

# Equine Science Center

# UPDATE

“Better Horse Care through Research and Education”

## Artistic Expression

The Equine Science Center recently teamed-up with New Jersey 4-H youth members to create a new set of correspondence cards featuring artwork submitted for competition in the annual 4-H Equine Art Contest. The colorful and creative cards are currently in rotation and serve as correspondence stationary for the Equine Science Center.

“It gives me tremendous pride to write a note to supporters and friends of the Equine Science Center utilizing the new stationary featuring 4-H artwork,” said Karyn Malinowski, director of the Equine Science Center. “Besides recognizing the obvious artistic talent of these 4-H members, the collaboration also acknowledges the relationship between the Center and the Cooperative Extension Youth Development Program of Rutgers as a land grant university.”

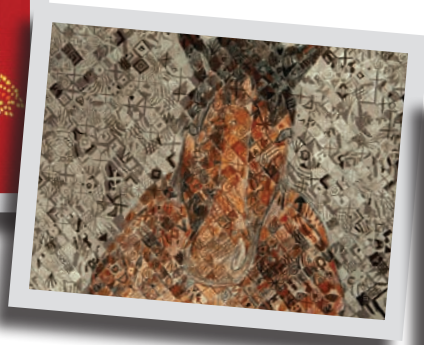
With the help of Carol Ward, Rutgers Cooperative Extension County 4-H Agent, and Lillian Shupe, managing editor of Horse News, the Center reviewed almost 30 pieces of art entered into the contest. Six pieces of art were selected by the Equine Science Center staff for use by the Center.

Artists chosen were: Maya Lundquist, Burlington County, Heather Koering, Cumberland County, Christina Czajkowski, Catherine Tistan, and Cecilia Floyd of Gloucester County, and Moira Krier, Ocean County.

“As the coordinator for the New Jersey 4-H Equine Programs, I am excited that the Equine Science Center chose to highlight some of the outstanding work that our 4-H members contribute to our State 4-H Equine Art Program,” said Ward. “The 4-H members are equally thrilled to see their work used as thank you cards for the Center. What a great collaboration!”

In addition to using the 4-H designed cards as stationary, a full set of the six cards and envelopes will be mailed as a thank you item to donors making a gift of \$100 or more to the Center.

Thumbnail images of the artwork are available on the **Giving** page of the Equine Science Center website ([esc.rutgers.edu](http://esc.rutgers.edu)). For more information about the correspondence cards project, please contact Tiffany Cody at [cody@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:cody@aesop.rutgers.edu) or call 848-932-9419.



# From The Clubhouse



Dear Friends,

I don't ever remember such an early and beautiful spring! I certainly hope the weather holds its current pattern and that many of you will visit us at the Red Barn on Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day, Saturday, April 28. You will have an opportunity to reconnect with faculty, classmates and friends (human and equine), visit the **Horse Hero** research mares, and see the **high speed treadmill** in action.

Speaking of former teachers and classmates, see Lord Nelson's "Calling all Alumni" on page five. The Center is currently trying to get back in touch with Animal Science alumni who are interested in horses and the equine industry. **Laura Gladney**, class of 2008, is spearheading this effort. Feel free to send us your contact information, pictures and stories from your days on the Cook Campus and check out **Lord Nelson's blog** or our **Facebook** page for the latest about your Equine Science Center.

I've had a busy winter visiting many of you at breed association annual dinners, various meetings, and the annual Horse Management Seminar (story on page five). We have received great reviews on the correspondence cards featuring the artwork of some VERY talented 4-H Horse Project members, described in our feature story. This project was the idea of Sandy Denarski, the chair of our advisory board. We are using the cards in place of stationary as "thank you" notes to donors and as acknowledgement of gifts to our **memorial program** remembering people, horses, and pets.



Thanks to gifts from people like you we were able to offer a downsized grant program again this spring. I am looking forward to seeing continued cutting-edge science benefiting horses and the equine industry coming from our faculty, students and staff at the Center. Look at our website for upcoming opportunities to learn about our part in advancing equine science world-wide.

