In September 1973 when Cook College opened its doors, what few there were, students hung out at the Douglass Student Center and lived in Woodbury, a Douglass dorm. The Newell Apartments were still in their packing crates in a rail yard on Jersey Avenue in New Brunswick. There was no campus center, no Starkey Apartments, no Voorhees Dormitory. There was a lot of mud. Oh, the good old days.

Celebrating three decades of Cook College utilized the planning talents of alumni, faculty, staff and students and required more than one event. In October the Cook Parents’ Association hosted a Parent’s Day with a college history presentation by Prof. Roy DeBoer and graduate alumni were welcomed back to campus with day-long programs and awards. Students hosted “Cookstock” a food and fun fest that spilled out of the Cook/Douglass Rec Center onto the Skelley Fields (photos on page 8). Alpha Zeta dedicated a memorial wall in Martin Hall (photos on page 6). Alumnus and founding dean Charles Hess, Rutgers College ‘53, was a featured speaker at several events including the alumni association’s annual thank-you luncheon for retired faculty in December.

The presentation of the inaugural Dennis M. Fenton Awards for Distinguished Graduate Alumni. See pages 4-5.

A “Founders” reunion for the faculty, staff, and students involved in the planning and implementation of the new college and its multi-disciplinary focus on “man and his environment.” See pages 8-9.

The collection of Cook’s oral and written history was begun in earnest. Go to http://www.cook.rutgers.edu/~cookhistory/ to see the web site including a frank and enlightening account of “The Early Days.”

... “there were some skeptics who questioned the ability of the “aggies” to plan and establish a general purpose college. To preempt influence by naysayers, it was important to see the new president before he came to New Brunswick. ... The Rutgers group arrived in the afternoon and were greeted by Dr. Bloustein who was informally dressed in a sports shirt, wash pants, and sneakers. The group spent about two hours going over the Cook College proposal, why it was proposed, and gave the advantages that were envisioned for students, the university and the state. Dr. Bloustein seemed to be very interested and supportive of this new venture and promised that he would pursue the proposal when he arrived at Rutgers.”

- Charles Hess, ’53

And the rest ... as they say ... is history.
Executive Board

President
Margaret O’Donnell, ’93

Vice-president
Alan Grossman, ’82

Treasurer
Carol Broccoli, ’83

Secretary
Joan Sempkowski DeBoer, ’84

Alumni Trustee
Rutgers University

Laurel Van Leer, ’81

Chair, Cook College Council
Beth Logan, ’05

Dean of Students
Lee Schneider, ’70

Executive Dean, Cook College
Keith Cooper

Members-At-Large

Serving three-year terms

through 2004:
Herb August, ’98
Sean P. Carri, ’93
Michael Toto, ’80

through 2005:
David Earl, ’76
Robert Bonja, ’58, ’75
Ellen Lauber, ’81, ’84, ’89

through 2006:
Steve Goodman, ’76
Karen Morgan Nello, ’93
Richard Porter, ’84

Nominations for open positions are welcome. Contact cookalumni@alumni.rutgers.edu for information.

Contact Us:
Rutgers Alumni Relations Office
Cook Liaison/Keri DeMayo
7 College Avenue,
New Brunswick, NJ
(732) 932-7061 or
cookalumni@alumni.rutgers.edu

Gifts to the Cook College Alumni Association are tax exempt.

Alumni Meetings
The Executive Board of the Cook College Alumni Association meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, except during July and August. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the Cook Center and are open to all students, graduates, faculty, and others who are interested in furthering the Association’s goals of service to the Cook College community. A light dinner is served, though RSVPs are encouraged but not required. To learn about volunteer opportunities, or for more information on membership meetings or events, call (732) 932-7061.

Money may never grow on trees, but trees do grow on money — at least solid forestry research does. Two generous gifts from retired professor John Kuser and his wife Eleanor will ensure that New Jersey trees have a green and growing future. As the garden state becomes more and more urban, its tree resources become increasingly stressed. The John E. and Eleanor W. Kuser Chair in Urban Forestry, an endowed faculty position, will help the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resource preserve the urban plant landscape. A Faculty Scholar Fund in Urban Forestry is already helping support innovative research in the field. Dr. Jason Grabosky, who recently joined the Cook College faculty, is the fund’s first scholar. Grabosky is one of the nation’s foremost experts on urban forestry issues.

