

Cook/CAES Alumni Association

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ALUMNI NEWS

The Cook/CAES Alumni Association of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey



Spring 2004

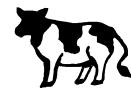
ALUMNI HELP COLLEGE TO LOOK BACK AND MOVE FORWARD



COOK COLLEGE: ESTABLISHED 1973

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DISTINGUISHED GRAD OF 2003 HAS MICKEY MOUSE JOB



Dennis Higbie, '80, at right with Alumni Association President Margaret O'Donnell, '93, and his George Hammell Cook award plaque. At left with acting Executive Dean Keith Cooper. Higbie worked his way up from a gardener to become Technical Director of Horticulture at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

The Envelope Please ...

The 2004 recipients of the George Hammell Cook Distinguished Alumni Award are: Lee Schneider, '70, Bruce Hamilton, '60, and Cindy Van Dover, '77. Nominations are accepted all year. Those received by October 15 of each year will become the pool of candidates for the next award-year. For a nomination form email cookalumni@alumni.rutgers.edu.



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 30th Anniversary celebration was the launch pad for several initiatives.

■ 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.



Cook College Alumni Association

A 501(c)3 non-profit volunteer-run organization representing undergraduate alumni of Cook College and the former College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, and graduate alumni of departments and programs currently or historically housed at Cook College.

Contact Us:
Rutgers Alumni Relations Office
Cook Liaison/Keri DeMayo
 7 College Avenue,
 New Brunswick, NJ
 08901-1262
 (732) 932-7061
 or
cookalumi@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 thus RSVP's are encouraged but not required. To learn about volunteer opportunities, or for more information on membership, meetings or events call (732) 932-7061.



Salmon Sashimi?? Roger Locandro, '60, slices and dices the fresh fish he personally selected at the Fulton Fish Market for the annual alumni Fish Fry and BBQ Reunion, July 2003. Waiting patiently for a taste is (L-R) a jokster wearing alumna Ruth Kramer's name badge, Tim Sullivan, and George Barrood, '93. Food and fun for all - no matter what your name is!! Save the date for 2004 - July 30/31. On campus housing for families and groups.

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. Carr, '93
Michael Toto, '80
 open

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

through 2006:
Steve Goodman, '76
Karen Morgan Mallo, '93
Richard Porter, '84
 open

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

KEEP UP WITH COOK

Enviro-Notes

Bruce Barbour, '74, Environmental Program Leader for Rutgers Cooperative Extension, has created Rutgers Enviro-Notes, a free email newsletter. Enviro-Notes includes news of programs at Cook and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station as well as at partner groups in the garden state and beyond. To read the web version or to sign up for delivery go to <http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/environotes/>

DeBoer Retiring

Prof. Roy DeBoer will retire from Rutgers this year and his students and colleagues plan to send him off with style. A retirement dinner will be held June 13, 3-7 p.m. at the Cook Campus Center. Ticket and gift information TBA via email. Make sure you are invited by contacting the committee at cookalumni@alumni.rutgers.edu with name, class, street address, and current email address. Please inform others who may not be alumni association members and do not receive this newsletter.

Networking Nights

Are you an environmental professional? Want to stay on top of hot trends in the industry and to network with others in the field? Join the Cook College Alumni Environmental Professional Group. Networking Nights are planned for June 1, September 7, and November 16 at the Cook Campus Center.

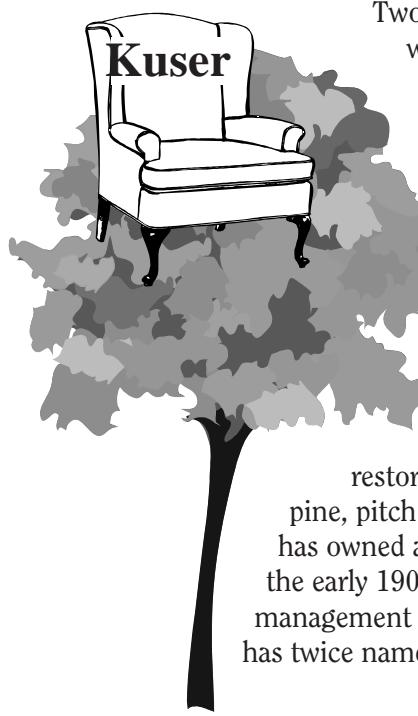
Programs generally include a meet-and-greet session and guest speaker. Organizers are alumni Rachel Kron, '96 and Chris Hopkins, '88. For more information or to RSVP contact cookalumni@aesop.rutgers.edu

NEW CHAIR ENSURES FORESTERS WON'T TAKE NEEDS OF URBAN TREE NEEDS SITTING DOWN

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, white 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.



COOPERATION: COOK STUDENTS SEEK ALUMNI EMPLOYERS WIN-WIN-WIN



Kristen Drusack, '96, Co-operative Education Coordinator with Dr. George Clark who holds the record for mentoring the most Co-op education students, 23+.

In honor of his extensive contributions to undergraduate education, the Department of Human Ecology has created the George Clark Teaching Excellence Fund. Gifts to this fund are dedicated to the enhancement of both teaching and learning at Cook College, used for purposes such as field trips, special research projects, and student participation in professional meetings. Contributions can be made by check to the Rutgers University Foundation, Winants Hall, 7 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1262, with a memo entry stating "George F. Clark Fund." To direct a gift to the Co-operative Education Program, make a note to that effect on the check.