Doctoral candidate Ryan Avenatti and I traveled to Washington, DC last month to participate in the 2012

FAIR Conference (see Ryan's story on page three). I am hoping that the mission was not for naught and that horses will be recognized as and important agricultural commodity in the upcoming FAIR report which will make recommendations for priorities for animal agriculture to be reflected in the next Farm Bill. I gave it my best shot in our discussion sessions and I am keeping my fingers crossed.

Students in the first three equine leadership classes held an alumni networking reunion event at a private party at the New Meadowlands Racetrack. We were enthralled by the discussion led by Jeff Gural, chairman, Newmark Knight Frank and CEO of American Racing and Entertainment, about his leadership style and his vision for the future of horse racing. Thanks to Mike Newlin, general manager, and all the staff at the track who made this event a definite winner!

Looking forward to seeing you on the trails this summer and to catching up on Ag Field Day! In the meantime, visit us on our website at [esc.rutgers.edu](http://esc.rutgers.edu) and on Facebook at [esc.rutgers.edu/fb](http://esc.rutgers.edu/fb).

All the Best, karyn



## Partners



New Jersey Farm Bureau's primary purpose is to represent the overall interests and improve the financial well-being of farmers and our \$800 million industry. NJFB

activities are supported through voluntary membership and annual dues. Members have access to:

- Staff assistance on farming issues and regulatory problems.
- Educational workshops on topical issues such as farm labor, wildlife damage, and zoning.
- Weekly updates on legislation news and regulations affecting all aspects of farming.

It pays to be a NJ farm Bureau member! For a full list of membership levels and benefits, or to sign up, visit [www.njfb.org](http://www.njfb.org).

Established in 1961, the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey [SBOANJ] has a membership comprised of horse breeders, drivers, trainers, owners, and backstretch personnel, and its mission is to support and promote the standardbred industry in New Jersey. The Board of Directors authorizes stallion, mare and foal registrations, negotiates with track management, actively oversees and administers a benefits program, and advances legislation favorable to the horse racing industry. For more information, please visit [www.sboanj.com](http://www.sboanj.com).



# Report on the 2012 FAIR Conference

By Ryan Avenatti, Ph.D. student, SEBS, Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences

The Rutgers Equine Science Center, and the equine industry as a whole, was well represented by Center Director, Karyn Malinowski, at the Farm Animal Integrated Research (FAIR) 2012 conference, from March 4-6, in Arlington, VA. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and establish priorities for research, education and outreach for animal agriculture, with implications for food security, animal health, and responsible environmental stewardship. These priorities are intended to provide direction for federal agricultural research, education, and economic programs over the next decade. Conference participants were invited experts from various segments of animal agriculture, including economists, animal scientists, and veterinarians from industry, academia, and government.

The overall objective of the conference was to address the challenge of meeting future food requirements of a rapidly expanding global population, while maintaining environmental and economic sustainability. Three specific sessions were held throughout the meeting, with lectures focusing on:

1. Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability
2. Animal Agriculture in Society and the Global Marketplace
3. One Health (Healthy Animals, Healthy People, Healthy Planet)

After each session, conference attendees split into discussion sessions to brainstorm and develop the vision and mission of animal agriculture for the next several years.

2012 marked the first year that equine and companion animal interests were included in the comprehensive discussion concerning the future of animal production in the United States. The name of the conference itself represents a movement away from the traditional view of production animal agriculture. All previous FAIR conferences were focused on "Food Animal Integrated Research", whereas this year's meeting was entitled "Farm Animal Integrated Research". This change represents a shift in attitude about the future of animal production

and research, and is in large part due to the efforts of Dr. Malinowski and the Equine Science Center.

The science conducted by your Rutgers Equine Science Center has long been focused on horse health and well-being, and how that translates into implications for human health.

*The name of the conference itself represents a movement away from the traditional view of production animal agriculture.*

In addition, the environmental impact work carried out at the Ryders Lane Environmental Best Management Practices Demonstration Horse Farm has provided groundbreaking insights into minimizing the environmental impact of horse farms. Finally, the oft cited "New Jersey Equine Industry, 2007" report serves as a standard for studying the economic impact and a solid platform for developing

economic sustainability of equine, and general production animal, agricultural systems. The similar visions and priorities of the Equine Science Center and the organizers of FAIR 2012 represent an opportunity to further strengthen the coalition between the equine and production animal segments of the entire animal agriculture industry. Through cooperation and discourse among the various animal agriculture sectors, the challenges and threats facing animal production and husbandry in the United States may be adequately addressed.

