

Cook College honors 2 distinguished alumni

The George Hammell Cook Distinguished Alumni Awards are among the highest honors presented each year by the Cook College Alumni Association. The award honors alumni whose outstanding accomplishments in his or her professional, civic or volunteer work reflects dignity and distinction on the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and its predecessors.

On April 24, Joseph Cialone from the class of 1959, Linda Madison from the class of 1980 and Robert Snieckus from the class of 1977 joined the prestigious club of previous winners during the annual Cook College and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Awards Ceremony.

Cialone graduated with a bachelor's degree in horticulture from the College of Agriculture. Semi-retired and living in Boynton Beach, Fla., he is co-owner of Tropical Computers Inc., a company that specializes in images of plants and plant-related information on CD-ROM for the interiorscape industry and educational institutions.

Madison graduated from Cook College with a bachelor's degree in environmental science and an option in education. She began her career as a horticulture and landscape teacher at Essex County Vocational Technical High School in West Caldwell, and has taught all aspects of science at various schools throughout New Jersey. In 2005, the Somerset resident was named the superintendent and principal of Parkview School in Milltown.

Snieckus graduated from Cook College with a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture. He is the national landscape architect for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's

Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Washington, D.C., resident is also responsible for formulating environmental policy and advising on technical issues in implementing the Natural Resources Conservation Service's conservation programs throughout the United States.

Rutgers sciences school fetes top teachers

Outstanding academic professional excellence by Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences faculty was cited at the 15th annual SEBS and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Celebration of Excellence Awards on April 24.

Scott Glenn, a professor of marine and coastal sciences, David Tulloch, an associate professor of landscape architecture, and Karen Schaich, an associate professor of food science, were the guests of honor.

Glenn, a resident of Hopewell, received the Outstanding Undergraduate Adviser Award. Glenn teaches undergraduate large survey classes, upper division undergraduate courses and advanced undergraduate courses. He has been an innovator for new interdisciplinary classes.

Working with a staff educator at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences and with the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California-Berkeley, Scott developed and has taught the course Communicating Ocean Science. This course is designed to teach scientists education theory and provide hands-on training for being effective educators and successful ambassadors to developing an ocean-literate society.

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He is also teaching a course with three SEBS freshmen, a SEBS senior, and a senior Rutgers engineering student, in which they are planning and conducting transoceanic voyages with ocean robots.

In honor of his innovative techniques and efforts in reaching out to students, Tulloch, a resident of Highland Park, received the Academic Innovation Award. These techniques, used throughout his courses and in his service as undergraduate program director for environmental planning and design, include a Places and Spaces blog. The blog, established to serve the entire Environmental Planning and Design Curriculum, has become a popular source of information for readers around the world, with more than 5,000 visits a month.

Schaich, a Princeton resident, received the Excellence in Teaching Award. Some of her innovations include replacing in-class quizzes with a homework series, in which students select a favorite food and then apply lecture material to that food over the semester.

Students recognized Schaich's teaching with the Endel Karmas Award in the Food Science Department five times, more than any other faculty member in the history of the department. Students also recognized Schaich as one of SEBS's top five professors with the 2007 Cook College Leadership Award for Academics and Teaching and Advising Excellence.

Workers, volunteers receive awards

Rutgers Cooperative Extension personnel and volunteers were honored with Awards for Excellence at the 15th annual Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and New Jersey

Agricultural Experiment Station Awards Ceremony on April 24.

■ Bonnie Wasielewski, a Middlesex Borough resident, received the Support Staff award. Wasielewski is a web designer in the SEBS and NJAES Office of Communications. She is responsible for the development, maintenance and redesign of Cooperative Extension organizational websites, and was recognized for her work with Cooperative Extension to enhance their online presence.

■ Macy Compton, a Freehold resident, received the State Program Coordinator award. As coordinator for the New Jersey 4-H Youth Development Program, she provides professional leadership and support to the statewide 4-H youth development program.

■ Barbara Navatto, a Somerville resident, received the Program Assistant award. As a 4-H program coordinator in Somerset County, she coordinates the Somerset County 4-H Fair, which highlights the work that the 1,100 club members have done during the year. As the fair coordinator, Navatto works closely with the 4-H agents, volunteers, staff and others.

■ Chan Leung, a Ringoes resident, received the Volunteer Award. Leung began his involvement in 4-H in 2002, as a parent and volunteer leader of the Somerset County 4-H Chinese Culture Club. Soon afterwards, he started the Clover Outreach Club for teens to promote 4-H to Chinese families in the area.

■ Jerome Frecon, a Turnersville resident, received the Extension Faculty award. As the agricultural and resource management agent in Gloucester County, he delivers outreach educational programs to the agribusiness, field flower, forestry, fruit, landscape and nursery industries and their constituents in Gloucester.

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