



RUTGERS

GREEN PRINT

★ Issue 9 - November 2016 ★

Contents

3

Food For Thought

5

'Bummer' Sticker

8

Race to 270

9

Bipolar America

4

What the Candidates Think
About Climate Change

6

Problems in the Political Process

8

Pressing Issues of the Year
and to Come

5

History in the Making

7

Endangered Species of
the Month: American Bison

Upcoming Events

November

9

*'You're the Expert' Live NPR
Podcast Taping*

🕒 7:00PM

📍 George St Playhouse

November

12

*Elijah's Promise
Race Against Hunger*

🕒 9:00am

📍 Johnson Park
Piscataway

November

14

*"Physicians, Farmers and the
Politics of Antimicrobial Resistance"*

w/ Dr. Laura Kahn

🕒 6:30 – 8:30pm

📍 IFNH Room 101

November

16

GIS Day *[Jump to Flyer]*

🕒 6:30 – 9:00pm

📍 ENR Building

November

18

Rutgers Climate Symposium

🕒 8:30 – 2:00pm

📍 Livingston Hall
Livi Student Center

November

18

*Dr Mary Blair on Primate
Conservation* *[Jump to Flyer]*

🕒 3:30pm

📍 Ruth Adams Building
Room 001

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As the days before the election dwindle, there are a few observations I'd like to share with you all.

As I've been following media stories, reading posts and comments from my news feed, and observing/talking to my peers, I have realized how diverse the perspectives are of those around me. Even though these people are in my life either because I have similar interests as them or similar backgrounds, we have all developed unique perspectives even if under comparable circumstances. There are people across the globe whose ideals may relate to mine, while my own neighbors' views are entirely opposite.

Something that I have learned as a result of this election is **how important it is to respect each others' beliefs, even if they conflict with your own.** If we cannot try to relate to each other, there will be no way to compromise to meet mutually beneficial solutions. Let's face it, there are a lot of people on our planet, in our country, even in our classrooms. There are simply too many of us to assemble a large-scale agreement of any sort, so I don't understand how trying to convince people of why they are wrong is a constructive plan of action towards creating new policies. Let's instead strategize inclusivity and interconnectedness, because we are all facing the same issues in the grand scheme of things, aren't we?

For anyone who has studied psychology (or watched SVU), you may have learned about the concept of **desensitization. In psychological terms, it is a treatment for a given phobia, while the more negative connotation involves one who is so acclimated to something that they no longer feel it's full implications,** such as the violence in video games. I've considered this term greatly and applied it to numerous situations, like how a driver can feel little empathy for a car driving slowly in front of you, even though there is a person in there, with a variety of explanations for why they won't go as fast as you'd like.

It's a relevant idea in a lot of today's concerns; police brutality, the Dakota Access pipeline, and immigration reform to name a few. We so often see gruesome images, such as the ones of Syrian refugees, or the riot-gearred troopers at Native American sit-ins. There is no reason for people to be treated like cattle, or sheep, or numbers, and yet it's not something only found in history books. It is still happening today, everyday. It's as if because there are so many of us, we cannot possibly care for everyone. **Humans are so connected to each other and yet more disconnected than ever.**

I believe we are also desensitized by 'climate change'.

Global warming has been publicized in some form for decades by this point, with scientists attempting to scare us into changing our behavior with seemingly no evidence to corroborate their stories. It's no wonder there are so many in disbelief, even as the evidence is now ramping up and our emissions are hardly hesitating. **This desensitization is different however. It is rooted not only in the continuity of the warnings, but also the feeling of helplessness over the matter.** One person's individual contribution does so little to curb our global footprint that there are not many who are inclined to change their habits. We need to overcome this desensitization. We need to remember that the villages flooding in Asia are no different from the flooding in coastal Florida. Climate change knows no race, social class, or political party. It will affect everyone across the globe in one way or another, and ignoring it will not make it disappear.

The fact that climate change has been neglected as a main issue in this election is troublesome, to say the least. There are clearly many obstacles to overcome before we can work together in creating a safe environment for our society to be prosperous (economy included), especially in the face of our unknown future. In dealing with so much turmoil, our society has forgotten compassion. If we related our own personal histories to the faces of those who are struggling today, maybe our outlooks would be a little different. The focus of this election, and the key to prolonging life as we know it, is about respect for our fellow Americans, for humankind, and for the future of our Earth.

