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## Monthly News from the George H. Cook Campus May 2023



### **Class of 2023 Graduates at Passion Puddle!**

After four years, Convocation returned to Passion Puddle on Monday, May 15th. On a beautiful, sunny day, members of the Class of 2023 crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, marking the completion of their undergraduate curriculum. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors and welcome them now as fellow alumni.

Convocation 2023 information and ceremony recording can be found [here](#).

View photos from the ceremony on the SEBS [Facebook page](#).

Read remarks from [Executive Dean](#) Laura Lawson.

Read remarks from [2023 Class Representative](#) Genaye Deal.

This newsletter features a few stories of 2023 graduates. More stories can be found in the [SEBS-NJAES Newsroom](#).



## Honors College Scholar Learns Value of Collaboration

Lucy Yang, a [2023 Honors College graduate](#) with a degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, treasures her time at SEBS and the connections she has made on campus. Her experiences working with others is something she will carry with her en route to becoming a conservation biologist.



## Curiosity About the Ocean Drives Student's Research

Salvatore Fricano, a [2023 Marine Sciences graduate](#), jumped into ocean research early in his first year at Rutgers. His interest has only grown since then, and now he is helping to plan for the first worldwide voyage of an underwater glider. His goal is to earn a doctorate in oceanography and become a professor.



## High Seas Youth Ambassador is Committed to Climate Action

Kyra Bostic, a [2023 graduate with a degree in Environmental Policy, Institutions & Behavior](#), served in this role, which included a United Nations session to finalize the High Seas Treaty to safeguard the oceans and marine species. In her dedication to climate action, Kyra plans to become an environmental lawyer.





## Rutgers EcoComplex Announces New Composting System

A new composting system, developed by Green Mountain Technologies, has been [commissioned for the Cook campus](#). The system composts both food and animal waste, which will alleviate the burden of hauling waste to landfills, while enhancing Rutgers sustainability and climate change mitigation strategies.



## Registration Is Open for 2023 4-H Summer Camp

Summer camp at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in Branchville, NJ is [open for registration](#). There are 4 one-week camps and 1 eighteen-day camp in August, in which children ages 8 to 16 can participate. Campers participate in a wide array of activities and the time is tech-free (no phones or computers).

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## Other Items of Interest

The Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program and the N.J. Board of Public Utilities have agreed to the development and implementation of a [dual-use solar energy pilot program](#). The plan seeks to mutually benefit the state's clean-energy strategy and working family farmers.

Dipak Sarkar, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, was elected as a [2023 Fellow in the International Union of Physiological Sciences Academy](#).

Alvaro Toledo, Assistant Professor in the Department of Entomology, recently discussed the [increase in tick-borne illnesses](#) in New Jersey in a special report for NJ.com.

Despite the rain, thousands of people flocked to [Rutgers Day](#), including Ag Field Day, to partake in the annual traditions.

Alumni from SEBS/Cook/CAES/AG are invited to join the [alumni LinkedIn group](#), which is exclusive to alumni and students of the school. Career and other opportunities are frequently posted there for your consideration.

The Cook Community Alumni Association (CCAA) will next meet on Tuesday, May 23rd. All alumni of the school are welcome to participate. Contact CCAA secretary, Ted Wendin SEBS'11, for information and to register - [twendin@gmail.com](mailto:twendin@gmail.com).

More News

[Update us](#) with any information or news to share.

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## Calendar

[Cook's Market](#) at Rutgers Gardens returns on Friday, May 19th. Stop by between 11 am and 3pm to pick up your favorite local foodstuffs and other items.

The [New Jersey Climate Change Research Symposium](#) will take place at the Cook Student Center in New Brunswick on Friday, June 2nd. The symposium will present the latest research related to climate change in New Jersey. The cost to attend is \$75.

Save the Date! The Annual Alumni Fish Fry, hosted by the Cook Community Alumni Association, will be Saturday, July 22nd. Details and registration information will be forthcoming.

Rutgers acknowledges [Jewish American Heritage Month](#) in May.

Calendar

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## Quick Links

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This newsletter is brought to you by the Office of Alumni and Community Engagement at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. You may contact the office at 848-932-4215 or [alumni@sebs.rutgers.edu](mailto:alumni@sebs.rutgers.edu).

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