

explorations

GEORGE H. COOK CAMPUS MAGAZINE | SPRING 2019



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On the Cover: Landscape architecture students Jordan Davis SEBS'21 and Mackenzie Gilvey SEBS'21 are exploring relations between land form, contour lines, and water flow in real time using an augmented reality sandbox. Photography by John O'Boyle.
Table of Contents: Photography by John O'Boyle and Alexis Lo.

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ROBERT M. GOODMAN, EXECUTIVE DEAN,
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dear friends,

As we close out the spring semester, we indulge in our annual season of celebration in which students and faculty, as well as the staff that ably support them, proudly receive accolades for a job well done!

This year, we celebrate the 26th anniversary of the Excellence Awards, an event that recognizes some of the finest work of our faculty and staff, and highlights the accomplishments of our George H. Cook Scholars. We eagerly look forward to the traditional Baccalaureate Ceremony, that final pre-commencement and pre-convocation gathering of the graduating class. And, of course, the pinnacle of our season of celebration is our school convocation where we applaud our faculty for their role in teaching yet another generation of graduates, and, in turn, individually recognize those who make up the graduating class.

Members of the Class of 2019, like all our matriculated students, benefit from a unique learning environment that includes a range of co-curricular activities that closely connect them to their studies. Dorothy Lee, an ecology major, is one such example. Following an internship at Key Foods, Dorothy wondered what Rutgers was doing with its food waste and took concrete steps to do something about it, founding the Compost Club in her freshman year. With the support of like-minded students committed to sustainable practices, Dorothy expanded the Compost Club to include another Rutgers–New Brunswick campus location. Through her leadership, this initiative has become a living laboratory for a class on food waste. Indeed the past four years have seen dramatic growth in student interest in sustainability, of which the Compost Club is a shining example.

Such a vibrant co-curricular environment for our students to excel is sustained by the rich intellectual environment in which our faculty continue to excel, achieving great impact in their respective and, often, interdisciplinary fields of study, and bringing great prestige to the school and university. One such faculty member is Oscar Schofield, chair and distinguished professor in the Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences. An oceanographer, Oscar was recently named the 2019 recipient of the G. Evelyn Hutchinson Award from the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography for his “considerable contributions to knowledge and whose future work promises a continued legacy of scientific excellence.”

Recent national rankings of several programs are additional points of pride. The 2019 Best Nutrition Science Colleges report by College Factual ranked our program number four of 35 schools—and number one in New Jersey for two years in a row—putting our nutritional sciences program in the top 10 percent nationally. Our undergraduate meteorology program is ranked eighth by both Universities.com and College Factual, while the graduate program in atmospheric science—one of more than a dozen programs associated with the school and administered in conjunction with the School of Graduate Studies—ranked ninth by SuccessfulStudent.org. Landscape Architecture—the only accredited undergraduate and graduate program in New Jersey—is ranked among the top 25 most admired landscape architecture schools in the U.S.

We look forward to continuing to share such heartening news about your school and university. I offer my congratulations to members of the Class of 2019 and I urge them as our newest alumni to stay connected, as they are an indelible part of the Cook community.

CLASS OF 2019

GRADUATION SNAPSHOT



644 GRADUATING CLASS

40 SUMMA CUM LAUDE

65 MAGNA CUM LAUDE

14 GENERAL HONORS PROGRAM

98 GEORGE H. COOK HONORS SCHOLARS



A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

The Department of Landscape Architecture teaches students about so much more than design. Graduates come away with community engagement skills, eco-awareness, and a drive to diversify the profession.

Professor Richard Alomar and student Ravi Mohamed examine real life examples for inspiration.



Emily Och SEBS'21 working on a drawing exercise in Studio II class.



Dr. Wolfram Hoefer discusses research findings with residents in Teaneck, NJ during the Bergen County Parks Master Plan project.



Sarah Cheung SEBS'18 and Joe Tidona SEBS'18 working on an installation that Joe helped design at Martin Hall.

Landscape architecture at Rutgers started as a series of five courses offered through the Department of Horticulture in 1955. Today, it's a landmark department at SEBS, offering two undergraduate degrees, one graduate degree, two certificates, an interdisciplinary center, a successful lecture series, and myriad outreach projects impacting the state and beyond.

"New Jersey is a high-density state with a number of environmental, social, and economic challenges that demand smart solutions for organizing our settled areas and open spaces for the future," says associate professor and department chair Wolfram Hoefer. This is not lost on the Department of Landscape Architecture, where teaching and research go beyond planning and design to also include community engagement, environmental awareness, and promoting the inclusion of diverse voices.

Community Counts

Parks and other developed spaces don't exist in a vacuum. They exist among neighborhoods, workplaces, and other areas where people gather. They also exist among naturally occurring ecosystems, which increasingly need protection. So it makes sense that the most successful plans meet the needs of both the local community and the local environment.

To address this, the Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES) brings together expertise from Rutgers' landscape architecture and environmental sciences departments. Together, they tackle real-world design challenges alongside the needs of local communities, all with an eye to the environment.

One example of this partnership in action is a project designed to connect the communities along the Hackensack River in Bergen County, New Jersey, one of the most densely populated counties in the U.S. It's a place that's challenged by congestion and traffic, high taxes, water and air quality issues, and changing climate conditions. It's clear that no one town or institution can address all of these issues on its own.

That's why CUES is currently working with the Northern New Jersey Community Foundation to engage all kinds of stakeholders in planning a green connection along the river. As a service provider, CUES assessed the property, ownership status, and ecological value of the area. It also examined the area's long-term sustainability needs, including habitat diversity, flood management, and accessibility to the river. The center's value to the project is clear. But the department benefits, as well.

"For us, it's about being good citizens and following the land-grant mission of Rutgers, but it's also about providing an education that prepares students well for the job world," Hoefer says. Indeed, community engagement skills are highly marketable post-graduation, since big firms and public clients are more interested in working with communities than swooping in and making unilateral changes.

To gain these skills, landscape architecture students are involved in all steps of outreach, and in a variety of roles. They may be interns, or work hourly. Or, if the project fits the need of a class, it can form the basis of a studio (a high-level class where students collaborate to tackle a real-world design challenge).