The final report from FAIR 2012 is expected in mid-May, and will be used as a basis for communications to policy decision makers in the White House, the USDA and other federal funding agencies, universities, industry and other stakeholders. For more information about FAIR 2012, please visit <http://fair2012.fass.org>. For more information about the mission and accomplishments of the Equine Science Center, please visit [esc.rutgers.edu](http://esc.rutgers.edu).



The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is an agency which oversees programs that serve virtually all New Jersey citizens. One of the Department's major priorities

is to promote, protect and serve the Garden State's diverse agriculture and agribusiness industries. In addition to the programs we offer to support production agriculture, NJDA also manages programs that feed schoolchildren, distribute surplus federal foods to soup kitchens and pantries that serve our needy citizens, conserve precious soil and water resources, protect farmland from development and preserve it for future agricultural use, expand export markets for fresh and processed agricultural products, and promote our commercial fishing industry, and administer the complete program of agriculture, food and natural resource education, which includes the State FFA Association. For more information about NJDA, please visit [www.nj.gov/agriculture/index.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/index.shtml)

Sandy Denarski – Chairwoman of the Rutgers University Board for Equine Advancement (RUBEA)

RUBEA's mission is to assist the Rutgers Equine Science Center in its decisions regarding its equine teaching, research, and outreach; and to promote and support these activities through fund-raising and advocacy efforts. "Horses have empowered me to lead a happier, healthier and more enriched life. They are my passion and my inspiration. I can think of no better way to repay these magnificent animals than to invest in their health and well-being by becoming a donor to the Equine Science Center."



# 4 Developing Future Equine Leaders

By Kelly VanDemark, School of Arts and Sciences

January 12th marked the completion of the third and yet another successful session of the Equine Science Center's winter short course "Developing Future Leaders for the Equine Industry". The course was led by Karyn Malinowski, Ph.D., director of the Equine Science Center, and Mary Nikola, Ed.D., director of leadership and organizational development with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Seventeen students attended the equine leadership class on January 10th and 12th at Rick's Saddle Shop in Cream Ridge, and although thirteen were Rutgers University students, the audience included four individuals from the industry looking to increase their knowledge of the current state of the equine industry.

The course featured lectures from several industry professionals lending their expertise on a variety of topics, including the value of the equine industry, networking and relationship-building, decision-making strategies, leadership practices and behaviors, building coalitions, and industry management. "Through the variety of admirable guest speakers, students were able to construct a well-rounded view of the horse industry and increase dialogue about ways to make the industry stronger," said Malinowski. The course was also supplemented by group activities and discussions surrounding leadership and individual empowerment, while never losing sight of application to the equine industry. "The course is unique in that, it is focused entirely on equine interests and opportunities," said Nikola. "In addition, it brings Karyn Malinowski into the classroom – and students are sure to be moved by the passion she brings for the horse industry to her teaching."

Entrepreneur Rajesh Sinha of Liberty Farm in Sandyston was the first of the lecturers, with a talk about the importance of networking and building relationships to help establish professional partnerships that could lead to opportunities. As a long-time horse enthusiast, Mr. Sinha recounted how networking has enabled him to increase his equine repertoire, and how horses should be utilized as a commonality when advocating for the industry. His presentation was followed by a presentation from Sandy Denarski, Vice President of Johnson and



*Breakout session encouraged participation by all!*

Johnson Finance Corporation, titled "Fiscal Responsibility in the Equine Industry". Ms. Denarski emphasized the importance of managing personal funds in order to support an equine hobby while living within means. The concluding presentation on the first day of class was given by Liz Durkin of Durkin and Durkin Law Firm titled "Legal Issues of Importance to the Equine Industry" which addressed some of the common legalities concerning horse owners and barn managers.

