploid was invented by Standish Allen while he was still a graduate student in the late 1970s (he came to Rutgers in 1988 and is currently on the faculty at William & Mary). The advantage of triploids, explains Guo, is that “they are sterile, so they use all their energy to grow instead of using energy to reproduce.” The result is a meatier oyster in the summer when, otherwise, they’d be thin and watery after reproducing. “So that’s a great thing for oyster farmers,” says Guo, and indeed, most oyster bars today prefer a triploid. And, because the triploid is infertile, it doesn’t have the capability to replace the wild stock.

Haskin Lab researchers took this one step further to develop a tetraploid oyster, which contains four sets of chromosomes. This variant is fertile and, when crossed with a regular oyster, can actually produce an infertile triploid. “This was a whole new way to make a triploid,” explains Guo. “The next step was merging these two technologies—disease resistance and meat quantity. Today, oyster farmers are using a disease-resistant triploid that can survive better and grow faster.”

WHO OWNS THE WATER?

In America, the public trust doctrine dictates that the government has an obligation to manage certain natural and cultural resources—including, for many states, coastline and tidal waters—on behalf of the people, regardless of private property ownership. According to Bonnie McCay, professor emerita and Board of Governors distinguished professor in the Department of Human Ecology, this doctrine actually grew out of battles between New Jersey and New York oystermen over who controlled the waters. “In the 19th century, people imagined New Jersey being one great oyster farm because the conditions seemed to be perfect for it: the natural conditions were good, and we had this huge population of shellfish eaters nearby that would provide markets for this,” she explains. “It didn’t quite work out that way.”

The technical problems associated with transplanting oysters to New Jersey were just the beginning. Wars and raids between the planters who wanted private property control and the wild catchers put a clear damper on the imagined oyster paradise. The good news? “That’s really the basis of public rights to the beaches and fishing,” McCay explains, “and the constraints that exist on property owners to claim ownership of beaches and water.”

Oyster Wars and the Public Trust is one of three books authored by McCay on the ownership issue.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over the past 23 years, nearly 25,000 researchers have studied oysters. These studies were analyzed in a paper recently published in Aquaculture International, and the authors concluded that senior faculty member Ximing Guo and Haskin Lab director David Bushek were among the top 20 most productive authors overall. Today, the oyster researchers at Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory have propelled Rutgers to number three among the top 10 most productive oyster research institutions in the world.
Fast Track
Young Alumni on the Move!

In this issue, Explorations introduces a new feature: “Fast Track,” profiles of recent graduates who have launched successful careers and may well be on their way to making headlines for their work. The editors posed a series of questions about how their Rutgers experience influenced their lives. Here are some of their answers.

Q&A

Wm. Christopher Alston
CC’10, Meteorology

I started my career at Weather Works LLC as a weather forecaster, following a post-undergraduate research internship at Colorado State University. Five years ago, I joined Mars, a global food company with iconic brands such as M&M’s, Snickers, Skittles, and Pedigree. I work within the risk management group to understand the factors that affect commodity prices. One of the primary factors we examine is the impact that weather has on the crops and other raw materials that go into making our products. I’m currently located at the Mars Petcare office in Nashville, Tennessee.

Q: How did Rutgers contribute to your success in your career?
A: There are not many universities that offer meteorology as a degree program. I feel that the education I received from a university as reputable as Rutgers has certainly helped me. Additionally, I was able to utilize a few alumni as resources in my early job search. These individuals were able to offer advice beyond what is learned in the classroom, particularly related to having success in the workplace.

Q: What memories of college do you hold dear?
A: I was a Scarlet Ambassador during my junior and senior years and enjoyed giving tours. The friendships and relationships that I made are what I hold most dear, but I do miss PJ’s pizza and $4 Fat Sandwiches.

Q: What is your favorite motivational quote?
A: Jackie Robinson once said that “a life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.” As a Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholar, Class of 2010, this is something I live by. I truly believe in giving back and paying it forward. I do a lot of mentoring through the American Meteorological Society’s Board for Private Sector Meteorologists that I chaired in 2016. I am currently mentoring a senior at Rutgers in the meteorology program.

