According to the Children in Nature website, "Children can identify up to 1,000 corporate logos, but fewer than 10 plants or animals native to their backyards."

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Thank you Randi!

School of Environmental & Biological Sciences
Annual Celebration of Excellence Awards

At the 17th annual “Celebration of Excellence” Awards” Dinner, members of the Human Ecology Department were recognized for the following:

Dr. George Clark
Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor

Dr. Bill Hallman
Team Award for the New Brunswick Community Farmer’s Market

Dr. Tom Rudel
Research Excellence Award

A special thanks to the Trail Staff.

Next year, the Trail will be staffed by many of the same people who worked so hard on Volume 2. Our Editors-in-Chief will be Chelsea Kahn and Kate Gardella. The amazing staff consists of Randi Pruitt, Rachel Plunkett, Dan Cirenza, Sara McClurg, Dara Zaleski, and Chelsea Simkins. With so much going on here at Rutgers and in the rest of the world, the Trail can always use extra writers.

If you’re interested in writing or designing future issues, contact Kristen Drusjack at drusjack@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Congratulations to the Class of 2010!
Honors & Awards

This time of year is special for hundreds of students all over Rutgers, from different backgrounds and disciplines, with different aspirations and drives. With mixed emotions we say farewell to the last graduating class of Cook College. Many things have changed but one thing will remain the same and that is our amazing students. We wish them the best of luck as they start their careers or graduate studies. The staff of the Trail would like to wish this year’s EPIB seniors a very special congratulations.

The Department of Human Ecology announced this year’s recipients of the George F. Clark and Andrew P. Vayda Award for Academic Excellence at the Baccalaureate Ceremony. This year’s recipients are:

Jennifer Barny    Hannah Meyer    Lynne Ricicki

We would also like to congratulate the recipients of Departmental Honors:

Jennifer Barny    Jaclyn Mandelbaum    Martin O’Hare
Andrew Glaser    Sara Mellor    Lynne Ricicki
Stephanie Karpowicz    Hannah Meyer    Michelle Ryan
Kim Lourenco    Amanda Miller    Michela Shmulenson

Awards presented to the Senior Class of 2010:

Cook College Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Award
Amanda Miller

Samuel W. & Berta Thomson Brown Memorial:
Andrew Glaser, Stephanie Karpowicz, Emily Laskodi, Kimberly Lourenco

Class of 1922 Old Guard Scholarship
Melissa Murphy

Class of 1925 Scholarship
Martin O’Hare

Cook College/CAES Award & the Cook/Douglass Student Cooperative Merit Scholarship
Sara Mellor

Jeffrey B. Gardner Memorial Scholarship
Andrew Glaser

Ernest A. Spinello, Jr., Memorial Scholarship
Jaclyn Mandelbaum

Congratulations to all our graduates and please stay in touch and let us know how you are doing. If you are on Facebook please join our Facebook group “Department of Human Ecology, Cook Campus, Rutgers University”.

Good luck with your future endeavors and if you need advice on career planning contact Caron Chess (chess_c@aesop.rutgers.edu).
Our Community
2009 to 2010
Congratulations
Cook College
Class of 2010
Last Letter from Down Under:

I have been living in a dream for the past three months and time is flying by faster than ever. This past weekend I went sailing in the Whitsunday Islands on an eco-friendly boat—thirty second showers, no shoes aloud, and sleeping under the stars. It was absolutely incredible! I also got to do my first SCUBA dive within the Great Barrier Reef. For those of you who don’t know me well, I’m slightly obsessed with coral (and those of you who know me really well know that is an extreme understatement). It was all I had hoped for. I saw amazing coral, beautiful fish and sea turtles!

The week before I went to a place called Heron Island for spring break. While there I stayed at a marine research station for a few days. The island only has the station and one small resort. It was incredible to get away from the city for a while. I went snorkelling, a bit of hiking but best of all, I helped save sea turtles. Australia’s waters are home to six of seven species of sea turtles. These animals lay their eggs in the sand upon the same beach year after year. When the babies hatch, they crawl towards the ocean to safety—often most don’t make it. However, if the babies emerge from the nest during the day, their chances of reaching the water are extremely slim. While one might think Heron Islands has many herons, there are none, but its name slightly describes the number of birds that live there—all which enjoy baby sea turtles as snacks. SO, while I was on Heron Island, I helped collect the confused turtles during the day and release them on shore at night to up their chances of survival. It was a dream come true.