"Community engagement should be up front," says Hoefer. "We believe in working with students, so they learn how to work with the community in their approach to design. It means taking the person across the room seriously in their needs, even if they have a very different living situation than one's own."



Diversity Drivers

In order to understand the person across the room, diversity is essential. This has been a challenge in the landscape architecture profession which, as associate professor Holly Nelson explains, has historically been very white and very male. But the department is taking active steps to change this.

One way is through the BSLA+MLA Dual-degree (previously called the 4+1 program), which allows undergraduates to start taking graduate level courses as seniors, and earn a master's degree with just one extra year of schooling. As they work on their theses, they take courses in sociology, ecology, and other areas outside the department, which is beyond the scope of the undergraduate degree. "Landscape architecture is a professional degree, and there are certain classes you need to take in preparation of the exam," Nelson says. "So, many students don't step outside the discipline very often." The dual-degree program, however, exposes students to different classes at Rutgers, creating different kinds of landscape architecture students and, therefore, different kinds of landscape architects.

Another way the department is working to diversify the industry is by offering study abroad studio opportunities, which introduce students to all kinds of international issues. This is especially valuable for students transferring to the department after two years at community colleges. Since it's offered in the summer, these students can "catch up" on their studio requirements, which otherwise would require them to take a fifth year.

Placing female professors in gateway and introductory courses, as the landscape architecture department does, also promotes diversity by increasing interest among female students, Nelson says. Plus, the department's robust student club provides a welcoming atmosphere to all kinds of students—especially since its leadership enrolled in a one-credit course to provide a more supportive peer mentoring experience.

The payoff is clear. According to Nelson, there were 43 students in the program in 2012, and 32 of them were male. By 2018, the program was exactly half female and half male. "In six years, there are many, many more females in the program at Rutgers," Nelson says. "And that's a great first step for an industry looking to diversify."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN O'BOYLE AND ALEXIS LO.



Diosmiry Rodriguez SEBS'19 explaining her work to Giovanni Caputo SEBS'20 in Praxis Design Studio class.



Jason Cincotta SEBS'19 looking over plans for the Blake Hall installation.

It's Alive!

“Living labs” all over campus help students apply classroom theory to real-world spaces.



The Raritan River

Thanks to a new 36-foot, 26-passenger boat, landscape architecture students can examine the shore for erosion, assess storm damage, measure flood plains, and more.

If you look around the George H. Cook campus, you'll see beautiful natural terrain like Passion Puddle, but you'll also see vibrant garden installations that enhance its organic charm. After all, the campus is known as being a little piece of nature nestled into the hustle and bustle of the Rutgers' New Brunswick campus. But did you know that these spaces provide more than a respite from urban living?

Formally called “living labs,” these spaces give students in the Department of Landscape Architecture an opportunity to apply the theories they learn in the classroom to real-world design challenges. Plus, the campus' rich natural landscape acts as a convenient canvas for students to practice mapping, measurement, and other skills.

“Living labs teach students to use the skills they develop in class,” says Christina Kaunzinger, assistant research professor. “They learn about collaboration, leadership, and how to communicate their work to the public.” So the next time you stroll around Lipman Drive—and beyond!—take special note of these lovely living labs, all utilized or designed by Landscape Architecture students.

Blake Hall

Designed by two Green Team students, Alexis Lo and Jason Cincotta, the garden in front of Blake Hall now accurately reflects the goals and achievements of the Department of Landscape Architecture. Sod was replaced by low-input turf (which requires less mowing). Dogwood cultivars developed by plant biology faculty member Thomas Molnar were planted, and a woodland understory garden was established. All this was planted by students in the Landscape Architecture Club, department, and Green Team.





Landscape architecture students planting an installation at the Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health.



Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health (IFNH)

As part of Rutgers' 250th anniversary celebration, landscape architecture students were challenged to create a garden that could serve as a meeting place and social area for SEBS students. Now known as IFNH's amphitheater, it was the first manufactured living lab on campus. IFNH is also home to a student-designed border garden that showcases Rutgers turfgrass varieties, and pollinator plots that attract conventional and specialist bees (who fly for a short period of time in the summer, and are a conservation concern). Plus, a student-designed and student-installed rooftop herb garden provides ingredients for the IFNH kitchen.

Rutgers Student Farm

Located in Rutgers Gardens, the farm teaches students about small-scale organic farming. Then, they work on the farm as part of their lab.



Martin Hall

A recent basement repair caused a total clearing of the plants in front of Martin Hall. Landscape architecture students designed a new plant plan and installed it with volunteers on the Scarlet Day of Service.



Passion Puddle

In their first year, landscape architecture students learn about grading and drainage. The sloped surfaces of Passion Puddle provide a tangible place for students to practice measurements and drawings.



Meet the Green Team!

These students—hailing from the Department of Landscape Architecture and all over SEBS—are paid to act as garden caretakers and stewards. They water plants, manage weeds, supervise students during volunteer days, and give tours.

Members of the Green Team pictured (left to right) Aleeza Langert SEBS'20, Emily Briscoe SEBS'21, Jordan Davis SEBS'21, Alexis Lo SEBS'19, Catherine Worth SEBS'21, and Darrian Beam SEBS'21.

SOLVING THE URBAN CONTAMINATION CONUNDRUM

How should city planners handle a contaminated site? The Department of Landscape Architecture has a few ideas, all being put to the test across New Jersey.

Gather the Research | Frank Gallagher

During his tenure at the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, associate professor Frank Gallagher saw the contaminated interior section of Liberty State Park as a challenge. Today, as a faculty member, he also sees the site as a rich research opportunity and case study. "My research is focused on the adaptive reuse of post-industrial landscapes in the state, particularly those that are considered contaminated," he says.

The plant assemblages that have voluntarily colonized the site since the abandonment of the former rail yard have adapted to the high concentration of soil metals associated with industrial lands. Not only have they survived, but they are also mitigating the human health and ecological risk associated with these urban soils. Over the past several years, the Urban Forestry Lab has published papers on the vegetative community composition, distribution and trajectory, primary productivity, and carbon sequestration in this area. Such information provides an invaluable characterization of the site that can be used while planning for its eventual use by the public.