The second day of class commenced with a presentation by Al Gaburo of Princeton Public Affairs Group on the topic of "Building Effective Relationships with Legislators". Mr. Gaburo discussed the best methods of "getting your voice heard" when creating advocacy campaigns to increase awareness of important issues, and how to attain real results from such efforts. This notion was elaborated through a succeeding lecture by Jerry Baron, Ph.D. director of the IR-4 program, titled "The Nuts and Bolts of Coalition Building", which identified strategies for fostering collaboration among individuals with a common interest. The day was concluded by a panel discussion featuring Thomas Luchento, President, Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey and Mike Newlin, General Manager, the New Meadowlands Racetrack on the topic "Challenges of Being a Leader in the Horse Industry". This interactive discussion featured a summary of the current state of horseracing in New Jersey and projections for the future, including an open discussion where students applied what they had learned from the course to ask insightful questions and to offer suggestions to increase the popularity of racing amongst younger generations.

According to the course evaluation survey, knowledge about the New Jersey equine industry and its network increased 105%, with more than half of the students declaring that the course exceeded its objectives. "I was already going in with high expectations and they both exceeded them," said student Tiffanie Kreuz. "I feel more confident that I can make an impact as an effective leader in the horse industry and beyond."



*Jerry Baron discusses building coalitions with the class.*

# Horse Management Seminar 2012

The 2012 Horse Management Seminar titled “Responsible Horse Ownership in a Tough Economic Climate” was a colossal success. Horse owners, farm managers, and equine enthusiasts from throughout New Jersey and neighboring states converged on a chilly February morning to learn tips for planning and cutting costs without compromising the quality of care for their horse(s).

The seminar roster was impressive and featured a wide range of industry experts presenting topics such as:

- **Business Planning for Equestrians** – Dr. Robin Brumfield, Rutgers University
- **Horse Promotion and Marketability** – Dr. William Day, Morrisville State College Equine Institute, SUNY Morrisville
- **The Economics of Horse-Keeping** - Dr. Carissa Wicken, University of Delaware
- **Improving Pasture for Reduced Feed Costs** – Dr. Carey Williams, Rutgers University
- **Economical Veterinary Care** – Dr. Michael Fugaro, Centenary College and Mountain Pointe Equine Veterinary

“The aim of assembling such a diverse speaker panel was to make the seminar useful for barn owners and boarders alike,” said Carey Williams, Equine Extension Specialist and the seminar’s organizer. “We try to strike a balance between advanced topics and more basic ones so that attendees can learn something new as well as review important basics.”

In addition to engaging and captivating individual presentations, guest speakers participated in a lively question and answer session at the close of the seminar. Attendees asked insightful questions to further expand upon on the information presented throughout the day as well as how tips from each topic can be implemented in various individual scenarios.

Between each presentation, guests were treated to valuable door prizes including highly-coveted items like a Nutramax gift basket, worth over \$500, and a gift voucher for an online class from My Horse University. Corporate sponsors and vendors also provided fun contests and give-away items for attendees.

*Continued on page 7*



Left to right: Carey Williams, Michael Fugaro, Robin Brumfield, Carissa Wickens, William Day.

# NELSON'S CORNER



## Calling All Alumni!

Some of you may remember me from my days as a Mounted Patrol horse on the Cook Campus. Did you know that I served in that position for 22 years? By my calculations, that means well over 400 students have ridden me! Are you one of them?

If so, I would love to hear your favorite stories from your mounted patrol days with me! Share them on the Equine Science Center's Facebook page ([esc.rutgers.edu/fb](http://esc.rutgers.edu/fb)) or e-mail them to my friend Tiffany Cody at [cody@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:cody@aesop.rutgers.edu). I would especially love to see any pictures you still have!



My friends at the Equine Science Center would love to get back in touch with all horsey alumni! If you worked with the horses on Cook Campus, took Equine Science classes, or even just admired the research

herd from your dorm or apartment window please keep in touch! Send your name, e-mail address, mailing address, and phone number to Laura Gladney at [Gladney@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:Gladney@aesop.rutgers.edu) and we will send you special Alumni messages and invitations to our events!

By the way, check out my blog at <http://lordnelsonsblog.blogspot.com/>. I am still alive and well and up to all my usual antics at 39 years of age! Some things never change!



