

THE DAILY TARGUM

SERVING THE RUTGERS COMMUNITY SINCE 1869

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 17, 2008

Today: Partly sunny
High: 60 • Low: 39

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Tomorrow is Homecoming for the University, where alumni return to the Banks to visit their alma mater, take in the sights and catch a football game. To those returning to the University this weekend, welcome home.



Campus Identity

Cook campus provides pastoral paradise



ANGELICA BONUS/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Passion Puddle, an iconic location on Cook campus, is a popular spot for recreation, relaxation and, most notoriously, romance.

BY KATE STATTON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Cook campus, home to the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, radiates a passion for the environment.

Named after George H. Cook, the first head of the Rutgers Scientific School, Cook campus has often been identified by its country-like feel.

"The isolation of the campus creates a very tight community," said Cook campus Dean Rick Ludescher. "Because Cook residents are separated, they have generated this self-sufficient core of support."

The campus paper, The Green Print, publishes articles dealing not just with campus news but also features articles on health and well-being.

Cook has been described as the "hippie" campus because of its environmentally-savvy sense and rural feel, but there is much more to its beauty than this reputation attests.

Students agree: Cook's remoteness in comparison with the other campuses creates a sense of community not felt on the other campuses.

"Cook is a largely remote and insulated community," said School of Arts and Sciences sophomore Jon Weintraub, who lives on the College Avenue campus but calls Cook a rural refuge.

"I think of Cook as a beautiful, agrarian-oriented campus, a rural incongruity at Rutgers," Weintraub said.

The on-campus Student Organic Farm, founded in 1993,

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COOK: Campus well known for quiet, removed location

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provides hands-on instruction for students.

Cook campus has long been home to Cook College and Mason Gross School of the Arts students, but this has changed. Today all Rutgers University students can live together on this serene and rural campus.

Since the switch from Cook College to the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, the population on Cook has become very diverse. As of last semester, only 65 percent of Cook residents were School of Environmental and Biological Sciences students, Ludescher said.

As the next few semesters pass, this percentage is expected to drop even further, Ludescher said.

Many students yearn for that sense of familiarity that is felt around Cook campus and now with the switch they will be able to get it, Ludescher said.

"It's nice for students to be able to walk around campus and recognize faces," Ludescher said. "You go to class and think 'There's the person who rides their bike, or there's the girl who has a puppy.' There is comfort in routine; other campuses don't have that. They are more anonymous."

The location of Cook does more than provide a sense of community. With the proximity to Mason Gross, it is just a short walk for students to go to a play or music concert, Ludescher said.

Separate from the activities on Douglass, there is a lot going on at Cook, Ludescher said.

The clubs are active and there is a lot of programming at the Cook Campus Center, Ludescher said. There is at least one major event planned at the campus center each week, along with the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences academic seminars and outside speakers.

Cook residents also benefit from the campus isolation.

"Cook is unique from the other campuses because like on College Avenue, we know how to party and live it up," Cook College junior Justin Gala said. "But when it comes time to crack down and study I feel like I can get my work

done without worrying about being woken up by the buses or sirens."

Gala said he chose to live on Cook rather than any other campus because he felt at home there during his tour of the college.

The campus felt familiar and friendly, he said.

"I went to camp as a kid and worked at a camp all my life and Cook made me feel as if I was going to camp again just with school work," Gala said.

Cook also houses Neilson Dining Hall, often considered the best dining hall at the University for both the food and ambiance. Students across New Brunswick travel to Cook just to dine at Neilson.

"The atmosphere of Neilson is better than any other dining hall," said School of Arts and Sciences sophomore Joanna Cirillo, a College Avenue resident. "It has a nicer setup and look, and the selection and quality of the food is better not only inside the dining hall but also at takeout."

Ludescher said the small town atmosphere of Cook helped add to its appeal.

"Some students want to be part of the hustle and bustle. For them, College Avenue is the right place," he said. "But if they want that small town comfort and atmosphere, then Cook is the place for them."