In the larger context, this case study has also helped shape the discourse concerning the true value of urban ecology and how it can be applied in planning and design efforts.



Create a Vision | Richard Alomar

Associate professor Richard Alomar believes the design process can bring people together. Nowhere was this more evident than in the case of the Second Street Park in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. It's a six-acre site, close to the waterfront, and close to a New Jersey Transit line. And, it's contaminated. The conversation among township stakeholders had, for a long time, centered around how to deal with the contamination. Alomar had a different approach. "Our proposal was, put the contamination issue to the side for a moment, and let's talk about what the vision for the park is," Alomar says. "Let's talk about the park, what it can be, who needs to contribute to the conversation, and let's move forward on that. That was a turning point."

Three years later, after a successful design by Alomar, funding has been secured and construction on the park is beginning soon. In an attempt to solve other challenges like this around the state, Alomar heads up the Office of Urban Extension and Engagement, which helps local municipalities and stakeholders find the right network of collaborators so projects can move forward.

Remember the Damage | Anita Bakshi

When disaster strikes, it's common to see a memorial left behind. But what about environmental disasters, which can be slow-moving and hard to understand? "Sea level rise, for example, is nebulous and hard to wrap your head around," says instructor Anita Bakshi. "Sometimes we can see the impacts but, a lot of times, we cannot." In an effort to memorialize and educate the public on such losses, Bakshi says we may start seeing a variety of what she calls environmental loss memorials: interactive deep maps, with drawers and layers demonstrating each level of soil and contamination; site markers resembling conventional memorials to mark the place of a disaster (like a hurricane); or even traveling exhibitions to reach museum-goers and schools.

Right now, Bakshi is working on a memorial reflecting the soil damage in Ringwood, New Jersey, where there is a rich Lenape population. The published piece will highlight people's memories of what it's like to deal with the contamination. "Very often the discourse is about contaminants and how toxins affect the body and trigger illness, and I don't want to take anything away from the importance of that," Bakshi says. "But we are going for another set of layers here, in examining how this affects culture. How does it affect the memories people have of this landscape, which they can no longer use in the same way?"

Great times a of Environmental and

First-Year Induction Ceremony



G. H. Cook Responsible Drinking Happy Hour



Student Life Activities



SEBS Convocation

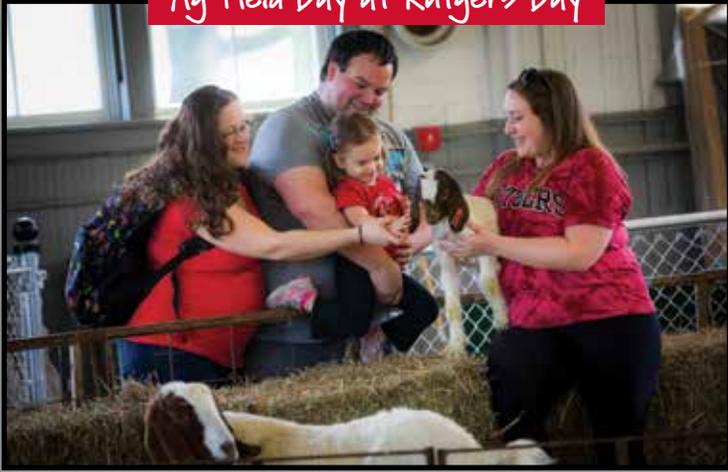


Undergraduate Research Mixer



at the School and Biological Sciences

Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day



Passion Puddle



*Congratulations
Class of 2019*

Study Abroad-
Bird Banding in Belize



Seeing Eye Puppy
Raising Club



LEARNING FROM THE BEST

*How can people coexist with their spaces?
History often has the answers.*

Today's landscape architects face a tall order: they need to design spaces that are beautiful and functional, but also eco-friendly and financially sustainable. While meeting all these goals at once might seem like a pipe dream, the truth is that these ideals don't have to be at odds. And a group of professors in the Department of Landscape Architecture believe the answers aren't necessarily in the science of the future, but in the lessons of the past.

If you ask associate professor Anette Freytag, considering eco-friendliness as a challenge to be met is a relatively new phenomenon. "We're currently in a moment where eco-consciousness makes sense, but this is only because we became detached from our understanding of how to work with the earth," she says. "If we want to get better at coexisting, we need to learn from history."

What is there to learn? Lots of things, Freytag says. Examples run the gamut from how to drain a field to how to make a flood-resistant settlement with an eye to the environment. "This is something that has been passed on from generation to generation over hundreds of years," she says. "The idea that we can engineer anything and everything, and that anything is feasible, has detached us from our history and is biting us back now in the form of climate change. We are seeing this everywhere, and it's because we didn't listen to our ancestors."

Associate professor Kate John-Alder looks to more recent history for answers, specifically in the wisdom of mid-20th century environmentalists, who were influenced by anthropologists and ecologists of the era. They considered landscape architecture not as a will to form that makes anything possible, but rather as an ecological relationship between an organism and its environment. "I try to examine the history of landscape architects

and how designers confronted with similar problems have approached them," she says. "How have they figured it out? What haven't they been able to resolve? For me that's a very productive practice."

But what does this actually look like in the real world? One example is the work of professor Laura Lawson, who focuses on urban gardening. Currently, a major problem facing urban farmers and gardeners is that they tend to be reliant on grant funding and are always vulnerable to losing it. This is one reason why many people see urban gardens as temporary spaces, while they rarely see conventional rural farms this way. Plus, urban gardens tend to spread themselves very thin, with many well-intentioned but strategically competing goals. For example, a garden may want to address food insecurity, social connections, urban greening, youth employment, and more at the same time that it struggles just to maintain cash flow. "One of the lessons we're learning through history is that there needs to be more structure and a main goal, and then design around that goal," Lawson explains. Two goals that rise to the top are economic self-sufficiency and social justice.

"The idea that we can do anything and everything is not necessarily always positive," says Freytag. "We have this idea that landscape as an ecosystem is separate from what landscape means for people. I believe we have to bring this back together, and that's what we're doing at Rutgers."