Q: What challenges did you face?
A: Landing that first job in meteorology is a challenge. For me, my willingness to take anything remotely related to my field, even if it wasn’t my “dream job,” allowed me to gain key experience that helped me to stand out amongst my peers.

Q: What is your next step? What can we look forward to?
A: My role has a lot of elements beyond my core expertise in weather, mainly involving risk management and broader business applications. I am interested in international business, more specifically how a growing business can be successful when moving into new markets.

Q: What gives you the most pride about being a Rutgers graduate?
A: I am proudest of the fact that there are thousands of successful Rutgers alumni using their education to do good things for the planet and its people. My education has given me the ammunition to effect change and make the world a better place—and that is what I intend to do.
I am the CEO of Plan A, Inc., a firm that designs and oversees the creation of science museums and exhibits, which I started in February 2016. Plan A created Insectarium and Butterfly Pavilion, Inc., a new science museum in Philadelphia, and I am the CEO there as well.

Q: How did Rutgers contribute to your success in your career?
A: I started my first companies when I was an undergrad at Rutgers. I got some friends together and created an organization called The Hands, which ran events and helped all of us pay our rent. Later when I was running several graduate student organizations, I learned new ways to apply for funding, manage budgets, and coordinate cooperative group projects.

Q: What challenges did you face?
A: Due to complicated circumstances, I needed to start Plan A, Inc. four months before I defended my Ph.D. so it ended up being a very interesting time. Early mornings were for interviewing potential Plan A interns, late mornings were spent finishing up my research data analysis, afternoons were for writing my dissertation, and by evening I was working on design contracts and insurance policies.

Q: Does a pivotal, “ah-ha” moment come to mind when you look back on your time at Rutgers?
A: I was meeting with some potential investors to go over a loan I badly needed early on in July 2016, and I was really nervous. Then I remembered sitting in the Blake Hall library looking at my Ph.D. committee members when I was taking my qualifying exam and being really, really, really nervous. Suddenly, the investor meeting just didn’t seem nearly as scary. And then later when I didn’t get the loan, I thought back to my research projects. They never went according to plan or worked on the first try. So I didn’t get too upset about the loan; I just kept working and figured out a way around it.

Q: What memories of college do you hold dear?
A: I spent three summers hanging out in peach orchards conducting 24-hour studies on stink bug activity, and I had large teams of interns and undergraduate researchers helping me. At night after the university staff would leave the research farms, it was just us there. Between the research trials (which were every three hours), we built water slides, catapults, and zip lines, and played massive numbers of games and pranks and, indeed, participated in all the shenanigans you can fathom. I can’t think of a more enjoyable way to have gotten my degree.

Q: What is your favorite motivational quote?
A: “Make it happen.”

Q: What is your next step? What can we look forward to?
A: I have about eight months of work left on the museum in Philadelphia before I move on from there. Eventually, I would like to finish planning a science theme park I call The Hive, but for right now I think New York City is the next move. I recently started a non-profit called Operation Monarch that I want to get moving, too.

Q: What gives you the most pride about being a Rutgers graduate?
A: Rutgers has made it very easy to connect with the alumni in a myriad of different industries. I really like being part of a massive, well-respected network.

Megan Linkin
CC’04, Meteorology and Mathematics

I work for Swiss Re, a large global reinsurer, in our Global Partnerships team, which focuses on developing insurance solutions for government clients. I’ve been working in the insurance industry since I finished graduate school in 2008. The insurance industry is very vibrant with opportunities in many different areas of expertise. Whether you study climate change, computer science, business, or pre-med, the insurance industry has a role for you! However, there is a perception problem that is affecting our recruiting the next generation of talent. We need to do a better job at selling the exciting careers that the insurance industry has to offer, and that is why we are part of an industry-wide movement called Insurance Careers Month.

