

George H. Cook Alumni Award Recipients



Chris Dorko
BS Environmental Science 1994

Chris Dorko is a risk management officer, professional firefighter, and playground builder. Chris works for Berkley Life Sciences (BLS), which is a specialty property and casualty insurance company providing products and services exclusively to the life sciences industry (pharma, biotech, medical device, etc.). His role within the leadership team at BLS is to head up the Risk Management (engineering) group. The primary mission of his group is to work with the BLS life science partners to mitigate risk and prevent loss to their organizations. He leads a team of highly sophisticated life science risk management professionals nationally who have specializations in areas such as: industrial hygiene, infectious disease/bio-safety, and fire protection. Chris also works with state industry associations, such as BioNJ, to support and promote the growth and overall health of NJ's life science industry.

Chris is also a professional fire fighter. He has served as a member of the City of Summit, NJ Fire Department for more than 15 years. Further, Chris is actively involved in the following professional organizations: International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineers, National Fire Protection Association, and Institute of Hazardous Materials Management.

In addition, Chris participated, by working passionately with a team of dedicated volunteers, in the "Where Angels Play Foundation." The foundation built 26 playgrounds across hurricane Sandy damaged coastal communities in New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut in honor of the children and educators lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December of 2012. The foundation is now building playgrounds nationally for communities in need while honoring others, including victims of Hurricane Katrina, and The Boston Marathon bombing. Chris also serves as an advisor to the Chase Michael Anthony Kowalski (CMAK) Sandy Hook Memorial Foundation. The foundation partners with the YMCA to create pre-school education, family centers, and children's triathlon programs for at risk children and families.



Elizabeth Ryan, Esq.

BA Cook College 1982, JD Seton Hall Law School 1985

Elizabeth Ryan is President and CEO of the Princeton based NJ Hospital Association, a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of NJ's hospitals and healthcare providers. As CEO, she oversees the Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey, as well as Healthcare Business Solutions. She has held numerous positions in the law, government, and non-profits. She served on the NJ Board of Medical Examiners, the Clinton-Gore transition team, and the Corzine and McGreevy transition teams. She has been the recipient of many honors, including being named in 2016 as one of the most powerful people in health care by NJ Biz, 2013 as one of NJ's Women to watch, and 2012 Garden State Women of the Year in Health Care.



Peter Tabbot, MPH

BS 1991 Public Health Cook MPH 1997 UMDNJ

Peter Tabbot has made considerable contributions to the field of public health here in New Jersey and nationally. Peter has served as president of two important public health organizations: the NJ Environmental Health Association and the NJ Association of County and City Health Officials. He also recently served as Principal Investigator and Project Director of the NJ Collaborative for Excellence in Public Health, also known as the Public Health Multi-State Learning Collaborative – an effort that is funded by the National Network of Public Health Institutes and introduced accreditation and quality improvement to New Jersey's health departments.

Peter's leadership is collaborative and inspiring. He works tirelessly for the improvement of public health education and training for all of NJ's citizens. Beside running a local public health agency and volunteering on many advisory and ad hoc committees, Peter is generous with his insights for our Rutgers undergraduates. He teaches several courses in the School of Environmental & Biological Sciences (SEBS) and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy programs, but goes far beyond that to provide hours of mentoring and guidance to our undergraduates. He also serves as Faculty Coordinator for the SEBS Office of Continuing Professional Education's Environment and Public Health course, which trains and prepares New Jersey's future licensed Environmental Health Specialists, making him only the third Faculty Coordinator for the program in the last 45 years.

Dennis M. Fenton Award Recipients



Robert H. Bruch

BS Agricultural Business, College and Agricultural and Environmental Science 1969
MS Agricultural Economics and Marketing 1977

Bob started his career upon graduating in 1969 as an Agricultural Statistician with the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Upon being drafted into the military he became an instructor for the Army's air defense system. Returning to New Jersey Bob started a distinguished career with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture in agricultural economic development for 38 years. While working at NJDA Bob earned a MS degree in agricultural economics.

At NJDA Bob provided direct assistance to the farming community in finding resolutions to disputes and problems which hindered agricultural economic development. He assisted in the development of NJDA's agricultural retention and Right to Farm programs, became the "go to guy" and expert on farmland assessment. Bob provided factual witness testimony in municipal and State courts, developed several publications on agriculture and sales tax, secured USDA economic development grants for the agricultural community, and administered the Garden State's Crop Insurance Education Initiative in partnership with the Risk Management Agency, USDA.

In 1973 Bob started a farming operation on a part time basis which today has become full time in the production and direct marketing of Christmas trees on farmland that has been in the family for over 80 years. He works with Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County on crop insurance education, is on retainer with the New Jersey Farm Bureau, and is classified as a causal employee with Rutgers University. Bob is also active within the local community having been a volunteer fireman and now a fire commissioner. Currently he is a director on the New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers Association's board.



Chris Martine
BS Cook 1996 and MS Ecology and Evolution 2001

Dr. Chris Martine is the David Burpee Chair in Plant Genetics and Director of the Manning Herbarium at Bucknell University. He got both his bachelor's and master's degrees at Rutgers, and then went on to graduate school at the University of Connecticut. He has shown a persistent and remarkable commitment to not only plant science research (mostly within the evolution of sexuality in plants), but also to the education of the public as to what plants are and what plant scientists do. His accomplishments both in research and outreach are numerous, and have led to him being awarded several national awards and prizes for his efforts. He is a national star in the botany world when it comes to outreach and service to the profession, and he is very, very proud of his links to Rutgers. In October 2015, he came back to the university to film two new segments focused on Rutgers research for his YouTube series *Plants are Cool, Too*, with professors and students on campus (yes, Cook Campus will be in the film), and one with a Rutgers alumnus now working on Manhattan's biodiversity. His links to Rutgers are strong and active, and he is a great model of how to engage young and old minds anywhere in the world.



Terrie Williams
MS in Physiology 1979 and PhD in Physiology 1981

Dr. Terrie Williams is a Mammalian EcoPhysiologist and was Tim Casey's first PhD student. Currently, she is Director of the Marine Mammal Physiology Program and is an Ida Benson Lynn Endowed Professor in Ocean Health at the University of California Santa Cruz. She was named one of the top 50 women in science by Discover Magazine and has a USGS Antarctic Site Designation (Terrie Bluff on Ross Island, Antarctica) in honor of her years of polar research on Weddell seals. She is one of the most highly cited scientists in Science and Nature, and has written award winning books for the general public about her research expeditions and work with endangered species.