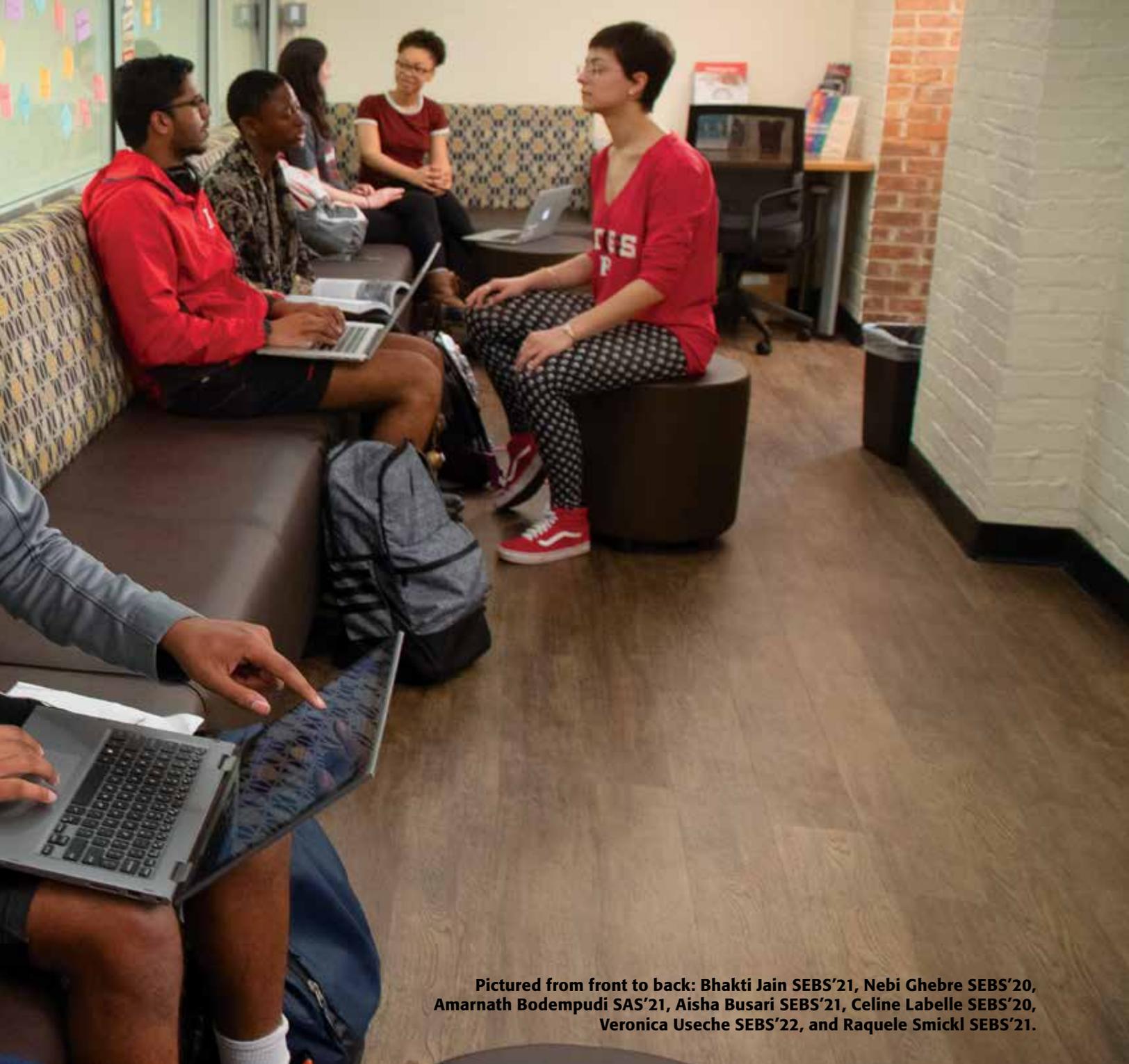


From left to right: Anette Freytag, Kate John-Alder, and Laura Lawson.



NEW SPACES **NEW FACES**

The Office of Academic Programs has a new home and new ideas for maintaining the schools' unique community culture.



Pictured from front to back: Bhakti Jain SEBS'21, Nebi Ghebre SEBS'20, Amarnath Bodempudi SAS'21, Aisha Busari SEBS'21, Celine Labelle SEBS'20, Veronica Useche SEBS'22, and Raquele Smickl SEBS'21.

The first floor of Martin Hall is looking a whole lot different, now that it's the hub for Academic Programs. There's a student-friendly lobby. There are welcoming advisers all around. And it's obvious where to go with questions. "The move has allowed us to be more accessible and open," says dean of academic programs Laura Lawson.



Assistant dean Lian Pechera with Amarnath Bodempudi SAS'21 discussing interview preparations.



Assistant dean Sharice Richardson advising Dalena Lien SEBS'21.

On paper, the SEBS Office of Academic Programs is dedicated to student advising, promoting co-curricular events, working on curriculum, supporting faculty, and recruiting. But in practice, it's also the glue that maintains a sense of community for SEBS students. And, like the new space itself, the office is shifting to a more open outlook when it comes to its services.

Community Support

For Cook College grads, living on campus was a huge part of the student experience. "In those days, it was a little easier to maintain a sense of community because our community was physically together," says Julie Traxler, associate dean for academic programs. Today, it's a bit different, since SEBS students can sign up to live on any New Brunswick campus.

Because of this, and because Rutgers can be a big place, Martin Hall can't be the only option for SEBS students in need of advising. That's why Traxler has shifted to a more creative approach, leaving her office—and the G.H. Cook campus—to connect with students where they are.

To reach SEBS student veterans, for example, she often visits the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services (aka Veterans House) on the College Avenue campus. "This population tends to skew a little bit older, and they may have jobs in addition to being students," Traxler says. "The answer can't always be to travel across Rutgers to Martin Hall to see someone."

In a similar vein, Traxler prioritizes visiting other campus hubs like the Center for Social Justice Education & LGBT Communities, also located on the College Avenue campus. "We can say we're accessible," she says, "but if students don't see us as part of their everyday experience, then we're not truly accessible." Going forward, cultural centers where students congregate will also be a stop on Traxler's route.