Q: How did Rutgers contribute to your success in your career?
A: Cook College, as SEBS was called at the time, fostered an environment where you could grow and enhance your leadership skills by participating in Cook College Council (CCC), Student Orientation Ambassadors, Alpha Zeta, and other student organizations. During my time at Cook, I was the meteorology representative to the CCC during my junior and senior years, and the Chancellor of Alpha Zeta in 2003. My participation in these organizations allowed me to hone my leadership skills, listening skills, and public speaking skills, which have served me well in my career.
On a personal note, it was my undergraduate adviser, Alan Robock, suggesting my name to The New York Times for one of their Young Professionals profiles, that led me to meet the man who is now my husband!

**Q:** What challenges did you face?

**A:** I received my Ph.D. in 2008 from the University of Maryland in atmospheric and oceanic science, and about three months before graduation, I realized I didn’t want to go into research or academia. I spent significant time doing some soul searching. I was very lucky to find an industry where I could both apply my skills and build new skills in business and economics.

**Q:** Does a pivotal, “ah-ha” moment come to mind when you look back on your time at Rutgers?

**A:** I’m not sure there’s just one moment; I was very fortunate to have wonderful deans at Cook and professors in my program who convinced me—no matter what career path I chose—to make a difference in the world.

**Q:** What memories of college do you hold dear?

**A:** So many. Rutgers and Cook hold such a special place in my heart. I am fortunate to have kept in touch with many friends from college, both near and far. Even the ones who I don’t see often, when we see each other, we pick up right where we left off.

**Q:** What is your favorite motivational quote?

**A:** “To those whom much is given, much is expected.”

**Q:** What is your next step? What can we look forward to?

**A:** I hope to continue to grow my business skills and knowledge at Swiss Re and in the insurance industry. There are so many interesting topics that the insurance industry is working on: renewable energy, food security, self-driving cars, smart homes. I also hope to work more on environmental advocacy; climate change and the environment are important topics for me.

**Marc Valitutto**
**CC’02, Animal Science**

I am a zoo/wildlife veterinarian, my profession since 2007 after I graduated from veterinary school in 2006 from the University of Pennsylvania. In July 2016, I took a position with the Smithsonian doing global wildlife field work. Right now I am in Myanmar for the Global Health Program of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute/National Zoo.

**Q:** What is your favorite motivational quote?

**A:** “To those whom much is given, much is expected.”

**Q:** What memories of college do you hold dear?

**A:** So many. Rutgers and Cook hold such a special place in my heart. I am fortunate to have kept in touch with many friends from college, both near and far. Even the ones who I don’t see often, when we see each other, we pick up right where we left off.

**Q:** What is your favorite motivational quote?

**A:** “To those whom much is given, much is expected.”

**Q:** What is your next step? What can we look forward to?

**A:** I hope to continue to grow my business skills and knowledge at Swiss Re and in the insurance industry. There are so many interesting topics that the insurance industry is working on: renewable energy, food security, self-driving cars, smart homes. I also hope to work more on environmental advocacy; climate change and the environment are important topics for me.

**Marc Valitutto**
**CC’02, Animal Science**

I am a zoo/wildlife veterinarian, my profession since 2007 after I graduated from veterinary school in 2006 from the University of Pennsylvania. In July 2016, I took a position with the Smithsonian doing global wildlife field work. Right now I am in Myanmar for the Global Health Program of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute/National Zoo.

**Q:** What memories of college do you hold dear?

**A:** So many. Rutgers and Cook hold such a special place in my heart. I am fortunate to have kept in touch with many friends from college, both near and far. Even the ones who I don’t see often, when we see each other, we pick up right where we left off.

**Q:** What is your favorite motivational quote?

**A:** “To those whom much is given, much is expected.”

**Q:** What is your next step? What can we look forward to?

**A:** I hope to continue to grow my business skills and knowledge at Swiss Re and in the insurance industry. There are so many interesting topics that the insurance industry is working on: renewable energy, food security, self-driving cars, smart homes. I also hope to work more on environmental advocacy; climate change and the environment are important topics for me.