# Horse Hero

*Who is your favorite hero? Does he happen to wear a red cape? Is it a certain someone with an affinity for bats or perhaps spiders?* When deciding on a suitable title for a new initiative to raise awareness and generate financial support for the 24 mares in the Equine Science Center research herd, one of the first words that came to mind was “Hero”. The **Horse Heroes** at the Center may not be able to leap tall buildings with a single bound, but once on the equine exercise physiology treadmill, they appear to run faster than a speeding bullet.

“We consider the horses in the research herd ‘heroes’ because they serve as participants in need-based scientific research initiatives which benefit the greater equine community,” said Karyn Malinowski, director, Equine Science Center. “They contribute to knowledge of horse health by assisting equine scientists and students to advance the well-being and performance of all horses and the equine industry.”

The primary goal of the “Horse Heroes” program is to raise funds to purchase grain, hay, bedding, and veterinary care for the herd.



“With the state continually shrinking funding to higher education, we’ve been scrambling to find resources to take care of those mares,” continued Malinowski.

Pat Colbert decided to sponsor “June” after reading about the new initiative in the Star Ledger newspaper.

“I saw the article about the Horse Hero program to raise funds for the Center’s horses. My daughter Kate shows jumpers, so we know firsthand the cost of horse care,” said Colbert. “I sponsored June since that is the month my daughter was born. I’m not a rider, but we do own several horses that Kate rides.”

The initiative presents an opportunity for the Center to connect with the community by providing background information about each mare within the herd that is available for sponsorship.



“Most of the mares in our herd are former racehorses or broodmares who have ‘lost their jobs,’ so to speak. The Equine Science Center provides a rewarding second career for these horses: one in which they can give back to the entire equine industry and teach eager students about the science of horses. Plus, anyone who has ever watched these mares run on the treadmill can see that they really do love this job,” said Carey Williams, associate director of outreach.

Each horse has a profile containing vital information such as age, sire and dam names, tattoo number and original home, as well as information about their role and involvement in teaching and research at the Equine Science Center. Horse Hero profiles are available from the Center’s homepage: [esc.rutgers.edu](http://esc.rutgers.edu).

“Our mares participate in a variety of research studies across many fields, including nutrition, aging, disease, exercise physiology and environmental studies,” added Williams. “The research gives faculty and staff insight into horse health and welfare, as well as that of humans.”

Sponsorship levels are perfect for individuals, families, organizations and companies, as well as groups of friends. Become a “Super Hero” by donating \$2,000; a “Champion” for \$1,000; and a “Hero” for a \$500 sponsorship. Simply complete the **sponsorship form**, available on each Horse Hero’s individual profile page, and mail it with the donation to the Equine Science Center.



As a thank you for donations, sponsors receive pictures of their Horse Hero, correspondence and updates from students working with their horse, exclusive open house invitations, the sponsor’s name listed on the Equine Science Center website, and acknowledgement of the sponsorship in the Center’s printed newsletter.

Several mares will be at the Red Barn during Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day on Saturday, April 28. All are welcome to stop by, get acquainted with the Horse Heroes and learn what makes the research herd so special.

For additional information about the Horse Hero program, please email Carey Williams at [cwilliams@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:cwilliams@aesop.rutgers.edu) or call 848-932-5529.

## Thank You

*The Equine Science Center would like to thank the following Horse Hero sponsors:*

### **SUPER HERO**

Pat Colbert & Kate Steenberg (JUNE)

### **HERO**

New Jersey Region Pony Club (JACKIE)

Autumn Ridge Pony Club (JACKIE)

Somerset Hills Pony Club (JACKIE)

Gloucester County 4-H Equine Science Club  
(WINNIE)

# Student Voices

By Kelly VanDemark, School of Arts and Sciences

I was raised on the back of a horse. While all my friends were playing varsity sports, I spent a majority of my free time at my family's horse farm in South Brunswick, New Jersey. Even at a young age, I knew I wanted to attend Rutgers University. As a local growing up in the New Brunswick area, I would frequently admire the horses on Cook Campus from the car rides down Route 1 and imagine that one day I'd invest my academic career into learning as much about them as possible. It is not surprising that I would choose to attend Rutgers, which has one of the best equine science programs in the country, with the predetermined intent of becoming an equine veterinarian. However, spring semester of my sophomore year in college, I had an epiphany! I came to the realization that the ways in which to make a meaningful impact in the horse industry are limitless, and that many are considerably different than veterinary medicine. This pivotal moment is where I discovered the field of communication as a new career opportunity.