Beyond advising, the Office of Academic Programs also cultivates community among students who need additional support.

Academic Mentoring is a one-credit class for first-generation college students, who are a unique group in that they don't have a family member to guide them through the sometimes confusing collegiate landscape. Another one-credit course called PASS is designed for students who find themselves on academic probation after their first semester. It brings this community together for peer support, study skills and time management tips, and access to resources like peer coaching and tutoring.

"One of the selling points to SEBS is that while Rutgers is a huge university, and a place where students can easily get lost, SEBS is small enough to help them make connections right off the bat," says Traxler. "SEBS and Cook alumni felt known, and that people cared about them. We want to maintain that feeling, and let students know that our office is a place where they can go to hash anything out."

Fun Times!

While academic support is important, the classroom is just one component of the campus experience. That's why fun and informative events play a huge part in keeping the SEBS community together, even as they live all over the New Brunswick campus.

For example, students can stop by the research mixer to learn about undergraduate research opportunities. This is a hugely popular event, says campus dean Judith Storch, with about 150 students attending each fall and 70 attending each spring (likely because many are already involved in research by that time, thanks to the fall event). It doesn't hurt that there's pizza and beverages. "It's a relaxed atmosphere, and great exposure for students in a low-key and non-threatening way," Storch adds.

To further connect the SEBS community through research, Storch and the Department of Human Ecology have teamed up to run Science Cafés. These intimate events feature faculty doing research of general



Assistant dean Joseph Ventola advising Ajay Challapalli SAS'22.



Associate dean Julie Traxler advising a student.

interest to the community. And, everyone's invited: students, staff, and faculty. "It's rare to get all of these people together in one room," Storch says. "The diversity of attendance brings all different people from across SEBS together."

Of course, one other venue for the SEBS community to connect is the Responsible Drinking Happy Hour, which alumni might recognize since it's been in existence for well over a dozen years. It's a great way for SEBS community members of all ages to meet and greet.

Growing the Community, Creatively

SEBS has always recruited new students at college fairs and campus tours. But, in the spirit of coloring outside the lines, new initiatives are underway to reach more and more potential students.

"It has to be more than a high school visit," says assistant dean of recruitment and advising Serafina Smith. "Meeting students in non-traditional spaces can help cultivate interest more closely related to the majors we have available. We can miss students if we only recruit using traditional methods."

That's why Smith has broadened the office's recruitment efforts to include special events that align with the programming SEBS has to offer. For example, hosting the NJ Youth Institute Food Prize, where high school students solve key global challenges related to hunger, puts SEBS front and center with students already showing interest in climate change, food, and nutrition. The Shore Bowl, held at Rutgers, brings high school students together to address questions related to ocean sciences. So it makes sense to recruit there, as well.

In the end, it's about the organic community that's always defined SEBS, and Cook before it. It may not always look the same, but the Office of Academic Programs is dedicated to keeping it intact no matter what challenges and changes the future brings.



Welcome!

New to the department are associate dean of academic programs Julie Traxler (left), and assistant dean of recruitment and advising Serafina Smith (a new position for the department).

Traxler is leveraging her 25 years of advising experience at Rutgers—first at Rutgers College, then at the School of Arts and Sciences—to connect with students at SEBS. She keeps in touch every step of the way, from on-boarding new students to graduation day.

Smith comes to Academic Programs with a rich background in recruiting. Rising through the ranks from student tour guide to Scarlet Ambassador to on-staff enrollment advisor to Honors College recruiter, she brings her passion for Rutgers to SEBS.

Together, they're injecting Academic Programs and the SEBS community with a dose of creativity. Welcome!

Passion Puddle Reflections

From across the nation to around the world, alumni are making discoveries, growing businesses, and training the next generation. But it all started at SEBS.



Stacy Martinez
SEBS'16, GSNB'17
Landscape Architecture

Stacy Martinez is a junior landscape architect at the New York State Department of Transportation in Long Island City, New York.

On her Rutgers experience:

In college I was very self-driven, independent, and rarely asked for help. It wasn't until I met my adviser and two classmates (who to this day remain my close friends) at the Department of Landscape Architecture that I felt I had found my family. These three women were my oxygen tanks during the many low moments, whether financial or personal, I had during my undergraduate and graduate career. They were the reason I was able to walk across the stage for both degrees and they continue to be the reason for my success in my career. I frequently look back at my time at Rutgers and am thankful for the many difficult moments that I had as a student, and that I still allow myself to be challenged, continue towards my future, and grow into the woman that I am today.

On her Rutgers mentor:

I am thankful for my Rutgers adviser, Holly Nelson. She took care of me both mentally and physically. In my eyes she was my mother—a

mother who truly helped me plant the seed in transforming my life in ways far greater than my education.

On Rutgers pride:

It's not so much pride of being a Rutgers graduate, but more so happiness and appreciation of having Rutgers become my second home.



Thomas Young
SEBS'14, Biological Sciences
and Music GSNB'17, Landscape
Architecture

Thomas Young is creative director of the National Consortium for Creative Placemaking, a nonprofit organization that helps creative leaders nationwide build communities through arts and cultural programming.

On "ah-ha" moments:

I remember when we were choosing our thesis topics, many of my classmates were tackling really challenging issues like gentrification, ecological restoration, urban agriculture, and so much more. After talking with many of my advisers and mentors, I realized what interested me most was story. I was struck by how storytelling is such a central and vital part of being human.

I realized that storytelling is the strongest force to bring people back to their land and under-

stand what "place" means, and what it means to be human. I dove into different stories and narratives, and discovered how different ways of storytelling can impact different types of people. I think this realization stuck with me after graduating. It's why I didn't go off to work for a landscape architecture firm, but rather followed a growing field that is building communities through stories and culture.

On his Rutgers experience:

Working through my thesis helped to shape my own views about storytelling and how it can impact people across disciplines and backgrounds. And, powerful mentorship from brilliant professors across the Department of Landscape Architecture taught me how to lead, how to fail, and how to facilitate creativity and community between people and place. I've learned the importance of collaborative visioning and storytelling through my time at Rutgers, which has resulted in really successful and enjoyable experiences for myself and my colleagues.