While the Rutgers semester is coming to end, I am still in classes for another two months. I haven’t even received my exam schedule yet. But that leaves me plenty of time to explore this amazing country. I strongly suggest anyone considering studying abroad to take the opportunity. It was the best decision I have ever made and Australia was the right choice for me. The University of Queensland has something to offer everyone; every sports club you could imagine, art museums, an amazing candy shop, multiple libraries, an extensive selection of courses, organized pub crawls, bus ride from Brisbane city, beautiful campus and an amazing night life... you name it, they’ve got it.

If you have any questions about going abroad or Australia, just shoot me an email. I would love to brag about my amazing experience and this incredible country- chelkahn@gmail.com.

I hope you enjoyed my letters from abroad and I’m excited to be back in the EPIB department for next year’s Trail!

Your editor,

Chelsea
Iran's Biggest Lake in Danger of Drying Up

By Sam Khosravifard

TEHRAN, Iran, May 4, 2010 (ENS) - A group of environmental activists gathered at Lake Urmia on the 13th day of the Persian new year - April 2 - a day when it is customary for Iranians to spend time with nature. Some poured water into the lake from bottles and pitchers as a symbolic move to protest against what they call the inaction of the authorities about the lake drying up.

Police moved in to break up one group of protesters who gathered on the recently constructed bridge over the lake, local sources said. Some reported that police used tear gas to disperse the crowd.

Environment campaigners say construction of dams on rivers that feed the lake as well as a recently built causeway across the narrowest part of the vast lake have reduced water levels and its circulation and increased salinity, jeopardizing animal and marine life.

The lake is Iran's biggest inland body of water and one of the saltiest lakes in the world. UNESCO has registered it as a Biosphere Reserve and it is listed as a wetland of international importance under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.

With a surface area of about 464,000 hectares (1,791 square miles), the lake is a national park and Iran's Department of Environment, DOE, is responsible for its maintenance and protection.

Oil Spill Not Linked to Gulf Sea Turtle Deaths

ROBERT, Louisiana, May 5, 2010 (ENS) - Thirty to 50 sea turtles, species unknown, were seen swimming in or near the massive Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, according to scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, who flew over the spill area on Tuesday.

NOAA is working on a plan to address large numbers of oiled sea turtles, but although there have been 38 sea turtle strandings reported from Alabama through the Louisiana's Mississippi Delta since April 30, NOAA says the turtles did not die from contact with the oil.

Most of the turtles identified so far are endangered juvenile Kemp's ridley turtles. No evidence of oil was found on the beaches where the strandings occurred.

"Based on careful examination, NOAA scientists do not believe that these sea turtle strandings are related to the oil spill," said Barbara Schroeder, NOAA national sea turtle coordinator.

"NOAA and its partners have conducted 10 necropsies so far. None of the 10 turtles showed evidence of oil, externally or internally," she said.

Lawsuits Take Aim at America's First Offshore Wind Farm

HYANNIS, Massachusetts, May 2, 2010 (ENS) - A stack of lawsuits is piling up against the federal government in response to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's April 28 decision to approve the Cape Wind project, America's first offshore wind farm.

After nearly 10 years of permitting battles, Cape Wind was approved to place 130 wind turbines on 25-square-miles of federal submerged lands in Nantucket Sound off the Massachusetts coast. The developers hope to begin construction by year's end.

A coalition of stakeholder groups has announced a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Minerals Management Service for violations of the Endangered Species Act.

"This fight is not over," said Audra Parker, president and CEO of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, a member of the coalition.

A lawsuit will be filed on behalf of a coalition of environmental groups, including the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound; Three Bays Preservation; Animal Welfare Institute; Industrial Wind Action Group; Californians for Renewable Energy; the Lower Laguna Madre Foundation; and Oceans Public Trust Initiative, a project of the International Marine Mammal Project of the Earth Land Institute.
Summer Break Ideas

Internships

In a social science such as EPIB, having an internship while still a student is an invaluable experience. This summer, make the most of your time by going out and getting field experience while you don’t have classes weighing you down. Where you ultimately decide to apply is dependent on your interests, but here are some ideas:

The Department of Environmental Protection: There is a branch in every state, and the New Jersey branch is located in Edison. Find them at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/, or if you live in another state, search for your local branch.

The Environmental Protection Agency: Unlike the DEP, which is run by each state, the EPA is a federally overseen agency. Their website is http://www.epa.gov/, and you can look for an office and opportunities close to you.

