Keeping Classes at Cook

Fall semester classes are well underway at the new Cook/Douglass Lecture Hall, located roughly between the Food Science building and Foran Hall. The modular design building houses two classrooms with 80 seats each and two lecture halls of 120 seats each.

The building was constructed to keep Cook students close to home. While classroom space is always important, it is especially critical now. New Jersey is rebuilding a section of Route 18 that is an important Rutgers bus and commuter pathway. The road work has created additional traffic jams, making it difficult for students and faculty to travel from campus to campus.

The reconstruction of Route 18 in downtown New Brunswick began in mid-July 2005 and will continue until 2009. The $134 million project will widen a two-mile stretch of Route 18 from Route 1 to the Albany Street Bridge at Route 27. It will create four express lanes and two local access roads. The express lanes will eliminate the need for the traffic light at Commercial Avenue. There will be new bridges built at New Street, Commercial Avenue and the George Street ramp at Douglass College, as well as improvements to the Albany Street and Route 1 bridges. The work is part of the NJ Department of Transportation’s larger plan to build an east-west corridor from Route 287 in Somerset County to the Jersey shore.

For more details on the new Route 18 go to
http://route18update.rutgers.edu
New Cook College Dean, Robert M. Goodman hit the ground running in June and has already become a familiar face at student and alumni events. To introduce him to alumni who cannot easily make it to campus, Green Print - Alumni Edition asked Dean Goodman to share a little bit more information about himself and his vision for Cook College.

Q Tell us about your background.

A I have a bachelor's degree in plant sciences and a doctorate in plant pathology from Cornell University. Most recently, I was a professor of plant pathology and environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to my 14 years at Wisconsin, I was a senior scholar-in-residence at the National Research Council/NAS, executive vice-president of R&D at Calgene, Inc., an early and very successful plant biotechnology company, and a professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I'm particularly interested in studying microbial diversity using culture-independent methods. Along with collaborators, I helped to pioneer the field now known as "metagenomics." As a scientist, I think a key to being successful is having the ability to see things in a new or different way when presented with a problem. A little imagination can go a long way to helping one to find a solution. And usually, finding a solution is a collaborative effort, between members of a lab or among several labs working together.

As a dean, it's a similar situation: a little imagination and a lot of teamwork go a long way to getting the job done.

Q What is your impression of Cook College?

A My impression is that Rutgers’ Cook College comprises a lot of folks who are very passionate about what they do. Students, faculty, staff, alumni—they’re enthusiastic and highly involved. This is a very tightly knit community, but it’s one that extends far beyond our campus borders. I’ve traveled all over this state and I’ve seen the impact that we have, the services that we provide for the citizens of New Jersey. I’d like to see us do even more to let people
What does Transforming Undergraduate Education mean for Cook College? Recent communications from alums across the country have asked us such questions as “is Cook College closing?” NO! Cook College is NOT closing. Please help us stop the spread of this nasty rumor.

Implications of the report include universal admissions standards across all of Rutgers University - New Brunswick’s undergraduate colleges, as well as universal policies for such things as residence life. Please review the report for yourself at http://ur.rutgers.edu/transform_ru/report.shtml.

University President Richard McCormick is listening to feedback from faculty, staff, students, parents and alumni at forums on every campus this fall. Additionally, Cook College Executive Dean Robert Goodman wants your feedback electronically at http://www.cookcollege.rutgers.edu/undergradreport/.

If you feel unable to comment on the full report, please tell Dean Goodman what worked, or did not work, for you as a Cook student. Your experiences will help Cook better serve future students.

Margaret O’Donnell, ’93
President, Cook Alumni Association

We Want to Know

Please let us know your latest professional or personal news.
Tell us the following information
and send it to us via email at cookalumni@aesop.rutgers.edu
or mail to
Cook Alumni Association
\c/o Office of Scholarships and Alumni Relations
71 Lipman Drive
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Name(Maiden if applicable) ____________________________

Address ____________________________________________

Class ______________________________________________

Degree(s) Received ____________________________________

Job Title/Employer ____________________________________

Business Address _____________________________________

Business Phone and Fax ________________________________

NEWS ______________________________________________

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

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MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Serving three-year terms through 2007
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two seats open

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Nominations for open and expiring positions are accepted year-round.

COOK COLLEGE
OFFICE OF SCHOLARSHIP & ALUMNI RELATIONS
732/932-ALUM
cookalumni@alumni.rutgers.edu

Joe Ventola (H) ’04
Assistant Dean
Rachel Napier, ’03
Administrative Assistant
He’s been called “Physician to the Earth” and “God’s Scorekeeper” for his groundbreaking analysis of global environmental issues. The Washington Post named him “one of the world’s most influential thinkers.” The Telegraph of Calcutta says he is “the guru of the environmental movement.” At Cook College, Lester R. Brown, member of the Rutgers College of Agriculture class of 1955, is called alumnus.

