

RUTGERS – Discover Us

Office of Community Engagement

Meet the staff of the Office of Community Engagement

The Office of Community Engagement—with its mission to share the excellent work of Rutgers with the public—employs a team of communications and special events experts.

Diana Orban Brown, director, leads the office and its Discovery Initiative, providing strategic direction for the program, determining priorities, and developing implementation plans for public events and activities. Diana joined the school and experiment station in 2002 as the marketing specialist and interim director of the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, following a 20-year career in marketing and public relations. She can be reached at 732-932-2000, ext. 4250, or orban@aesop.rutgers.edu.



Patricia Kastner, assistant director, joins the department from her former position as special events coordinator in the Office of Communications. With more than 16 years at Rutgers, Patty brings her experience, organization, and creativity to the Office of Community Engagement, where she develops distinctive programming and events that feature the unique work being done by the faculty at the school and experiment station. She can be reached at 732-932-2000, ext. 4211, or kastner@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Lisa Gingold, administrative assistant, is a newcomer to Rutgers, but has experience in marketing research analysis and database management. She will manage an extensive clientele database and oversee events and programs. Lisa can be reached at 732-932-2000, ext. 4205, or gingold@aesop.rutgers.edu.



Discovery Tour - Coastal Exploration

Clams, fish, urchins, crabs...these are just a few creatures encountered during the second Discovery Tour - Coastal Exploration hosted by Executive Dean Robert M. Goodman on October 3 to the Jacques Cousteau Coastal Education Center and Rutgers University Marine Field Station in Tuckerton, and the ReClam the Bay project on Long Beach Island.



The Jacques Cousteau Coastal Education Center, which is managed by the Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, is a state-of-the-art facility designed primarily to conduct research on estuaries and neighboring watersheds. Faculty members Lisa Auermilller and Scott Haag updated guests on current research, and Francisco Werner, director of the Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences, presented a summary of the Center's activities.

At the Rutgers University Marine Field Station, Ken Able, director, provided an overview of marine research, and guests enjoyed views of the Little Egg Inlet in the Mullica River-Great Bay estuary, one of the most pristine on the East Coast. Guests observed sea life in the research tanks at the facility and learned about how specimens are tagged and released into the wild, transmitting valuable data to the researchers about the habits of the fish.

The last stop on the tour was to the Surf City Yacht Club on Long Beach Island, which houses one of the many "upwellers" maintained by the ReClam the Bay Project. We got up close and personal with thousands of clams and oysters that are being raised in these seaside incubators and will eventually be released into the Barnegat Bay. The clams and oysters help to restore the natural balance to the bay.



For more information, email discovery@aesop.rutgers.edu.

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Discovery Tour - Amazing Cranberries

It was cold and it was rainy, but that didn't stop diehard guests from touring the Lee Bros. Cranberry Farm in Chatsworth on October 15 during the third Discovery Tour, featuring Amazing Cranberries! Visitors learned about Integrity Propagation, a joint project with Abbott Lee, founder, and Nicholi Vorsa, director of the Rutgers Philip E. Marucci Cranberry and Blueberry

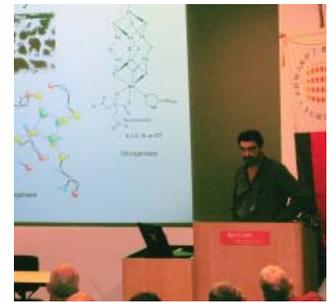


Research and Extension Center. Lee and Vorsa talked about the importance of "pure" breeding and planting to ensure crop sustainability and profitability. Tourgoers then donned their rain gear to head out to the bogs to see a "wet" cranberry harvest. Father and son, Stephen Lee III and Stephen Lee IV, provided an enthusiastic look into the life of a cranberry farmer. Guests enjoyed lunch and an engaging presentation by Amy Howell, research scientist at the Marucci Center, who explained how cranberries offer health benefits related to, for example, cholesterol levels and reduction of inflammation. The tour ended at the Ocean Spray Processing Facility, where farmers deliver their fresh-picked cranberries by truck. The cranberries are washed several times and then loaded into wooden crates and immediately shipped to other Ocean Spray processing facilities, where they become juice and a variety of products.

Distinguished Lecture featuring Nick Lane



Nick Lane, Ph.D., British scientist and author of *Life Ascending: The Ten Great Inventions of Evolution*, visited Rutgers on October 20 to provide an in-depth look at how evolution works. More than 140 faculty, students, parents with children, science teachers, and others filled the lecture hall at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. The lecture was followed by a book signing and reception. This distinguished lecture was sponsored by the Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, and the Bloustein School.



Have you completed our survey?

The Office of Community Engagement would like to learn more about your interests via a brief survey it has created.

You are invited to "discover" the great work that is taking place at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and to take part in activities and events that appeal to you. Our survey is designed to help us get to know your preferences so that we can invite you to events that are of greatest interest to you.

Please visit our website www.discovery.rutgers.edu to complete our questionnaire to ensure your invitation to upcoming events.

Upcoming Events:

December 7, 2009 - Retired Faculty Luncheon

Come visit with old friends or catch up with your favorite professor or mentor. The Retired Faculty Luncheon is open to all retired faculty, current faculty, staff, and guests.

February 25, 2010 - Spice of Life Tasting

Visit to a local winery for a cooking demonstration and wine tasting.

March 31, 2010 - Annual Awards Dinner

Come celebrate with faculty, staff, and alumni at the Annual Awards Dinner at the Douglass Student Center.

April 9, 2010 - Discovery Tour - Horse Sense

Tour stops include the Rutgers Equine Science Center, a local breeding operation, and a state-of-the-art equine hospital.

For more information on these and other events, please visit www.discovery.rutgers.edu.

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