Fortune 500 companies: It may seem counterintuitive to intern at a corporate job when EPIB is the exact opposite, but many EPIB graduates have said that they learned a lot working in the corporate world which was later extremely valuable in their work with nonprofits. Additionally, large companies almost always have some sort of internship opportunities.

Non-profits: Groups like the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy and the Natural Resources Defense Council always need help, and these are the jobs in which you are most likely to be out in the field rather than in an office. Do some research and find a reputable organization that appeals to your interests.

Think outside the box

You don’t necessarily have to take an internship to do something environmentally-minded this summer. Do you like spending time outdoors? Work for a park service. Do you like the outdoors and working with children? Become a camp counselor.

Maybe you have the time to take a vacation this summer. Try camping in a state park; just remember to take out everything you bring in. There are plenty of low-key ideas for vacationing that don’t need to increase your carbon footprint. Another great getaway idea is a volunteer vacation. The Daily Green has a list of ideas which may appeal to your sense of adventure, your sense of service and your need to get away. Check them out at: http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/eco-travel-volunteer-vacations-50022309.

Have you ever thought about a backyard garden? During the summer in New Jersey, the weather is perfect for tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and an entire array of fresh veggies. If you don't have much of a green thumb, don't let that stop you. Try planting in pots, rather than tending a large patch of soil, or buy seedlings which have been started for you. You will reduce your food miles by more than you can believe, and there will be no comparison in the way the vegetables taste. As a bonus, you'll get some healthy time outdoors and the sense of satisfaction as you watch your hard work pay off.

The EPA has posted a list of ideas for a healthy, eco-friendly summer. Take a look at them at http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-summer.htm and spread the word!
The spa Ten Thousand Waves near Santa Fe, N.M., is only the latest U.S. facility to offer as a "signature" treatment the "Japanese Nightingale Facial," supposedly used for centuries by Japanese geisha for skin rejuvenation. Nightingale droppings are dried and sanitized, then spiced with oils and used as a face scrubber.

When stroke victims recover, they have sometimes acquired bizarre obsessions, like one by David Stopher of North Tynesdale, England, who found himself unable to say no to salespeople. According to a March Daily Mail report, the biggest beneficiary of Stopher's condition has been the wireless telephone network (known as 3), whose marketers had signed Stopher up for six different phones and plans at the same time (and paid all on time until his brothers stepped in to persuade 3 to restructure the account).

Police in Berwick, Maine, made an easy collar in April, solving four residential burglaries. As it turns out, their two suspects (ages 33 and 32) committed the crimes while wearing their GPS monitoring bracelets following an earlier arrest in New Hampshire, and their movements perfectly coincided with the burglars' route.

*The first day of summer is June 21, 2010. The solstice officially begins at 7:28 am, Eastern Standard Time.

*Pagans called the Midsummer moon the "Honey Moon" for the mead made from fermented honey that was part of wedding ceremonies performed at the Summer Solstice. Hence the modern tradition of taking a "honeymoon" vacation after a wedding.

*The Latin roots of the word "solstice" mean "sun stands still," which is exactly how it appears from Earth. The summer solstice is the time of the year when the sun stops its northern climb and stands briefly before turning back toward the equator.

Thank you Randi...we are going to miss you and your baked goods!!!

By Kristen Drusjack

I started working here in 2008 and have been fortunate to have wonderful student workers assist me with a variety of projects. Katie Barry and Katie Gengarelly helped show me the ropes when I first arrived. Many of you knew Fred Giliberti who was instrumental in getting the Trail off the ground, putting the Cook History Wall up in the student lounge and helping to bring a sense of community back to the Human Ecology Department. While working here, Fred introduced his girlfriend, Randi Pruitt, to me and was nice enough to offer her services (unpaid!) to assist with various clean up projects we were working on. We instantly bonded over our teasing of Fred. When Fred graduated last year, I asked Randi to work here. She may have been majoring in Animal Science, but underneath I always knew she was one of us. Her work in our office has been exemplary but more then that she has continued to foster the community that we are trying to build in our little student lounge. She edited and formatted the Trail, kept the office organized, cleaned and most importantly stocked the lounge full of homemade baked goods. She organized events and was always here to help students with their questions. Randi will be working here for a few more months as she searches for a job in the animal science field, but I felt it was important to say a special thank you and congratulations on graduating.

For those of you who were fortunate enough to have one of her brookies or a piece of checkerboard cake, I’m sure you will be as sad as I am that she is leaving. The good news is, I can not bake so I think I might actually manage to lose some weight next year :). Good luck Randi...you will be missed!