Through the years Cook College and Rutgers University have honored Brown with awards and plaques and speeches. Now there is an a permanent exhibit of his books and other writings installed in Martin Hall. Brown recently expanded his role at Cook by becoming an advisor to the Eco-Policy Center.

At the installation ceremony in May, Keith Cooper, then acting executive dean, noted that the exhibit provides “a concrete symbol to remind students that greatness can begin right here on Cook.”

Brown started his career as a farmer at age 14, growing tomatoes in Stow Creek (Cumberland County), New Jersey. With a goal of becoming the biggest tomato grower in the state, he enrolled at the then-College of Agriculture and by graduation in 1955 was marketing 1.5 million pounds per year. Brown’s tomato farm was one of the top producers on the east coast. But that was just the beginning.

“Being a general agricultural science major,” said Brown, “enabled me to load up with a broad range of excellent science courses. Those courses, originally intended to make me a better farmer, have also served me well as an analyst of global environmental issues.”

His shift in career emphasis came after spending six months in rural India. There he became intimately familiar with issues of food and population which led him, in 1959, to join the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service as an international agricultural analyst.

In 1964, he became an adviser to Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman on foreign agricultural policy.

Those courses, originally intended to make me a better farmer, have also served me well as an analyst of global environmental issues.


In 1974, with support of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Brown founded the respected think tank Worldwatch Institute based in...
Only fresh fish will do. Volunteers, lead by Roger Locandro, '60, made a pre-dawn trek to New York's Fulton Street Fish Market for the day's eats. Alumni feasted on salmon sushi, London Broil, shrimp, salads, spirits and soft drinks, desert and more.

Reunion began Friday evening with a pizza party at the Newells. Saturday saw the Fish Fry and the Rutgers Garden Summer Open House. The Rec Center opened for swimming, games and nostalgia. That night the Class of 1980 hosted a casual gathering at the Newells. At breakfast on Sunday alumni mixed with members of the Class of 2009 at the annual new student picnic. Alumni reconnected with the many faculty and staff there.

Fish Fry and Reunion 2006, the weekend of July 29, will honor classes ending in 01 and 06. To suggest new ideas for the weekend email cookalumni@alumni.rutgers.edu. The Class of 2001 already has an active planning committee. Groups are forming for other classes to plan additional events or gatherings.
ALL IN A DAY’S WORK
Jobs. Love yours. Hate yours. Need one. Got one but want a different one. Whether you are searching for a new job, want to do more with the one you’ve got, or want to help a fellow grad or a student get one the Cook College Alumni Association can help. Check out these programs. More details are available on the alumni website at www.alumni.cook.edu.

ALUMNI NETWORK
E-MENTORS
Ever wish someone had told you to take a specific course, learn a certain skill, or in general just give you the real deal on choosing a career? You can be that someone. If you are willing to mentor a current student or another alumnus in your career field, this is your chance.

You decide how to interact with students or alumni by posting only the contact information (email address or phone number) you choose. Participants are encouraged to ask mentors for advice, not jobs. This is not a resume review service, although you may offer to do that. The program is run by Rutgers Career Services for students and alumni.

Ready to get started?
Go to careerservices.rutgers.edu
Click on “Alumni Career Network”
Both students and alumni are welcome
Click “Register” and choose a username and password
Fill out the form, confirm your responses and you are in!
To search the database you will need the secret password. Pssst..... It is henry, as in Col. “Henry” Rutgers.

MIND YOUR BUSINESS
Free advertising: Promote your business with the Rutgers Yellow Pages for alumni. Searching for service? Browse the Rutgers-only section or seek out alumni from some of the 300 colleges and universities which participate. You can find them, and more importantly, they can find you.

Free e-mail: You can have a Rutgers email address with forwarding to the in-box of your choice. This is a great feature for new employees or graduate students. Why bother with changing your email address every time you change jobs, schools, or get a better deal on your personal e-mail service. This “youname@alumni.rutgers.edu” address is yours for life.

To sign up for Yellow Pages advertising or email for life start at the main alumni web page at alumni.rutgers.edu. Click on “Alumni Directory Plus” and register for the Rutgers Alumni On-line Community. Once in you can use these and other services to make the most of your business.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION FOR ALUMNI
It put you to work when you were a student. The Cooperative Education office has now expanded to help alumni. Postings are updated as the office receives them. An updated list will be emailed upon request. Sorry, course credit is not available to alumni, but hey, you get to skip writing the final paper.

Call Carol Martin Rutgers at 732-932-3000 x3 or email rutgers@cook.rutgers.edu to request listings or to post a job available at your company.

CAREER AID
Put your alumni association to work for you. Programs such as Diversity in the Workplace (above) or career fairs (below) put you in touch with mentors, colleagues, contacts and customers.
I'd like to see us as a facilitator/incubator of innovation and collaboration.

Q  What is your vision for Cook?