**Marc Valitutto**
**CC’02, Animal Science**

I am a zoo/wildlife veterinarian, my profession since 2007 after I graduated from veterinary school in 2006 from the University of Pennsylvania. In July 2016, I took a position with the Smithsonian doing global wildlife field work. Right now I am in Myanmar for the Global Health Program of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute/National Zoo.

**Q:** What memories of college do you hold dear?

**A:** So many. Rutgers and Cook hold such a special place in my heart. I am fortunate to have kept in touch with many friends from college, both near and far. Even the ones who I don’t see often, when we see each other, we pick up right where we left off.

**Q:** What is your favorite motivational quote?

**A:** “To those whom much is given, much is expected.”

**Q:** What is your next step? What can we look forward to?

**A:** I hope to continue to grow my business skills and knowledge at Swiss Re and in the insurance industry. There are so many interesting topics that the insurance industry is working on: renewable energy, food security, self-driving cars, smart homes. I also hope to work more on environmental advocacy; climate change and the environment are important topics for me.
FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
Colonel Henry Rutgers

Nearly half a century after Queens College was founded, the institution fell on hard times. Colonel Henry Rutgers, an esteemed officer in the Continental Army, a wealthy landowner, an important leader in the community, and a generous philanthropist, resuscitated the struggling institution with a gift of $5,000 and a bell—and you know the rest.

Fast forward 200 years. Institutions of higher learning across the country are still in need of philanthropic support. Where better to receive that support than from insiders—faculty and staff who work for the university and who know and appreciate the great work that is done through their efforts.

Two such individuals are among scores of faculty and staff who have made SEBS and Rutgers part of their philanthropic portfolio.

Loredana Quadro, associate professor in the Department of Food Science, joined Rutgers as a faculty member in 2005 and within three years signed on as a donor through the payroll deduction program. Her department had just launched a “Re-Connect with Rutgers Food Science” campaign, and Quadro embraced payroll deduction—in which a Rutgers employee can pledge an annual gift and direct the payroll office to divide the amount into bi-monthly donations—as the most efficient way to satisfy her philanthropic goals.

“I wanted to be sure that my gift was going to the department,” she says, “and I also designated a fund that supports graduate student fellowships because there is a great need in that area. Payroll deduction is the easiest way to do it. The moment you decide to give back to the institution—where I spend most of my time doing the work that I love—you are showing appreciation and supporting students and the department.”

Rutgers has played a central role in the life of Susan Becker, research assistant and teaching instructor with the Department of Animal Sciences. Her father, Seymour Becker, was a Rutgers professor for 40 years in the history department. She earned both her undergraduate (CC’85) and graduate (GSNB’92) degrees in animal science and has spent her career at the university.

After graduation, Becker started giving $25 a year to her department. “For quite a while I was reluctant to give more because I figured that as an employee, they hand you money so why would I be handing it back? But even though it was a token, I realized that if everyone did it, think of the impact it would make.”

Next, Becker took an even bigger step. She added a bequest to Rutgers in her will, which made her a member of a very special club—the Colonel Henry Rutgers Society—composed of those who wish to give after they are gone. Most recently, Becker contributed to Rutgers Gardens’ Cook’s Marketplace. She says: “I’m single, I don’t have children, and I’ve gotten to a point where I think, ‘why not?’ Giving to Rutgers now gives me an even greater sense of belonging.”

Benefiting from Philanthropy

Who benefits from the philanthropy of faculty, staff, alumni, and friends? Jose Corporan is just one of thousands.

Corporan SEBS’17 received the Anthony Nicholas Betances Scholarship for this year. He says, “I have always felt very lucky to be enrolled in such a prestigious institution in spite of the financial hardships of my family. Because of this, I have always done my best to give back to Rutgers as well as surrounding communities.”