POPULAR CANDY FLAVOR FIGHTS CANCER

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, β -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

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.

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.



FISH FRY FUN AND ROCKIN' REUNION

Last summer's Cook College Alumni Reunion, honoring graduates of years ending in 3's and 8's, broke attendance records with 250 alums, family and friends closing in on the Log Cabin on Saturday, July 26th. Celebrity chef Roger Locandro '60, and his many helpers cooked 60 pounds of flounder, 60 pounds of shrimp, 40 pounds of calamari and 50 pounds of lobster. The seafood menu was complemented by a barbecue which included London broil, grilled vegetables, hot dogs, burgers, watermelon, ice cream and much more.

But alums did more than just eat. Some purchased seeds, flowers or shrubs at the Plant Sale, others took tours as part of the Rutgers Gardens Open House, and children enjoyed our special kids corner with a face painter, games, coloring and snacks.

The fun did not end when the cooking stopped. Thirty alums and guests left the Log Cabin to cool off in the pool at the Cook/Douglass Rec Center. Some alums even stayed over night in Newell Apartments, and enjoyed a continental breakfast in the morning before heading home.

Reunion weekend would not be possible without a large amount of volunteer assistance. Everyone's time and effort was greatly appreciated. A few people really went over the top. First on the list, of course, is



Fun, Friends, and Family

Russell Chapman, '81, and friend (right)



Sal Bernardo, '88, and son (left)

Roger Locandro who shopped for the fish himself, then brought it, and the fryers to 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



OUTSTANDING GROUP EARN DENNIS M. FENTON AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE ALUMNI



The Inaugural Fenton Award Recipients: (Left to Right) standing Acting Executive Dean Keith Cooper, Alumni President Margaret O'Donnell, Carl Safina, Richard Ruey-Chi Want, Daniel Rossi, Ajit Srivastava, Alumni Trustee Laurel Van Leer; seated Gilbert Leveille, H. Allen Tucker, Stacey Zawel, Sonny Ramaswamy, Richard Dewling.

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 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.

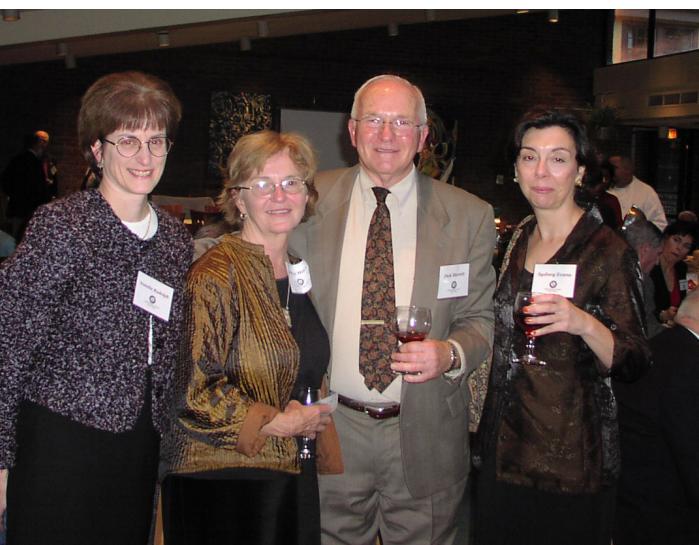


Charles Bergamo and Lois Campbell share a joke at the Founders breakfast.

**IT WAS AS
IF WE
NEVER LEFT**



(L-R) Natalie Rudolph, '74, Jean Inglis Olsen, '74, and Steve Olsen, '74.



(L-R) Natalie Rudolph, '74, Bonnie McCay, Richard Merritt, '54 and Sydney Evans, '73.

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 ... "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round The Old Oak Tree" by Dawn (and Tony Orlando) is the number one single ... "Aloha From Hawaii Via Satellite" by Elvis Presley is the number one album ... "The Exorcist" is the number one movie.





SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY



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 REUNITE ACROSS TIME



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/>.



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 includes the book, *Engineering Principles of Agricultural Machines*, which has been adopted by 23 universities in the U.S., Brazil and Korea 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. 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.

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.

more on next page



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 grasses, which are relatives of rice. Wang investigates grasses and other hardy native and introduced plants that could be used in the western U.S. to stabilize erosion-prone slopes, revegetate areas denuded by wildfire, or provide nutritious, appetizing forage for livestock and wildlife.



ALPHA ZETA WALL DEDICATION

The George H. Cook Club was installed on May 22, 1922 as the 32nd chapter of national honor society Alpha Zeta.

A wall of historic documents was dedicated as part of Cook's 30th Anniversary Celebrations.



(above) AZ officers Daniel Schermond, Mark Papier, Megan Linkin, and John Lovell at the Fall 2003 dedication of the Alpha Zeta historic display in Martin Hall.



(below) AZ Chancellor Megan Linkin poses with historic documents, including faculty meeting minutes, that were recently found, preserved and placed on public display at Martin Hall.

REST IN PEACE



After a long and valuable life as the workhorse of the Rutgers Gardens, Bruce Hamilton's "Doc Truck" has been put out to pasture. Alumni and friends may pay their respects at the Summer Open House on July 31. More inspiring plantings will also be on display.



A Garden of Wildflowers

"A weed," said the wag ... or maybe it was alumnus 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.

1975 1980 1982 1983 1985 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992
1993 1995/96 (one book) 1998 1999 2000 2001 2003 (CD)

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 Biel Road
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