On campus memories:

It would be remiss of me to not talk about my experiences with the Rutgers Glee Club, Cabaret Theater, and the Livingston Theater Company. These student organizations completely shaped who I am as a person and who my lifelong friends are. This was where I could work off my creative energy and enjoy time with friends.

On Rutgers pride:

I'm proud to have learned from a group of passionate, intelligent, and thoughtful leaders. I'm proud that I have left Rutgers excited and motivated to give back to my community and communities around the country. I'm proud that I'm equipped to position myself in the middle of these important conversations and provide leadership, empathy, and creativity where it's needed.



Miloni Mody
*SEBS'15, Landscape
Architecture*

Miloni Mody is a landscape architect, planning to focus on making landscape design and infrastructure accessible to underserved communities like low-income groups, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

On her Rutgers experience:

A year before my graduation, I did my summer internship in a design studio, Bruce Davies Associates, offered to me by one of our guest lecturers, Joan Furlong. She was senior landscape designer there. A year after I graduated, she had moved on to a very well-known landscape firm in New Jersey and, because of her, I was offered my first job there. It was an amazing learning experience to be an on-call contractor for New York City's Parks and Recreation Department and to design rooftops for New York City buildings, experiences I never would have imagined having right out of college.

On her Rutgers mentor:

Through his research project, the restoration of Liberty State Park, Frank Gallagher instilled in me (and many other students) an undying passion for public open spaces and a drive for their preservation. His innate human quality to communicate his intellect patiently, and in the simplest form, is a quality I will always strive for. We stay in touch on a regular basis and update one another on our personal and professional lives. I wouldn't have graduated without his support.

On campus memories:

My favorite places to hang out were Passion Puddle and Rutgers Gardens, a wonderful hidden resource at Rutgers.



Han Yan
*GSNB'15, Landscape
Architecture*

Currently in her third year of doctoral study in urban systems, Han Yan plans to teach in the discipline of design and planning.

On her Rutgers experience:

The Department of Landscape Architecture exposed me to a very diverse source of knowledge and group of people. And, I felt very welcomed and respected as an international student. I was inspired by professors dedicated to a career in their passion, and by fellow students who were brave enough to step out of their comfort zone. I was very lucky to be offered the opportunity to work closely with some exceptional professors in the program, which helped me see many other aspects of the career I hope to pursue.

On "ah-ha" moments:

At one time, I was a bit disoriented and was desperately "knocking" on any possible doors. One of my favorite professors answered and offered me a job to work with her. This not only opened many other opportunities for me, but also taught me to not give up and, instead, just keep "knocking on doors" when things seem stuck.

On her Rutgers mentor:

Holly Nelson taught me the importance of listening to what people have to say, and to always involve clients in the design process.

On campus memories:

Watching people doing all kinds of activities around Passion Puddle made me see how important landscape architecture is to people.



Kari Williams
*GSNB'18, Landscape
Architecture*

Currently a landscape designer for the OLIN studio in Philadelphia, Kari Williams has a passion for elevating and advocating for public green spaces.

On her Rutgers mentor:

The great thing about the landscape architecture department is the variety of different faculty. In such a small program, it was easy to form close relationships with the faculty, and I found that many of the people in the department each mentored me in a different way. My adviser, Kate John-Alder pushed me to be confident and imaginative in my ideas and writing. Tobiah Horton taught me to walk the talk when it comes to sustainable practices in landscape architecture. Dean Cardasis and Holly Grace Nelson are incredible designers who made sure I never forget the value of beauty, space, and meaning in the landscapes I design.

On campus memories:

I loved walks through campus and restful moments around Passion Puddle. I also treasure memories of Monday night happy hours with my colleagues in downtown New Brunswick, which we tried to do no matter how hectic the week may be, just to prove to ourselves that we had our lives together enough to step back and relax on a Monday night.

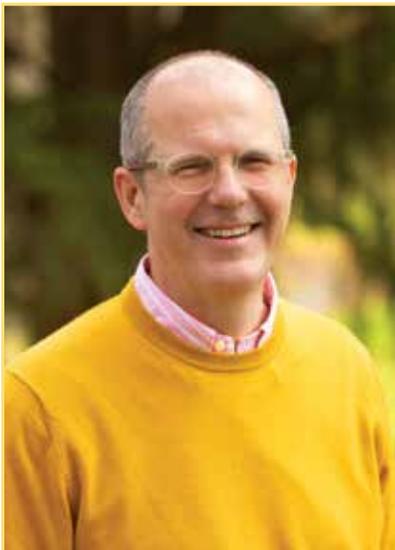
On Rutgers pride:

I am most proud of how grounded and diverse Rutgers is. We graduate knowing how the world works, and how to use that knowledge to make change both locally and globally. New Jersey was the perfect classroom for me, and Rutgers exemplifies the richness and variety of the state.

Just Visualize It



*Thanks to support from alumni and friends,
SEBS is getting a new lab.*



**Professor Wolfram Hofer,
department chair of landscape
architecture.**

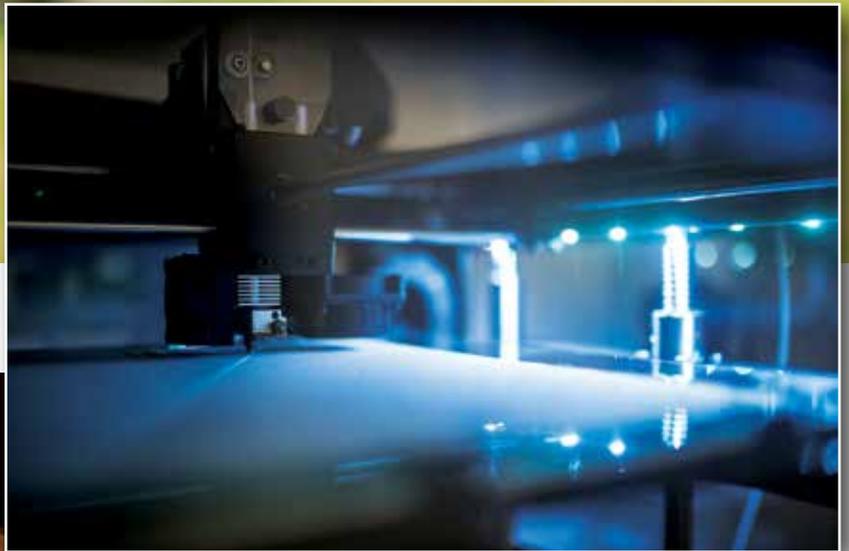
When was the last time you read an architecture plan? If the answer is “never,” you might be interested to know that a new visualization lab in Blake Hall will make future university and community projects a whole lot easier (and enjoyable!) to understand.