Yours truly,

Emily Hunziker
Editor





Photo: Megan Hunziker

WHAT THE CANDIDATES THINK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

by Ryan Newland

Even though by now we are all generally aware of the candidates' stances on climate change issues, considering that the fate of our country over the next four years is in their hands, and considering the globally catastrophic effects of climate change, I think it's worth a reminder.

According to her website, as president, Hillary will defend, implement, and extend smart pollution and efficiency standards by

✦ **Launching a \$60 billion Clean Energy Challenge to:**

- ★ Cut carbon pollution
- ★ Invest in clean energy infrastructure, innovation, manufacturing and workforce development
- ★ Ensure safe and responsible energy production
- ★ Cut billions of wasteful tax subsidies for oil and gas companies
- ★ Cut methane emissions across the economy
- ★ Revitalize coal communities (which as it turns out does not mean investing more into coal)
- ★ Make environmental justice and climate justice central priorities
- ★ Promote conservation and collaborative stewardship

According to Donald Trump's website, as president, he will...**well, he doesn't actually mention climate change on his website at all.** He did send out a tweet on November 6, 2012 though:

"The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive."

In May of this year at the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference in Bismark, North Dakota, Trump said this:

*"Any regulation that's outdated, unnecessary, bad for workers or contrary to the national interest will be scrapped and scrapped completely. We're going to do all this while taking proper regard for **rational environmental concerns.**"*

More recently, the Trump campaign has spoken out against the Paris Agreement, a plan created by the United Nations to help halt the advances of climate change globally, which the United States of America ratified in September.

As for the third party candidates, Jill Stein has been a proponent of a *Green New Deal*, to fight against climate change which according to her website intends to "create millions of jobs by transitioning to 100% clean renewable energy by 2030, and investing in public transit, sustainable agriculture, and conservation."

Gary Johnson on the other hand, questions whether it's the government's responsibility to tackle global climate change. I respect a fair amount of his ideas, but some things are a bit laughable. My personal favorite piece from his website has to be this:

*"Is the climate changing? Probably so.
Is man contributing to that change? Probably so."*

Political Passion Playlist

1. Million Dollar Loan - Death Cab For Cutie
2. It Ends Tonight - The All-American Rejects
3. Seriously - Sara Bareilles & Leslie Odom Jr.
4. It's The End Of The World - R.E.M.
5. Same Love - Macklemore
6. You Should've Killed Me When You Had The Chance - A Day To Remember
7. Karma Police - Radiohead
8. Pigs - Pink Floyd
9. Donald Trump - Fight Clvb
10. Famous - Kanye West

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

by Andrew Cumming

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump recently said that he will accept the results of the election “if he wins.” At face value, this statement seems absolutely ridiculous. It sounds like something a child might do—only accept the results of a competition if it results in success for them; however, his follow-up statement is what intrigues me more: *“Of course, I would accept a clear election result, but I would also reserve my right to contest or file a legal challenge in the case of a questionable result.”*

Truth be told, I am terrified of a potential Trump presidency. The very thought makes me worry for the future of this country. I think Donald Trump is a malevolent, pompous bigot, but I do appreciate his intense distrust of the government. How often has a presidential nominee openly criticized the government as much as he has? How often has anyone with any political authority questioned the way things are? It’s *almost* a breath of fresh air.

Think of how iconic it would be if Trump were to sue the electoral college. *It very well could be a catalyst for political change in our country.* Certainly, I had never thought of trying to take down something as big as the electoral college. It could be the beginning of a new era in the United States, one of questioning political norms and pushing for the change of unjust systems. I want Trump to lose for a number of reasons; I think he has the potential to ruin this country for many people. Now, however, I want him to lose also to see what happens.

The Election of 2016 will be a landmark election in United States history. We are witnessing history right now. I don’t know how it is going to pan out, but I hope something good comes out of it. *Politics in the United States has been hopeless for too long; it’s time for that to change.*



‘BUMMER’ STICKER

by Jessica Schoen

I saw a bumper sticker that said “My dog is a Republican.” I am going to break it down.

A. Assuming your dog does not speak any other language than dog, he does not understand the language of politics. Dogs do not even know something like that exists nor do they care. Why don’t dogs care? Because they are, well, dogs. If dogs had any comprehension of American politics I would be scared.

