

RUTGERS – Discover Us

Office of Community Engagement

Welcome Back!

Nearly 100 retired and current faculty and staff, alumni and others turned out for one of the highlights of the fall semester – the Retired Faculty Luncheon held earlier this month.

Hosted by Executive Dean **Bob Goodman** (who sent greetings by video – see story below) in cooperation with the George H. Cook Community Alumni Association (CCAA), the luncheon brought together retired colleagues from around the state, with a few even coming from out of state.

Among retirees taking part were **Alan Antoine, Alan and Kathleen Appleby, Betsy and Roger Barr, Ted Chase, Roy and Joan DeBoer** (Joan is secretary of the CCAA), **Bruce and Ellen Hamilton, Paul and Doris Eck, and Elwin and Portia Orton**. Several “alumni” of the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources were represented, including **Jim and Carol Applegate, Arthur and Barbara Edwards, Jane and Susan Hovland, Louis and Fran Iozzi, Roger Locandro, Ian Maw, James Quinn, and John and Vivian Tedrow**.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension also was well represented, including **Darsene Baggett, Helene Blum, Adele Collier, Brevoort and Virginia Conover, Sylvia Griffin, Jo Ann Hoffman, Jim and Frances Justin, John and Helen Kupcho, Dianne Lennon, Bea May, Joe Ponessa, Warner and Jean Thurlow, and Sherman and Sally Tomasino**. Director of Extension **Larry Katz** helped emcee the event, along with **Diana Orban Brown**, director of the Office of Community Engagement.

Returning from the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics were **Morris and Marilyn Fabian, Bob and Carol Koch, and Les Small**. Other returnees included **Johanna Smith, Hans and Ruth Fisher, Richard and Helen Ilnicki, John Meade, George Morren, Carl Price, and Eugene and Ruth Varney**.

CCAA officers **Rich Porter, Margaret O’Donnell, Lee Schneider, and Pat Zafian** greeted guests at the University Inn and Conference Center, the setting for the event, and **Kate Sweeney** was among alums joining the “meet and greet” festivities after lunch.

As one guest was heard to say: “The holidays wouldn’t be the same without this get-together – we look forward to it every year!”

Mission Accomplished!

The recovery team left Baiona harbor in Spain before dawn on December 4. The sea was the only thing that was calm that early morning. They were there to carry out one of the most important feats of their lives – recovering RU 27, the motorless, unmanned glider that had been launched 221 days earlier in Tuckerton, New Jersey, to cross the Atlantic Ocean and gather oceanographic data for the faculty and students of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences’ Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences (IMCS) and the staff of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Tension was high as daylight emerged. Would they find the glider, dubbed *Scarlet Knight* (or *El Caballero Escarlata* in Spanish)? Could they extract it safely from the sea? Would it yield the additional data and



Recovery team on board the *Investigador*

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items they needed? With winds picking up, would they have to abort the mission?

Using a zodiac from the *M/V Investigador*, a Spanish vessel, the recovery team was successful! Scarlet was safe. The team brushed off barnacles, cleaned up the bright yellow glider and rode into Baiona to celebrate. Baiona is significant because it was the town to which Columbus' *Pinta* returned from the New World. A replica of the *Pinta* is docked in the harbor.

The impact of the voyages of Scarlet and the *Pinta* was not lost on Baiona's mayor, who along with Spain's minister of transport, **Jose Blanco**, orchestrated the ceremonies at the municipal pier. Taking part

in the event were Executive Dean **Bob Goodman**; **Richard Spinrad** of NOAA; **Jerry Miller** of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; **Scott Glenn**, professor with IMCS; and a core group of faculty and students from the school.

Thronges of Spanish schoolchildren had the day off from studies to greet the glider, and the media flooded the town, with cameras shooting and flashbulbs popping paparazzi-like as though they were covering a rock star. Details of the momentous occasion have appeared in the press throughout the U.S. and abroad. A link to the Washington Post's article follows:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/14/AR2009121402861.html?hpid=artslot>

Preferences Survey – Give us Your Thoughts

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey. To date the largest majority of respondents said they are interested in the environment, ecology, and energy; gardening; food, nutrition and health; and agriculture. The results of the survey will continue to be analyzed as more responses are received, and those who are interested will receive information about upcoming events and programming. So, keep an eye on your inbox for an invitation to one of our spring Discovery events. If you have not already completed a survey, please do so today at www.discovery.rutgers.edu and join the Discovery Master List. Discover what Rutgers has to offer!

Upcoming Events:

February 1-2, 2010 - Microbiology at Rutgers University: A Mini-Symposium

Ron Atlas, co-director of the Center for the Deterrence of Biowarfare and Bioterrorism at the University of Louisville, will be the keynote speaker.

February 25, 2010 - Spice of Life Tasting

Visit to a local winery for a look (and taste) of "functional foods" paired with local wines.

March 31, 2010 - Annual Awards Dinner

Come celebrate the excellent work of the school and experiment station with faculty, staff, and alumni.

April 9, 2010 - Discovery Tour - The World of Horses and Humans

Tour stops include the Rutgers Equine Science Center, a breeding operation, a state-of-the art equine hospital, an equine "superstore," and a therapeutic riding center.

April 23, 2010 - "Reconnect with Rutgers Food Science" Dinner

Are you someone with links to the Department of Food Science? Join colleagues, alumni, and friends for food, fun and reminiscences.

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