“Most people aren’t trained to read the plans we use to design various spaces,” says landscape architecture associate professor and department chair Wolfram Hofer. “But, by using 3-D modeling and computer game programming, anyone can explore within a design, even if it’s not built yet.” This is just one of the features that will be housed in the new state-of-the-art visualization lab. The lab boasts benefits for the community, Department of Landscape Architecture students and faculty, and their peers and colleagues across the school and the university at large.

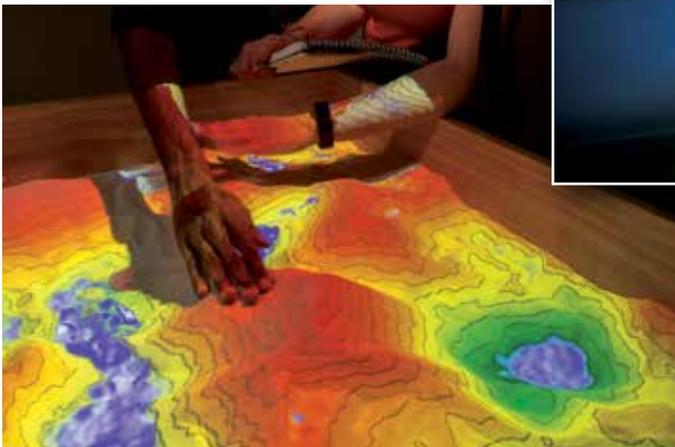
For students, the new lab will introduce them to the kinds of technology that successful landscape architects use in the field: new high-end computers and workstations, software and design programs for digital renderings and 3-D modeling, a laser cutter, large-format scanner and printer, 4K 360-degree video camera, and drone technology used for aerial imaging and mapping. Bringing this technology to campus means that students graduate from the Department of Landscape Architecture with the practical knowledge they’ll need in a competitive job market. It also equips them to address environmental challenges, designing approaches at all scales that are both innovative and sustainable. Beyond learning how to use the equipment, students will also learn how to leverage it to explain plans to community members and stakeholders—an important step in securing buy-in for a project.



Drones assist with aerial imaging and mapping.



Proposed laser cutter.



Augmented reality sandbox.

For faculty members and researchers, the new visualization lab opens the doors for interdisciplinary collaboration between the Department of Landscape Architecture and others at SEBS who could also benefit from the new technology. Climate change scholars, for example, may find value in tools that can measure and model surfaces as they relate to sea level rise, or see how the environment is adapting to landscapes permeated with infrastructure, an example seen locally in New Jersey.

"This is all thanks to donations from our alumni and friends," says Hoefer. "These are the kinds of things that are outside of our normal budget, but that enrich our student experience in countless ways."

For more information regarding how you can support the visualization lab, contact Melissa McKillip, associate dean of philanthropy and strategic partnerships, at melissa.mckillip@rutgers.edu or 848-932-4214.

Alumni Notes

AND MUSINGS

The Rutgers University Alumni Association welcomes news

about your professional accomplishments and personal milestones. Submit your information at ralumni.com/mynews on the web, send it to your class correspondent listed in the Class Notes section of Rutgers Magazine, or drop a note via postal mail (Rutgers Alumni Communications, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 7 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1280). Ag, CAES, Cook, and SEBS news will be posted and indexed at discovery.rutgers.edu.

Wally Kaenzig AG'42 is feeling perky at age 98, and intends to ride his quad around his tree farm when the weather permits. This news comes from Class of 1942 correspondent **Berne Rolston RC'42** (br@rolston.net).

Frederick J. Kroesen RC'44, CC'80, a retired four-star U.S. Army general, was appointed honorary sergeant major of the Army. "One of the nice things that has happened to me," says Fritz. **Lloyd B. Kornblatt AG'44** sent class of 1944 correspondent **Doug McCabe RC'44** (973-226-3955) a letter and several photos of his travels to China and Israel, his latest marathon shirt, and his late wife Dolores at a grandson's graduation. Lloyd said he knows he's getting older because his kids are in their 60s!

Class of 1953 correspondent **Bill Sansalone AG'53, GSNB'61** (ws31@verizon.net) reports that the 65th Reunion weekend reminded him of the adage "Make new friends, but keep the old; the new are silver, the old are gold." Bill was joined by **Bob Koch AG'53** and **Bud Meeker AG'53** at the reunion events. He requests that classmates share the milestones of their lives with him and says that as time passes, fewer and fewer classmates remain. "As the adage goes, each of you is gold—pure gold!"

Rodger Zelles AG'54 is looking to reunite with his soccer teammates including **Herb Dunmeyer AG'54**. Rodger is a retired dentist living in Ship Bottom, NJ, per Class of 1954 correspondent **Herb Hersh RC'54** (herbhat@gmail.com).

Marty Steinweiss AG'55 went to University of Pennsylvania Dental School, served six years of military duty, and practiced dentistry for 25 years. After retiring, he started a real estate investment group. **Gene Taylor AG'55** celebrated 250 years of Rutgers history by resurrecting the famous "Jersey Tomato" with a small crop on the windowsill of his home in Abington, PA. Gene also informed us that **Lester Brown AG'55**, a member of the Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni, is publishing a book about subterranean water supplies in the United States. Les has previously published more than 50 books covering many aspects of the health of the world. They all go into the Lester R. Brown Special Collection on the George H. Cook campus.