A resident hall assistant, he mentors 200 students. This position led him to the Cook/Douglass Residential Council, which works with the City of New Brunswick to “help improve such things as sidewalks, lighting, and other important components.”

He also served as the recruitment chairperson for the Latino Student Council, meeting with high school students in inner cities to “motivate them to consider higher education as a viable option for their future.” A member of Alpha Zeta, the honor and service fraternity, he strives to make a positive impact on other people’s lives—now and after graduation.

Surely, this is in keeping with the intention of the Anthony Nicholas Betances Scholarship, named after an Alpha Zeta brother who died shortly after graduation in 1994. Through gifts from family, classmates, and friends, the scholarship supports a legacy that remains alive in such recipients as Jose Corporan.

If you are interested in making an impact through Rutgers, please contact Melissa McKillip, associate dean for philanthropy and strategic partnerships, at 848-932-4214 or melissa.mckillip@rutgers.edu

To make a gift: go.rutgers.edu/8zgznxc
Wally Kaenzig AG'42 recalls that the Class of 1942 graduated at 3 p.m. on a Sunday in April in what is now known as the old gym. The next day he went back there at 4 p.m. to enlist in the Marines along with Ron Jarvis RC'42 and the late Paul Krenicky AG'42. Upon his retirement from the military, Wally began another career as a dean of students at Atlantic Community College and, thereafter, started and operated a tree farm in south Jersey. This report was shared by Class of 1942 correspondent Berne Rolston RC'42.

Cal Moon AG'48, along with June Moon DC'50 and Bob Archibald RC'48 attended the annual Rutgers Living History Society meeting this past spring. Also attending was Class of 1948 correspondent Bart Klion RC'48 and his wife Barbara.

Richard Saacke AG'53, professor emeritus of dairy science at Virginia Tech, was inducted into the university’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Hall of Fame.

A Star-Ledger article that ranked Rutgers’ 50 greatest athletes listed Chuck Logg AG'53 and his crew mate Tom Price AG'61. The article said: “Rowing was the first organized sport at Rutgers, dating back to 1864, and in 1952 two oarsmen from the program not only qualified for the Olympics in stunning fashion, but went on to win the Olympic gold medal in Helsinki—beating the field by nearly three seconds in the final race.” The article was sent to Class of 1953 correspondent Jim Van Vliet ENG'53 by Bud Meeker AG’53 and Owen Cassidy RC'53.

James Howell, Robert Irvine and Herb Kells, all AG’56, were among 16 Class of 1956 members who attended the class reunion last spring, according to class correspondent Paul Albright RC’56.

David Blanch AG’59 attended the Rutgers University Alumni Association 2016 Alumni Reunion Weekend along with several other members of the Class of 1959. David also has attended faithfully the annual Big Ten Ag Alumni Reception in Washington, DC, every March since Rutgers was accepted into the Big Ten, and he opens his home in Maryland each summer to host incoming first-year SEBS students from the area as a kick-off celebration.

Dick Pellek AG’61 enjoyed a career as a forester that took him to 27 assignments overseas. Retired for the last four years, he writes from his home in Greenbackville, VA, a small town on the Delmarva Peninsula, that he is busy sorting out his memories and thoughts. As a peripatetic forester working in Asia, the Caribbean, East and West Africa, and here in the United States over the past 40 to 45 years, he collected and edited his notes into three books of memoirs: Afghanistan to Zambia was published in 2010; Rubrum to Zyzyphus Jujube (Volume I) was published in 2015; and Acer Acer Rubrum (Volume II) was completed in April 2016. There are also more than 320 stories on his personal blog that keep him active. His books can be found on Amazon. This report was submitted by Class of 1961 correspondent Tom Siegel RC’61.

Neil Magnus AG’70 was one of three members of the Class of 1970 to march in the reunion parade last spring, reports class correspondent George Trapp RC’70, who commented “maybe folks are storing their energy for our 50th [anniversary reunion] in three years.”