A  Cook College and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station already have a vision, and that is to integrate teaching, research, and outreach to anticipate and respond to issues and challenges and to empower people to improve their lives, the lives of others, and the environments on which they depend. I want to work toward these goals, but I also want to add some of the values that I feel can guide us as we head in this direction. First, I want to emphasize that we will do what is in the best interests of students. We want to produce global citizens who are active and contributing members of society. The question is, how do we do that? One part of the answer is to incorporate service learning, so that students learn by doing. Another part is to implement learning communities, so that learning doesn’t end at the classroom door. Yet another part of the answer is to guide our students through the advising process so that they get the most out of their time here. We also want to be leaders at Rutgers, and that means working together to ensure that our students benefit from the highest level of scholarship and access to programs and opportunities.

Q  How can alumni help?

A  We have amazing alumni who can play a huge role in helping us to reach our goals. They can work with our Cooperative Education Program to hire students for co-ops and internships. They can act as mentors for our students. They can volunteer their time. If they know of high school or community college students who are interested in coming to Cook, they can act as advocates for the school. There are many opportunities for alumni to support Cook, from gifts of money to gifts of time. I’m thankful that we have such a strong alumni network. They provide an important link between Cook’s past and its future.

Q  When you get a chance to relax, what do you like to do?

A  My wife Debbie and I are passionate about sailing. We are also avid skiers, both alpine, downhill, and cross country. We are voracious readers. My interests run to trade books about science and leadership and modern fiction. Each year I try to read all of the books nominated for the Man Booker prize. I just finished Steven Samples’ *The Contrarian’s Guide to Leadership* and Thomas Freidman’s *The World is Flat*. Debbie’s interests run to current events. She just finished an amazing book called *9/11 Revealed, The Unanswered Questions* by Rowland Morgan and Ian Henshall. I love to walk, and have already grown deeply attached to Rutgers Gardens. Debbie is an avid cyclist. We also love the theatre, modern art, and the concert hall. We are thrilled to be so close to the rich cultural resources of this area, and have already joined the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Q  Anything else alumni should know?

A  If students can be called the “heart” of a university, and faculty and staff the “grey matter,” and our classrooms and laboratories and research stations the “body,” then alumni might be thought of as the social system in which we function. Universities at their best prepare graduates for lifelong learning. The measure of our success is the evidence that we have succeeded in this goal. Alumni who value their education and other experiences at Rutgers’ Cook College are a testament to the value of what we do here. The expression of this value takes many shapes and formats. Alumni who send their offspring to Rutgers are making a statement about how they value what we do. Those who stay involved, whether in the Parent’s Association, the Alumni Association, or as participants in continuing professional education, the various boards of advisors we have in departments, the college, the experiment station and the Boards of Governors and of Trustees of the University-these are all expressions of valuation and commitment that mean a lot to the institution. Rutgers and Cook will depend increasingly on private donors to make the difference that I call the “margin of excellence.” I want alumni to stay connected to Cook, and will be working hard in the coming years to see that we have a full plate of opportunities to make this possible. I hope that we will continue to earn and deserve alumni loyalty and respect for the roles we play in educating the next generation of citizens of New Jersey, of the United States, and of the world.

More information on Dean Goodman is available on the Office of the Executive Dean’s Web site at [http://cooknjaes.rutgers.edu/execdine/](http://cooknjaes.rutgers.edu/execdine/). He invites alumni to contact him by email with comments or concerns about Cook or the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.
Washington D.C. It was the first research institute devoted to the analysis of global environmental issues. The big idea was that information is a powerful tool of social change. At the Institute he launched the Worldwatch Papers, the annual State of the World reports, World Watch magazine, a second annual entitled Vital Signs: The Trends That are Shaping Our Future and the Environmental Alert book series. In 1986, the Library of Congress requested his personal papers, noting that his writings “have already strongly affected thinking about problems of world population and resources.”

In May 2001, he founded the Earth Policy Institute, also based in Washington D.C., with a new idea - to provide a vision and a road map for achieving an environmentally sustainable economy. Brown plans to provide the building blocks of an eco-economy, one that works with Earth’s ecosystem instead of against it. Such tools include ideas on restructuring tax systems to make environmental destructive systems economically unattractive.

A prolific author, Brown’s books have inspired a generation of Cook College students. “Brown’s works give students an appreciation for the complexities of and interrelationships among environmental problems,” said Professor George Clark, human ecology, who has used Brown’s books and Worldwatch materials in his courses. “Brown’s body of work on the environment generally, and the impact of continued population growth in particular, makes a deep impression on students - all the more so because he once sat where they are today.”

1976
George Hammell Cook Distinguished Service Award [now called Distinguished Alumni Award]
Presented by the Cook College Alumni Association

1978
Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)
Rutgers University

1990
Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni

1995
Distinguished Achievement Award
Presented by the Helyar House Alumni Association

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**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO FIND ALL THE LATEST ALUMNI INFORMATION**

[www.cookalumni.rutgers.edu](http://www.cookalumni.rutgers.edu)