B. Let’s say your dog does know American politics. He consistently takes hand-outs... everyday. Yet, he hates people who take “hand-outs.” He calls them “lazy and unmotivated.” *Yet, most of these people have a reason to be this way just like a dog would.* A lot of poor people vote against the hand-outs they get because... wait... I don’t know why... but anyway... What would happen if he lost these hand-outs? He would die. Like most of the people on “hand-outs.”

C. I’m going to assume the dog is a golden retriever. A retriever is not a Mexican dog. If you are a Republican then why shouldn’t you hate Mexicans? I mean that *is* the fad now. The dog has every right to hate Mexicans because there is a certain Mexican dog that is tiny... a chihuahua. A chihuahua never really asks if it’s okay to have sex. So it reiterates Trump’s comments of “Mexicans are rapists.” On top of this, *chihuahua dog fights are a thing and I would consider that murder*, which reinforces Trump’s idea of “Mexicans being murderers.”

D. Dogs believe that they should be able to poop anywhere they want, which is linked directly to the Republican quote of “Don’t Tread On Me.” Dogs hate control and the government is impeding on their right to poop anywhere. This addresses the dog’s perspective in regards to public parks and private property.

E. Dogs hate the fact that their sex life is predetermined. *Shouldn’t their vaginas and penises have a right to decide if they want life or not?* Their owners control this!!! They are a separate entity. If they want to have kids, then it’s their God-given right and no human should be controlling this. *They also clearly don’t believe in abortion.*

In conclusion, dogs are complex beings and would *obviously* be Republican if they were able to comprehend American politics...

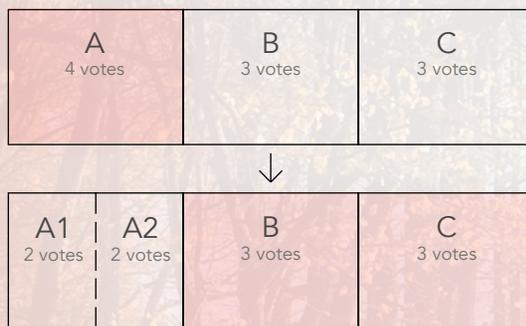
PROBLEMS IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

by Ian Montgomery

Everyone has their opinion on how their opposing side has been rigging the election in their favor or discarding votes or paying groups to astroturf online communities. While all true in some respect, that is not the focus here. Certain portions of the process itself, and not how it's (ab) used, are more important to dissect and revise.

Three vital aspects are through **where votes come from**, **how votes are weighted**, and **how votes are given**. These issues are gerrymandering, first-past-the-post voting, and electronic voting.

Gerrymandering is a process where districts with voters from different groups have borders redrawn to allow original minority parties to become the majority.



Picture a district that has 10 voters with 4 in Group A and 3 in Groups B and C. Groups B and C could draw a line in the middle of A for two divisions in the district with 2 voters of Group A in each, and then 3 of Group B in one and 3 of Group C in the other. Where Group B and C originally had less representation, they get more because of border redrawing to weaken A and give them safer and easier elections.

After being disgruntled from losing, a group could give monetary benefits to the people responsible for drawing the lines to redraw them again. And again. One proposed solution to gerrymandering has even been gerrymandering in a more "representative way" but the attempt to solve the problem with itself leaves much to be desired.

First-past-the-post is a system where each person gets one vote and the person chosen with the most votes wins. Also called "winner take all", it creates elections where if 10 people run, the person with the most votes automatically wins, even if they only got 20% or potentially less of all the votes. **Even if 80% of the population did not want a candidate, they still get elected.** Eventually in a multi-party system, less and less people run, knowing that they don't stand a chance and siphon away, or spoil,

votes from more popular candidates similar to them. This process continues until a two-party system is in play, where the two candidates are almost never fully in line with most people's views. This is where someone votes "for the lesser of two evils", and third parties face numerous difficulties.

In an unrevised scenario, elections generally alternate between two major groups where people vote for those that they dislike or disagree with least instead of potentially dozens of groups that could be more representative of a society's views and voting for someone that is actually liked and agreeable.

Electronic voting has often been touted as the solution to worries about ballot box stuffing, dead people voting, or people not being able to get to polling locations. With physical voting having been around for hundreds of years, standard methods of fraud have actually been worked against. With so many polling locations involved, **large scale vote rigging is nigh-impossible with paper ballots.** The manipulation of tens of thousands of polling locations would need to be coordinated with even one leak ruining it all because rigging physical votes doesn't scale well.