Kuser taught forestry at Cook for 21 years. He is a nationally recognized expert in forest ecology, urban forestry and cedar-swamp restoration. His research interests include the Atlantic white-cedar, pine, pitch pine, California coast redwood and dawn redwood. Since 1970, Kuser has owned and managed a 131-acre woodland that has been in his family since the early 1900s. The woodland has become a successful example of small forest management in a highly urbanized state. The New Jersey Tree Farm Committee has twice named Kuser Outstanding Tree Farmer.
More than 300 students participate in the Cooperative Education program each year working in part-time and full-time positions with more than 225 different employers.

If you are interested in becoming a cooperative education employer, contact Carol Martin Rutgers, Cooperative Education Program Director, 732-932-3000, ext. 523 or rutgers@cook.rutgers.edu or go to http://cook.rutgers.edu ~ coop.

**Your Benefits Include**
- Helping a Cook student start a career.
- Reconnecting to your own college days.
- Testing out a potential employee.
- Lower taxes - you do not pay N.J. Unemployment taxes for co-op education students.
- A savings on training costs if you decide to hire the cooperative education student when he/she graduates, since you train the student at a lower wage rate than you would upon his/her graduation.
- Posting a position is simple and free. As the cooperative education staff locates appropriate candidates, you will receive the students’ resumes. You decide who you want to interview.

A novel molecule extracted from licorice root can stop some cancers dead in their tracks, according to a Cook food scientist. Assistant professor Mohamed Rafi discovered the new molecule, γ-hydroxy-DHP (BHP), in common dietary supplements made from licorice root, and tested it on tissues taken from prostate and breast cancer tumors.

BHP belongs to a class of organic chemicals that includes the potential anticancer compounds found in green tea and wine. Standard chemotherapy broadly kills normal cells along with cancer cells, causing side effects such as hair loss, nausea and reduced immunities. Fortunately, BHP is very precise and works by deactivating a protein associated with tumor cells known to promote the rampant cell growth characteristic of cancer.

The ancient Greeks, Egyptians, Chinese and Hindus recognized the natural medicinal qualities of licorice. Tutankhamen was even buried with licorice root. Today, the root is a botanical ingredient in modern Chinese medicines used to manage cancers. While some previous scientific studies confirmed the wisdom of the ancients, the actual anticancer mechanisms remained a mystery until Rafi’s discovery.

**Popular Candy Flavor Fights Cancer**

Over 225 pounds of fish fried to perfection were the highlight of the Log Cabin Fish Fry and Class Reunions, celebrating alumni and friends of the classes ending in “3’s and 8’s” at the Rutgers University Foundation on July 26th.

Celebrity chef Roger Locandro ‘60, whose helpings of lobster were a hit with the guests, along with the efforts of Sal Bernardo, ‘88, who shopped for the fish himself, and the fryers at the Log Cabin and spent the day cooking. We need to recognize the efforts of Sal Bernardo, ‘88, who went to the fish market with Roger, cooked all day at the event and was responsible for the very popular home made beer everyone enjoyed so much. We also need to recognize the efforts of Bob Bonja, ‘58, a familiar name to all at Cook, but new to the ranks of volunteer. He was among the first to arrive and did everything from unloading cars, to stuffing the pinata with candy to cooking. Anyone who is willing to take out the garbage also needs special recognition, so to MaryLou and David Earl, ‘96, Sean Carr, ‘93, and Alan Grossman, ‘82, thank you for comprising the very unpopular clean up crew.

All are welcome at Cook reunions, so we hope to see some of the same faces in July. As this reunion continues to evolve into a full weekend event, you can look forward to the addition of Friday night availability in the Newells. We will also be entertaining other suggestions from this year’s attendees, and look forward to the input of the 4’s and 9’s classes to make your reunion YOUR reunion.

-- Margaret O’Donnell, ‘93, President

**Save the Date**

**Fish Fry and Class Reunions**

Saturday July 31

Newell Apartments available July 30, 31

**Fun, Friends, and Family**

Rafael Chapman, ‘81, and friend (right)

Sal Bernardo, ‘88, and son (left)
The Dennis M. Fenton Award for Distinguished Graduate Alumni will be awarded annually by the Cook College Alumni Association. Dr. Fenton earned a B.S. from Cook in 1973 and a Ph.D. in microbiology in 1977. He went on to become the vice-President of Amgen, a leading biotechnology company. He has been a strong supporter of graduate education at Cook College and Rutgers University, and in 2001 created the college’s first endowed professorship in honor of his mentor, Professor Douglas Eveleigh. The Cook College Alumni Association is proud to recognize these outstanding contributions to through the naming of this award.