Prior to this revelation, I had never really explored the option of communication. I originally declared an animal science major, equine science minor, and pre-vet option. My freshman year was loaded with science and math courses and there was little emphasis on any liberal arts subjects. Biology and chemistry left me feeling intellectually fulfilled but always wondering, "How does this relate to my everyday life?" For me, the simple answer was - it did not. Knowing the lifecycle of protozoa may come up as a question on Jeopardy one day, but other than that, I felt I couldn't regularly apply my studies to daily life. I reached out to Professor Karyn Malinowski to discuss the prospect of leaving the animal science major to pursue a liberal arts degree and, although she is an international authority on equine science, she was very supportive. In fact, she offered me a job to put my newfound enthusiasm for communication to the test! I immediately began working alongside Tiffany Cody, public relations specialist, in the Equine Science Center office. This provided a unique opportunity for me to apply the knowledge I'd gained from a lifelong passion for horses while developing newly acquired skills in the field of communication.

The connection between a communication major and equine science minor may not be obvious at first, but it is one that I have been exploring and cultivating in my social, as well as professional, life since making the switch. At the Equine Science Center, I serve as a liaison between the horse world and the university. I work to identify the best ways to disseminate information gathered from scientific research projects and synthesize feedback received from surveys we conduct of our targeted audiences - primarily horse owners, riders, and breeders. Designing strategic promotional materials, providing content for Lord Nelson's blog, maintaining the Facebook



Kelly and Saxon

page, serving as an ambassador at industry events, as well as promoting the Center by speaking one-on-one with members of the horse community, are just a few of my many responsibilities. I also am able to apply years of experience as a 4-H horse club member to contribute to the youth education component of the Center's website, "Equine Science 4 Kids!" By helping to develop "kid-friendly" versions of pre-existing academic materials, attending 4-H and public school functions to generate attention from a younger audience, I can encourage an interest in equine science among the future generation of equine enthusiasts. I imagine that some may also see the horses on Cook Campus and have the very same vision of an academic career centered around horses at Rutgers University like I did when I was growing up.

I declare with absolute certainty that I have learned just as much on the back of a horse as I have within a classroom (if not more!). I plan to remain an advocate for the equine industry in New Jersey and continue supporting the Equine Science Center beyond graduation. Although I surprised family and friends alike by switching out of the animal science curriculum, it becomes more obvious with each passing day that it was definitely the right choice.

The way I see it; if I had pursued a career as a veterinarian, I may have acquired the skills necessary to save a horse; as a communication major, I am acquiring the skills to save a whole industry.

## Horse Management Seminar (continued)

Post-seminar evaluations reported rave reviews. All of the presentations were ranked between 3.8 and 4.6 (5 being the most valuable) with "Improving Pasture for Reduced Feed Costs" and "Economical Veterinary Care" ranked as the top two. Participants also reported significant increases in knowledge and some indicated that they will be changing their farm practices and amending their business plans as a result of the seminar.

"I truly thought this was such a worthwhile seminar," said Michele Kebea. "For me personally, I gleaned better insight into areas I could address in my business plan. For the organizations I represent, the Horse Management Seminar brought me in contact with more people who are part of the 'second time around' industry, transitioning their

horse(s) from one career to another. A job well done by all involved in the preparation and conduct of this event!"

Other evaluation feedback included passing along information to barn managers, being more cognizant of costs, using value assessment forms for school horses, performing fecal egg counts, and looking into equine insurance.

Discussions for the theme of next year's Horse Management Seminar are already underway. Be sure to save the date: **Sunday, February 10, 2013!**

For more information and an archive of speaker presentations, visit the Equine Science Center website at [esc.rutgers.edu](http://esc.rutgers.edu).

# esc.rutgers.edu

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Better Horse Care Through  
Research and Education



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[esc.rutgers.edu/fb](http://esc.rutgers.edu/fb)

## Save The Date!

### **Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day**

*Saturday, April 28, 2012*

G.H. Cook Campus

Rutgers, The State University of NJ

New Brunswick, NJ

[rutgersday.rutgers.edu](http://rutgersday.rutgers.edu)



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