Ag Field Day Welcomes Alumni Home

The Cook Alumni Association will team up with the Office of the Executive Dean to welcome alumni and friends to the 88th Ag Field Day on Saturday, April 29. Join us in the alumni suite at 71 Lipman Drive. It’s the only house on the puddle. You can’t miss it and won’t want to.

Fellowship: Meet and greet Executive Dean Bob Goodman, other administrators, faculty, and alumni association officers and other volunteers. You are sure to see old friends and new faces. Browse the collection of Wildflowers and smile at how young you once were. Make the alumni area your place to meet friends and family.

Food: After a tour of the alumni suite stay for a reception with hot food and beverages. Hang out on the porch for a great view of Passion Puddle. Save room for a slice of birthday cake celebrating the Alumni Association’s creation on Ag Field Day 1974. Well behaved dogs, with their humans, are invited to stop by the “barking lot” for a treat. Last year’s popular wine and cheese reception will be repeated in the evening. Watch your mail and email for details. Some events require an RSVP so there will be enough food for everyone attending.

Fun: All your favorite activities will be back for the day. Start early with the animal shows at the College Farm or be the first to the plant sales to scoop up a rare variety. Stop by the entomology department to eat a bug or bet on your favorite Madagascar Hissing cockroach. Student clubs will be selling a variety of food, T-shirts, and souvenirs. New this year will be an appearance by the Rutgers Science Explorer, a 40-foot long mobile learning laboratory and science demonstration center. Parents, children and especially teachers will want to stop by for hands-on learning and interactive exhibits.

In order for Ag Field Day fun to happen, volunteers and staff like Margaret O’Donnell, ’93, and Amanda Zeltner, ’96, put in a lot of behind the scenes work.

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www.cookalumni.rutgers.edu
Accolades — Affirmation — Appreciation
We love our alumni volunteers!!

A big Thank You goes out to alumni and others who volunteer their time and talent to help fellow alumni, students, and Cook College.

And the envelope please ... The recipients of the George Hammell Cook Distinguished Alumni Award are hardly plucked from a hat. A dedicated committee reviews qualifications and recommendations before making the difficult choice. This year’s selection committee consists of Dick Ilnicki, '49; Morris Fabian, '59; Roger Locandro, '60; Lee Schneider, '74; Alan Grossman, '82; Bethany Rocque-Romaine, '83; chair Joan DeBoer, '84; and Robert Tupe, '06.

It’s hardly a beach vacation, but the annual Long Beach Island winter leadership retreat has its moments. One is the popular alumni panel that gives students a glimpse of life after college. This January’s panel included Tom Calder, '79; Amy Heilman Del Rosario, '91; Brian Warrick, '96; and Melissa Dutton, '00. Representing four decades and careers spanning education (Calder and Dutton) to insurance (Warrick) and child development (Del Rosario) the message was clear — the more you invest in Cook, the more you get out of it. Sound familiar? Thanks again to these alumni who are still investing in Cook College.

Also attending to get to know current leaders and future alumni were Margaret O’Donnell, '93, Bethany Rocque-Romaine, '83, and Laurel Van Leer, '81.
If anyone can tell students what it is like to go off into deep uncharted waters this year’s graduation speaker can. Dr. Cindy Lee Van Dover, ’77, is an expert and pioneer in the field of oceanography, particularly in the ecology of deep-sea hydrothermal vents. She is also the first and only woman to pilot the deep sea submersible, Alvin. Dr. Van Dover’s interest in the ocean began in high school when she spent a summer with Rutgers shellfish researchers on the Jersey shore. At Cook, she continued to connect with the ocean at the same lab while earning a degree in environmental science. In the middle of her undergraduate career she had the opportunity to study at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts where she later earned a Ph.D. in biological oceanography.

Immediately upon receiving her Ph.D. at Woods Hole in 1989, Van Dover joined the group that operates the deep-diving submersible Alvin and, after nine months of grueling on-the-job training, she was certified by the U.S. Navy. “By many measures this would be no ordinary accomplishment; there are, for example, more astronauts than there are Alvin pilots,” notes Dr. Richard A. Lutz, director of the Center for Deep-Sea Ecology and Biotechnology at Rutgers’ Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences.

Van Dover is a Marjorie S. Curtis Associate Professor at the College of William and Mary in the Department of Biology. She is a 2004 recipient of the George H. Cook Award for Distinguished Alumni.

“… submarine hydrothermal systems, fueled by the heat of volcanic processes, can support life in the absence of sunlight. Vent water may be the ultimate soup in the sorcerer’s kettle.”