Jim Savage AG’71 reminds fellow members of the Class of 1971 that its 45th Milestone Campaign gift is the Paul Robeson Plaza to be constructed on the College Avenue Campus. More information is posted on the Rutgers University Foundation website at support.rutgers.edu/classof1971. This reminder was reported by class correspondent Ken Common RC’71.

Rick Stier AG’74 reported that he headed to Bogota, Colombia and northern China during the last quarter of 2016. He taught a food safety course in Bogota and visited apple processors in China. When he is home in Sonoma, CA, he tries to work a few days a month at the Homewood Winery. This past November, he hosted a group of Rutgers alumni on a bicycle tour.

Rob Tiedemann CC’74, GSNB ’77, ’11 and his wife, Anne Orzepowski RC’76, have lived in Boise, ID for 40 years. Anne retired from the Idaho Department of Labor and now is an elementary school art teacher.

Ed Gilman CC’75, GSNB’78, ’80 has received the International Society of Arboriculture’s Award of Merit for his service in advancing the principles, ideas, and practices of arboriculture.

Dave Horowitz CC’81 received the 2016 Technical Service Award from the Association for Dressings and Sauces, an international trade group. Dave has led clean label ingredient projects for the association for several years.
years. He is director of strategic initiatives/special projects with DuPont Nutrition and Health.

**Lewis Reich CC’84** is president of Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN. He had served as interim president since March 2015 and was officially inaugurated in May 2016; he started his first full academic year when classes began on August 29, 2016.

**Catherine Bauer MacArthur CC’90** and **Russ MacArthur RC’90** are enjoying Russ’ retirement from his position as captain with the East Brunswick Police Department. He plans a second career in executive security. They have two sons, **Russell RBSNB’15** and **Daniel SAS’20**.

**Gabriel Lerman CC’97** completed a critical care fellowship at Inspira Medical Center in Vineland, NJ, and accepted a position as a staff intensivist at the Intensivist Group. He will work at Mercy Health System in Philadelphia, PA, and St. Francis Healthcare in Wilmington, DE.

**Ahsan Jafry CC’00** was named to the Rising Stars list in the 2016 edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers and has been selected for this list for the past five years. In addition to his legal practice, which is focused on defending health care professionals and organizations in medical malpractice matters, he teaches trial advocacy at Rutgers Law School in Camden.

**Jonathan Kolby CC’03** has joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, DC. Jonathan was profiled in the Fall 2016 issue of *Explorations* for his work with amphibians, especially in the rainforests of Honduras. *National Geographic* recently published a web report on Jonathan’s work and its positive impact.

**Hasim Phillips CC’04**, Rutgers’ associate athletic director for communication, married **Catherine Hetzel RC’08** on February 20, 2016. The wedding and reception were held at Battello in Jersey City, NJ, and the Scarlet Knight was in attendance to cheer the couple on.

**Cosimo Laterza SEBS’14** is a first-year medical student at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

**Jason Rothman SEBS’15** teaches biology at Hunterdon Central Regional High School, Hunterdon County, NJ.

Two members of the SEBS Class of 2016 are reporting in: **Carol Baillie** is a physical scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and **Sakshi Gandhi** is a first-year student at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

**Madison Little SEBS’16** was recognized by President Barack Obama in his remarks at the 250th Anniversary Commencement in May 2016 for his research and advocacy in combating the AIDS epidemic in global vulnerable communities. A fourth-generation Rutgers graduate, Madison traveled to South Africa in the summer of 2016 to present his George H. Cook Honors Program thesis at the International AIDS Society conference. In the fall he began studies at the University of Oxford. His parents are **Desiree Lange Little CC’83, GSNB’85,’91** and **Timothy Little RC’78, CLAW’85**.

**GEORGE WANTS YOU**

**TELL US WHAT YOU LIKE OR DON’T LIKE, AND WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN UPCOMING ISSUES. VISIT DISCOVERY.RUTGERS.EDU AND COMPLETE THE SHORT SURVEY.**