Fenton Award recipients are alumni of the Graduate School of New Brunswick who earned an advanced degree from a department or discipline currently, or historically, associated with Cook College. The award was inaugurated in 2003 in conjunction with the celebration of the Graduate School’s 50 anniversary and to recognize a new membership group into of Cook alumni. For the first time, graduate alumni in Cook-related areas are eligible for membership.

Fenton Award Nominations may be sent to Fenton Awards Committee, Cook Alumni Association, 7 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 or to cookalumni@alumni.rutgers.edu
Please include a letter of recommendation noting the nominee’s major achievements, a current resume or C.V. and other supporting documentation as available.

Remember 1973?

Australians develop the “pop-top” can ... Richard Nixon releases Watergate tapes ... Billie Jean King defeats Bobby Riggs in tennis ... Spiro Agnew resigns, pleading no content to charges of tax evasion ... UPC barcodes first introduced ... Roe vs. Wade abortion law decided by Supreme Court ... The Endangered Species Act enacted ... The Sears Tower becomes the world’s tallest building ... An agreement is signed in Paris to stop the fighting in Vietnam ... The first planeload of POWs returns home to the U.S. from the Vietnam War ... The Pulitzer Prize is awarded to the Washington Post for its investigation of the Watergate scandal ... The World Oil Crisis occurs when Arab nations embargo oil shipments ... Pink Floyd releases “The Dark Side of The Moon” ... Country rock appears with the Allman Brothers Band, ZZ Top, Lynyrd Skynyrd, etc. ... David Bowie retires his Ziggy Stardust character at Hammersmith Odeon ... “Aloha From Hawaii Via Satellite” by Elvis Presley is the number one album ... “The Exorcist” is the number one movie.
Dr. H. Allen Tucker
M.S. and Ph.D. Animal Physiology

Dr. H. Allen Tucker co-authored a textbook, *Dairy Cattle: Principles, Practices, Problems, Profits*, which many animal science faculty regard as the best available. His other professional accomplishments include more than 389 published scientific articles, receipt of in excess of $4.5 million in competitive research grants, and many major national awards including those from the American Dairy Science Association and the American Society of Animal Science.

Dr. Ajit K. Srivastava
M.S. Agricultural Engineering

Dr. Ajit K. Srivastava’s areas of interest include agricultural mechanization, post-harvest assessment of quality, and on-farm value added processing. The more than 40 publications that he has co-authored include the book, *Engineering Principles of Agricultural Machines*, which has been adopted by 23 universities in the U.S., Brazil and Borea and which has been translated into Arabic. He is a recipient of the A.S.A.E. Paper Award.

Dr. Daniel Rossi
B.S. M.S. Food and Business Economics

Dr. Daniel Rossi’s research interests lie in the areas of the economics of waste treatment and pollution abatement, outdoor recreation, commercial fisheries and rural land use. Formerly director of the Rutgers Graduate Program in Agricultural Economics, Rossi became the associate director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in 1986, and then associate dean for administration, Cook College. He is now the senior associate dean for administration at Cook College and senior associate director at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. Carl Safina
M.S. Ph.D. Ecology

Dr. Carl Safina has helped to ban high seas driftnets; overhaul federal fisheries law in the U.S.; use international agreements in restoring depleted populations of sharks, tuna and other fishes; and achieve passage of a United Nations treaty. In 1990, he founded the Living Oceans Program at the Audubon Society, where he served as vice president for ocean conservation. Safina is author of more than a hundred scientific and popular publications on ecology and marine conservation.

Dr. Sonny B. Ramaswamy
Ph.D. Entomology

Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy is an active researcher who studies the reproductive behavior and physiology of moths and other insects. He holds a patent on a diagnostic kit for field identification of the eggs of the cotton bollworm and tobacco budworm, two of the major devastating pests in the United States. A field identification diagnostic kit based on this patent is being marketed in the cotton belt. He was awarded the 2002 KSU Presidential Award for Outstanding Department Head.

Dr. Stacey Angela Zawel
Ph.D. Food Science

Dr. Stacey Zawel has held positions at the Campbell Soup Company, where she rose to senior research scientist; United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, where she served as director of scientific and regulatory affairs; and Grocery Manufacturers of America, where she rose to vice-president of scientific and regulatory policy. She joined MangoLogic LLC in August 2000 and started Zawel Health Collaborative in August 2003.