— Cindy Van Dover in Deep Ocean Journeys

Cindy Van Dover is the author of two books: *The Octopus’s Garden* and *The Ecology of Deep-Sea Hydrothermal Vents*. The first book is also known as *Deep Ocean Journeys* (Helix Books, Perseus Publishing) in paperback and its purpose is to demystify the wonders of the deep-sea. The second book, published in 2000 by Princeton University Press, is regarded as the definitive resource on hydrothermal vents. In *Deep Ocean Journeys* Van Dover weaves word pictures of giant tubeworms, black smokers, lava flows, blind shrimp, and herds of sea cucumbers. She also writes plainly and honestly about the challenges of joining the previously men-only world of Alvin pilots.

*The Octopus’s Garden*

*The Ecology of Deep-Sea Hydrothermal Vents*
What is Growing in the Rutgers Gardens?

Have you checked on the Rutgers Gardens lately? They are growing well and have been well watered and weeded. The next step is to add a little fertilizer and promote some serious growth. But just what is growing?

The most obvious answer is the number of gardens themselves. In late summer of 2005 construction began on a new series of spaces called tribute gardens. Similar to the floor plan of a house, a donor can select the room of their fancy to finance and develop as a tribute to a loved one or respected colleague. The first room, the recreation room, will feature two double-sized Adirondack chairs, stone paving, Victorian fencing, and a mix of perennials and woody plants. This garden is funded by Marie Otken Gons, DC ’57, and her husband Richard in honor of her parents. The rooms that remain available include a parlor, dining room, art room, kitchen, pantry, living room, bedroom suite, and water closet. In addition, the sun and shade garden is getting a make-over thanks to a gift from Monrovia Nurseries of California. A new herb garden has been laid out and is just waiting for a donor.

Would you like to take a piece of the gardens home? The Potting Shed Gift shop will open in the summer of 2007.

What else is growing? The staff. Mary Ann Schrum is programs director, Monica McLaughlin, ’05, is staff horticulturist, and Bruce Crawford is the new director of the gardens. Contact any of them at 732/932-8451.

Lastly, the gardens continue to grow into education. Eighteen new classes for the homeowner are being run at the gardens this year (rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu for details) and a new student internship program is under development.

The gardens are flourishing and none of this would be possible without the financial support provided by alumni and friends. Thank you for the generous support. Visit soon to see for yourself how your Rutgers Gardens is growing.

A Bruce-to-Bruce Transfer

Bruce Crawford became Director of the Rutgers Gardens in August 2005, succeeding Bruce “Doc” Hamilton, ’60, who held the position since 1991. Crawford attended Cook from 1980 to 1984 then formed his own company called Garden Architecture, Inc., specializing in creative residential design and installation. LA majors may know him as an adjunct professor in that department. He is published in Fine Gardening Magazine and Creative Homeowners Press.

Doc Party

There will be a retirement and thank-you party for Doc on June 6, 2006. All friends of Doc are welcome. A “Doc Fund” is being established to help the gardens continue its mission. Contact the Rutgers Gardens for details on the party and the fund.

Hamilton promises that visitors will still see him in the gardens pruning shrubs, deadheading flowers, mowing the lawn and leading tours. What won’t be seen is the infamous Doc Truck with its kudzu-like logo. After long and arduous service to the gardens the truck has been sent off for recycling. Who knows? Maybe it already has a new life as a garden trowel or set of pruning shears.
Pavilion and Patio Party

On October 23, 2005, a happy group of alumni, Rutgers Gardens staff and volunteers and members of Rutgers University governing boards gathered inside the Log Cabin to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the completion of the Alumni Pavilion and patio. The pavilion was constructed by alumnus Jim Giovanelli, '82, and was dedicated on April 17, 1994. The patio of engraved paver bricks was completed the next year.

At the party, a long-awaited plaque listing the lead donors to the pavilion construction was unveiled by alumni association president Margaret O’Donnell, ’93, and special guest Carleton C. “Dil” Dilatush, ’40 and Rutgers University Trustee Emeritus. Dilatush and the Rutgers College Class of 1940 were early and loyal supporters of the project. Music was provided by the Mason Gross Jazz Ensemble. Refreshments included a selection of New Jersey wines and the new Peach Cider from Circle M Farms, Mullica Hill, New Jersey, which was developed with the help of Cook’s Food Innovation Center.
Alumni Ambassadors

Was high school the set for your glory days, or were you just dazed and confused? Whether it brings fond memories or nightmares, the alumni association is asking you to return to that scene of first love, recurring acne, three minute class changes, undersized lockers, and teen-aged angst to recruit new students. The Back to High School program is a new feature of Cook’s outreach efforts. Really, who can explain Cook better than a Cook graduate?

Alumni can go back to their own high school, their child’s high school, or the high school they just happen to be living near right now.

The office of Academic and Student Affairs will provide training sessions on campus or, if you live out of the area, by phone. Volunteers will receive packages of information that includes lists of academic programs, a Cook College DVD, FAQs, and other recruitment materials.

To sign up, or for more information, contact Assistant Dean Sharice Richardson at 732/932-3000 x512.