With electronic voting, one person could change one vote with the same ease of changing a million. They wouldn't even need to be in the same country. In order to be sure that software is accurately taking votes, open source software has been proposed but the issue is that the software is not open source and even if it was, one would have no way of knowing if the open source software was even running on the machines.

While physical votes are generally counted onsite, voting machines cannot securely be transported in vehicles or send information over the internet without concerns of tampering or hacking the signal. Online voting even magnifies these issues with attacks on internet connections, blocking email addresses, viruses, and not being aware of those who are behind the computer.

These are only some issues with the enormous bureaucracy and convoluted system purposefully designed to be hard to understand and even more difficult to fix. The people in charge want to stay in charge. However, for anyone who wants to make the system fairer, more accurate, and representative of society's views and goals, these issues are important to keep in mind. It will not be easy and may never be perfect but with so much room for improvement, change must be made.



ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE MONTH: AMERICAN BISON

by Jessica Schoen

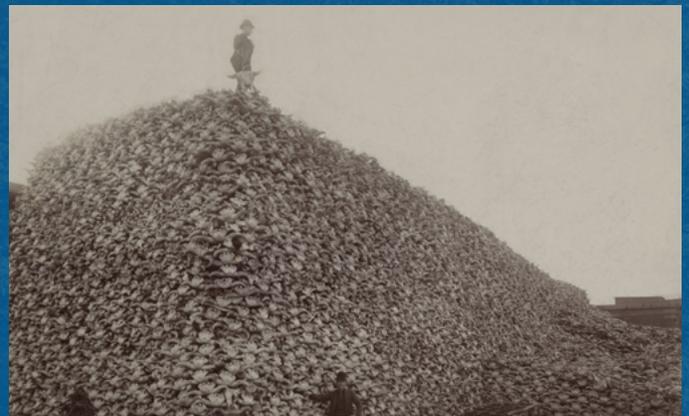
Because this election stinks, let us get back to our **'MERICAN** roots by looking at the American Bison.

Also known as the buffalo, the American Bison's scientific name is the *Bison bison* (I guess it was so important that it needed to have bison in the name twice). **The bison is the national mammal of the United States and is the largest terrestrial animal in North America.** There are two subspecies: one being the plains bison and the other being the wood bison. Bison like open plains, savannas, and grasslands. They love eating grasses and sedges and are considered herbivores. Bison can be over six feet tall and males can weigh more than one ton while females weigh about 900 pounds. Their average lifespan is twelve to twenty years depending on if they are in captivity or not. Buffalo in captivity usually live longer.

Bison communicate by sound and smell. This is done a lot during breeding season. Herds are typically divided by sex. When the summer breeding season begins, they start to get comfy with each other in the same group. A bison will only have 1 offspring per year and each calf weighs about 50 pounds. They are taken care of by their mother for about 1 year.

The bison is considered near threatened. The bison used to cover the Great Plains and much of North America until settlers started killing them. Some 50 million were killed during the 19th century. It was not until the 1900s, when a little over 1,000 bison were left, that people started to see the importance of conserving this animal. **The American Bison has since rebounded a little bit and now about 500,000 live on preserves and ranches.**

There are organizations that work to preserve the American Bison, one is the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#). They also give away free stickers. Another organization is the [American Prairie Reserve](#) where you can become a member and help build a park for these creatures. You can also adopt a bison from the [National Wildlife Federation](#).



THE RACE TO 270

by Jonathan Baier

250 has been a big number for Rutgers this year, marking our university's 250th anniversary, but the real discussion this year should be about the number 270.

270 represents the number of necessary electoral votes given through the Electoral College to become President of the United States. There are a total of 538 members of the Electoral College that are based off of the proportion of representatives from the Senate (100), the House of Representatives (435), and the District of Columbia (3) that end up determining our future President. Each state is given a number of votes based off of population.

If a candidate wins a state, they get all the electoral votes of that state. This tends to impact what states candidates will campaign in, where you have "safe states" that will almost always vote for a certain party. "Swing states", on the other hand, are unpredictable in how they will vote. "Swing states", especially the large ones, **will always get more attention from candidates than a state that will historically vote Republican or Democrat.**

This raises many questions about how the Electoral College is executed. The Electoral College was created in 1787 in a time where many people were not adequately educated on political matters and votes could not be easily counted. Such reasoning is archaic by today's standards, where media and technology distribute information and allow for fast, accurate vote counting.