School Abbreviations

AG College of Agriculture . **CC** Cook College . **CCAS** Camden College of Arts and Sciences . **CLAW** School of Law—Camden
DC Douglass College . **ED** School of Education . **EJB** Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy . **ENG** School of Engineering
GSAPP Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology . **GSC** Graduate School—Camden . **GSE** Graduate School of Education
GSM Graduate School of Management . **GSN** Graduate School—Newark . **GSNB** Graduate School—New Brunswick . **LC** Livingston
College . **MGSA** Mason Gross School of the Arts . **NCAS** Newark College of Arts and Sciences . **NLAW** School of Law—Newark
NUR College of Nursing . **PHARM** Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy . **QC** Queen's College . **RBS** Rutgers Business School—Newark and
New Brunswick . **RC** Rutgers College . **RWJMS** Robert Wood Johnson Medical School . **SAS** School of Arts and Sciences . **SB** School
of Business . **SBC** School of Business—Camden . **SC&I** School of Communication and Information . **SCILS** School of Communication,
Information and Library Studies . **SCJ** School of Criminal Justice . **SEBS** School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
SMLR School of Management and Labor Relations . **SNC** School of Nursing—Camden . **SPAA** School of Public Affairs and Administration
SPA School of Public Health . **SSW** School of Social Work . **UCC** University College—Camden . **UCJC** University College at Jersey City
UCN University College—Newark . **UCNB** University College—New Brunswick . **UCP** University College at Paterson

Ken Mason AG'55 remarried after five years as a widower. He and his bride are now in an assisted living facility near Washington, DC. Ken volunteers as a docent at the Washington National Cathedral and has served for 10 years as secretary of his Masonic Lodge. These updates come from Class of 1955 correspondent **Robert McBride RC'55** (mojomom@surewest.net).

Bob Langford RC'58 wrote to Class of 1958 correspondent **Robert Max RC'58, GSE'78** (bbmax96@comcast.net) to say that he had lunch with classmate **Ray Dull AG'58, GSNB'60** in Minneapolis, MN. Ray looks great and is deciding what to do with his poetry collection and opera and classical LPs.

Eight stalwart classmates showed up for Rutgers Day/Alumni Weekend festivities according to Class of 1959 correspondent **Alan Schreihofner RC'59** (aschreihofner@bellsouth.net). These included **Dave Blanch AG'59** and **Nick Borrello AG'59**. Dave has visited 65 countries on seven continents and is "very confident" that he was the first Rutgers grad to set foot in Antarctica, courtesy of the U.S. Navy's Operation Deep Freeze in 1961. Nick retired from his Bethel, CT dental practice after 50-plus years. He writes, "Who wants an 80-year-old dentist?"

Michael Hakim AG'72 retired after a 45-year career as a landscape architect and professional planner. He moved from New Jersey to the North Shore of Massachusetts.

Seth Goldsmith CC'74 continues to enjoy retirement in Monterey, CA. He travels the country listening to music and enjoys photography and working in his garden. This report comes from Class of 1974 correspondent **Rick Stier AG'74** (rickstier4@aol.com), who also shares that he had knee replacement surgery, and should be back to better than normal soon.

Joseph Fiola CC'78, GSNB'81 received the 2018 American Society of Enology and Viticulture's Eastern Section Distinguished Service Award.

Robert Balewicz CC'79 is managing director of Hermitage Club Realty in Wilmington, VT.

Mary L. Riley CC'82 is a physical therapist specializing in the treatment of inner ear and balance disorders, and the program director for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Concorde Career Colleges in San Diego. She lives in Carlsbad, CA with her husband of over 32 years, William Riley.

Julia Coulter CC'82 is retired from Mead Johnson Nutrition, where she wrapped up a career as director of global controls and risk management. Julia and her husband are working on their goal of visiting as many of America's national parks as possible. This report comes from Class of 1982 correspondent **Norm Schleiffer RC'82** (schleiff@alumni.rutgers.edu).

Sandra Laden CC'84 manages the restoration of the Cherry Hill Barrens in Harford County, MD. She is also vice president of Friends of Cabin John Creek, a local watershed group, and a veterinarian in Bethesda, MD.

Cynthia Sothers CC'86 is a botanist in Great Britain who specializes in the taxonomy of plants from the Amazon.

Carl Max Kortepeter CC'89 published his fifth book, *12 Muslim Revolutions, and the Struggle for Legitimacy Against the Imperial Powers* (Xlibris, 2017). This update was provided by Class of 1989 correspondent **John Fagan RC'89, GSNB'95** (johndfagan@verizon.net). **Jeff Smeraldo CC'89** is the survey manager for Timmons Group, an engineering and technology firm, in their Washington, DC office.

Harold Hornung CC'90 received a master's degree in environmental management from Montclair State

University. He is a biological scientist for the Air Force Department of Defense at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Harold celebrated his 21st wedding anniversary to Shari Hornung. They have two children and live in Howell, NJ. This update comes from Class of 1990 correspondent **Rob Bardsley RC'90** (robbardsley@alumni.rutgers.edu).

Hakan Jonsson CC'98 is a senior consultant at Gaia Consulting in Helsinki, Finland.

Lisa Czepiel Keith CC'99 is communications director for the Michigan Senate Democrats in Lansing, MI. She lives in Williamston, MI with her husband and two children.

Jamie O'Regan CC'05 is vice president of the Rutgers Club of New York City.

Christopher Bylone CC'06 is president of the Rutgers Club of New York City, and **Andrew Kabatchnick CC'06, GSNB'09** is the treasurer. **Justin Pao CC'06** is a major in the U.S. Army, stationed in Japan. **Jay Dougherty CC'06**, a professional pilot, married **Alyssa Chesnut RC'06**, an international flight attendant. Although they were on the Banks at the same time, they did not meet until they were passengers on a flight from Newark to Denver in 2014. **Melissa Oryniak CC'06** is the intensive care unit coordinator at Crown Veterinary Specialists in Lebanon, NJ.

Ryan Carlson CC'07 is of counsel at Nukk-Freeman and Cerra in Chatham, NJ.

Samantha Wilson Boyd CC'08 and **Scott Boyd RBS'05**, along with their son Casey, welcomed twins Cooper and Caroline in April 2018. Samantha is a human resources manager and Scott is a financial planner.

Ross Alter CC'09, GSNB'14 is a research meteorologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



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