Campus Tours

Do you see your kid at Cook? If you think Cook is the place for your offspring you can arrange a campus tour. Self guided tour packs (like you don’t know where the apartments are!) are available at Martin Hall. For a student-guided campus tour or the dates of college-wide information sessions contact Richardson.

An immersion tour is available with a current Cook student. Potential Cook students will attend classes, walk the campus, and eat at the dining hall with their tour guide. Student guides in specific majors may be arranged. Three week notice is required for the immersion. Debbie Drugos at 732/932-3000 x566 is the contact.

Experiential Learning

Elaine DiTonno is a senior, graduating in May 2006 with a degree in Environmental and Business Economics. She hopes to pursue a career in marketing. Elaine is working to develop a line of notecards based on campus sketches by alumnus Roy DeBoer Jr., ’78, and products from the Kilmer Oak. This white oak once grew on the College of Agriculture campus where it inspired Joyce Kilmer’s famous poem, “Trees.” Elaine will also document the Kilmer Oak story, including the latest chapter of its rediscovery in a Rutgers warehouse.

Dennis Quinlan is a junior earning a degree in Communication and a certificate in Environmental Geomatics. He would like to pursue a career that combines technological skill with his ability to write and communicate. Dennis is writing short biographies on recipients of the George H. Cook and Dennis M. Fenton awards for distinguished alumni which will be published on the alumni association’s web site. His work builds on the biographical research of former coop student Lauren Bohn, ’04, who is currently working for the Tony Danza Show.

The Cook Alumni Association is proud to work with these students and the staff at the Cooperative Education office.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Hiring a student through the Cooperative Education Program is easy.

CALL CAROL RUTGERS
732/932-3000 x523
or VISIT THE WEB
www.aesop.rutgers.edu/~coop/contactus.html
The horses on the College Farm have been put out to pasture but they are far from retired. They are putting in a full day’s work for a full day’s hay.

Cook is harnessing its horsepower, and brainpower, for the benefit of horse owners, their neighbors and the environment with a renovated horse farm intended to showcase the best in equine management. The 40-acre demonstration farm is located at the existing Ryders Lane facility, just east of Route 1 in New Brunswick near the East Brunswick border. This farm was owned by George H. Cook in the late 1800s.

Most horse owners and farm and barn managers strive to employ sound practices but it’s not easy, said Dr. Karyn Malinowski, director of the Equine Science Center. “With new environmental and land-use regulations being written and urbanization spreading into rural areas, good ‘horse-keeping’ has been getting harder and harder to achieve.”

That makes the need for a demonstration farm more than good old horse sense. Researchers from the college and the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension can explore new methods and practices in a controlled setting. The best results will be incorporated into the farm. Horse and farm owners and managers can learn from the effort and apply these practices to their own properties. It’s an example of the college’s mission of research, teaching and outreach.

“Education and collaboration are the key,” says Dr. Carey A. Williams, extension specialist in horse management who will manage the farm. “The public can get a clear picture of what works, what doesn’t work and what will work best for their farms,” Williams said.

“The work we are doing to create ‘best management practices’ — or BMPs — for horse farms is geared to finding scientifically-sound and cost-effective ways farmers can be in compliance with regulations, be good neighbors, and still make a living raising horses and other livestock,” said Williams.

“As with many areas of the environment, New Jersey is on the leading edge of challenges that occur when cities and suburbs expand into traditionally rural areas. Pastoral settings with contentedly grazing animals may be beautiful to look at on a Sunday drive, but can become a problem when one moves in next door.” — Carey A. Williams

BMP Issues
- Water quality
- Streams and pond buffers
- Bioswales and bioretention basins
- Stormwater runoff
- Nutrient management plans

The Equine Science Center is teaming up with:

Cook College and Rutgers University
- Center for Turfgrass Science
- Department of Animal Sciences
- Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources
- Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension

Outside Partners
- Region II of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program)
- New Jersey Department of Agriculture
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

www.esc.rutgers.edu
Reunion Weekend is Growing

Save the weekend of July 28-30 for Cook’s reunion weekend.

This year’s reunion classes are those ending in 1 and 6 but all classes are invited to attend the Fish Fry and other weekend activities. On Friday evening there will be a pizza party outside the Newells. The Rutgers Gardens will hold its annual summer open house on Saturday, July 29. The Rec Center will be open for swimming and sports Saturday afternoon. Sunday morning will feature a continental breakfast by the PAL building with lots of coffee.

New this year is a golf outing on Friday, July 28, at the Rutgers Golf Course. The alumni association and the parent’s association will co-sponsor the event which will raise money for scholarships. It will feature foursomes from the entire Cook community including faculty and students, and maybe even you.

Weekend accommodations are available at the Newell apartments and the University Inn and Conference Center located on Ryders Lane. The Newell sites have bar-b-que and picnic areas. The University Inn has a gameroom.

Details will be mailed and emailed throughout the spring and early summer. Make sure the alumni association has your correct contact information and remind your Cook friends to do the same.