

# CLIMATE CHANGE

with Rutgers' Leading Scientists

After drawing impressive crowds in New York, D.C., and Philadelphia this spring, the "Experience Rutgers: Climate Change" event series went bicoastal, taking the show on the road to Los Angeles and San Francisco earlier this fall. On the agenda were customized presentations about climate change, touching on such issues as Hurricane Sandy and sea level rise on the East Coast as well as droughts and fires on the West Coast. The overwhelming response from attendees was that the talks were colorful, informative, insightful, engaging, and entertaining.

At the center of it all were three of Rutgers' leading climate scientists—Jennifer Francis, Scott Glenn, and Benjamin Horton—all members of the Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS). What made this event series so successful was accessibility, education, and entertainment...mixed with a dash of controversy.

"The topic of climate change, of course, is a high profile one," says Francis. "I think there are a lot of people who still have questions about it, and they've appreciated the opportunity to speak to an expert who is on the front lines of the research and doing work that's really important not just for people living in the United States, but all over the world."

The presentations, as well as the networking receptions and question-and-answer sessions led by President Robert Barchi, allowed Francis, Glenn, and Horton to educate and also engage with alumni on this hot-button issue and highlight SEBS as a resource and think tank. "There's so much research going on in this area at Rutgers, and it's the perfect time to reach out and explain and demonstrate this to our alumni and attendees," adds Francis. "The great discussions we've had after the presentations tell us it's a success, and accomplishing exactly what we hoped to do."

The "Experience Rutgers" programs, sponsored by the Rutgers University Alumni Association, place laser focus on the excellent science that is taking place at The State University of New Jersey. Alumni commenting on the programs were understandably impressed—and proud—of their alma mater.

In surveying attendees after the events, typical comments included such compliments as, "My husband and I were very much impressed with the three lecturers and the competence the President displayed during the Q & A. He seems to be up to speed on everything. Rutgers is on the cutting edge in the field of climate change. I am proud to be an alumna of Rutgers."