If you want alumni to show up at a program, serve food. Dr. Richard Merritt, ’54, and William Campbell, ’72, share a snack. The pair, along with John Walsh, ’72, were among the primary organizers of the “Founders” gatherings during the 50th Anniversary year.

Cook History Project students Kym Mitala and Rob Teeter record CookStock. Read faculty and alumni interviews, or volunteer to be interviewed at http://www.cook.rutgers.edu/~cookhistory/.

Gathering in the Cook/Douglass Recreation Center during CookStock were (L-R) event organizers Rachel Holmes, ’04, Dr. Richard Merritt, ’54, John Walsh, ’72, Dr. Charles Hess, ’53, Acting Executive Dean Keith Cooper; Bethany Rocque-Romaine, ’83.

Food and fellowship follows Dr. Roger Locandro, ’60, (center in his distinctive leafy tuxedo). Joining him are Mary Machuzak Harmer, ’74, and Kathy Machuzak, ’80.

GOOD FRIENDS AND FAMILIAR FACES REUNITED ACROSS TIME

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Dr. Richard T. Dewling
Ph.D. Environmental Science

Before founding Dewling Associates, Richard T. Dewling was chairman and CEO of environmental consulting firm Metcalf & Eddy, Inc. Dewling served as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection from 1985-1988 and from 1963 to 1983, was at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its predecessor agencies in a number of top-level positions, including regional administrator. A past editor of Waste Engineering Magazine Dewling is a diplomat in the American Academy of Environmental Engineers.

Dr. Gilbert A. Leveille
Ph.D. Nutrition and Biochemistry

Dr. Gilbert A. Leveille, formerly a professor of food science at Michigan State University, left academia in 1980 for terms at General Foods Corporation, Nabisco and McNeil. He joined Cargill, Inc. in 2002. Dr. Leveille is a Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists where he served as president from 1983 to 1984. He is a member of the American Society for Nutritional Sciences, serving as president in 1988. He has authored or co-authored four books and 13 book chapters.

Dr. Richard Ruey-Chi Wang
Ph.D. Plant Biology

Richard Ruey-Chi Wang develops salt tolerant wheat to grow in India, Pakistan, Egypt, and other regions where the soil is too poor for conventional wheat. He uses rice as a model for finding important clues to the genetics of apomixes in rangeland wheat. He uses rice as a model for finding important clues to the genetics of apomixes in rangeland wheat. He is a member of the American Society for Nutritional Sciences, serving as president in 1988. He has authored or co-authored four books and 13 book chapters.

A Garden of Wildflowers

“A weed,” said the wag … or maybe it was alumni and professor Bruce Hamilton, ’60, … “is a wild flower in the wrong place.” Many Cook Wildflowers are in the “wrong place” though we would never, ever, call them weeds. In the 30 years of Cook College, there has never been an organized effort to save and store our beloved yearbook. The Alumni Association has taken on the challenge.

The goal is to locate four copies of each year’s book. Two sets will be archived with the Rutgersensia collection - that’s Latin for official Rutgers’ stuff - in the Special Collections and Archives section of the Alexander Library. These pictorial records of Cook College will be made permanently available to professional and amateur historians. Two sets will be stored at Cook for more casual alumni use, including a traveling set that will be on display at Ag Field Day, reunions and other alumni gatherings.

Amanda Vermeal Zeltner, ’96, Wildflower advisor and Cook’s assistant director for special events and programs, combed the closets of Campus Center to find historic copies but alas, the collection is currently missing the years: 1974, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1984, 1994, and 1997. Will you help replant this garden? If you care to donate your copy, please inscribe it with your name and class year and any words of wisdom you want to impart to future readers. In the perverse way of the universe there are also extra copies of some years - see below. Maybe you can find a good home for these misplaced Wildflowers.

Limited numbers of the following Wildflowers are available for $15 each. Includes shipping & handling.

Orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis.


Name: ___________________________ Phone: (________) _____________
Address: __________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ______________ Zip: _____________
E-mail: __________________________
Year purchasing: __________________ Qty: _____________ x $15 = $ _______________

Make check payable to Cook College Wildflower and send with form to:
Cook Campus Center
Attn: Cook College Wildflower
59 Rfff Road
New Brunswick, NJ 08901