The Electoral College also kills the chances of third party candidates ever winning through the system, as they cannot amass a significant amount of electoral votes that will surely go to one of our two major political parties. **Small states are also marginalized and receive substantially less visits from presidential candidates** than those of "swing states" and other large states that hold many electoral votes. One pro is that electoral votes are counted very easily, but there are many more questions and issues surrounding what seems to be an outdated system.

So does the popular vote matter? In the year 2000, Al Gore won the popular vote over George Bush, yet lost the general election. The flaws of the Electoral College were exposed here, where Al Gore received more votes from the public, but did not win the majority of bureaucratic votes. This all goes back to state and local elections, which builds the foundation and steers the direction for where your state's electoral votes end up going. Still, **you should not be discouraged to vote**, even if the popular vote does not have a direct impact, **it sends a message to your state's representatives, future candidates, and the**

rest of the country about what your state really wants and how the future should be shaped. The best way to make a difference in future elections is to **participate in local and state elections**, which will be the determinant in how your state votes and ultimately decide who will be the future President of the United States.



PRESSING ISSUES OF THE YEAR AND TO COME

by Ben Purzak

The year 2016 will forever go down in history as the year we want to forget. Everywhere we seem to turn there's always something new to dampen our collective spirits. Whether it comes in the form of our favorite celebrities and cultural icons passing away (i.e David Bowie and Gene Wilder) or the increased violence that gripped our country, from the attacks in Orlando and Dallas, to police killings of unarmed African Americans. Whatever reason you have to feel distressed, it probably happened in this dreaded year.

This article isn't about outlining the gloom that we have all seen and faced over the year. This article is about moving forward as a country and addressing the issues that need to be addressed if we are to come out of 2016 a united country. Some issues facing our country are the threat of climate change among other environmental issues, foreign policy as well as terrorism, immigration, and the Supreme Court.

The first issue I want to address is climate change and environmental issues. This topic has taken a back seat in congressional politics for some reason. It is an issue that plays a huge role in every other issue presented. **All issues can be traced back to climate change.** The economy is influenced by climate change. Terrorism is connected to climate change as well as immigration. For some reason, **the government doesn't see that and the only person addressing it is President Obama.** Not to mention that he can only get climate action done by executive action.

Another topic that needs to be sorted out is foreign policy/terrorism. This is a very mainstream issue that needs another look at. We hear about ISIS and foreign issues with Russia *all the time*. I believe this is still going to be a huge issue going forward as more progress is being made in the war against ISIS and tensions slowly building with Russia. The next president is going to have their hands full with mediating a chaotic middle east while also being diplomatic and firm with Russia.

Another matter that is going to continue and has already taken center stage is immigration. This year we saw the emergence of Brexit and the role immigration had on that decision. A new approach has to be taken when it comes to immigration. **This approach cannot be a deportation route.** New policy has to be taken to allow for people to come in legally and efficiently. Our economy would be severely hindered by the mass deportation of millions of people.

The last issue is on the matter of the Supreme Court. At this time we only have 8 justices serving in the Supreme Court when the allotted amount is supposed to be 9. Both parties need to come together and elect a ninth justice in order for our court to be effective. **We cannot stick with 8. Many cases will fail to go through due to ties.** This election is going to be crucial in deciding the fate of many justices.

In the end, these issues and more will take center stage in the coming years. It is important that the people we elect to represent us have knowledge and an understanding of the topics at hand. Our future as a country depends on the effectiveness of solving these issues.



BIPOLAR AMERICA

Wow, we're almost here. The end of what is, by some metrics, the longest election cycle ever.

I am fascinated. I'm not sure if it's the SNL skit fodder these candidates keep feeding us, the appeal of polling numbers to my inner stat geek, or the implications it could have on our future; probably a bit of it all. And after a year of this, I think there is only one thing we can agree on: **we are more divided than ever.**

I have listened to so many frustrated people talk about how hopeless this election is, and have heard some terrible ideas on what to say or do after it is over (and I can't say I myself am innocent or above this fact). But, at least, after all this time, it has gotten me to THINK. I think about the hardships many of us face, the scariest thoughts we fear, the oppression we feel. I remember when so many of these issues seemed so distant to me. So if there is one good thing about the length of this election cycle, I think I, as a person, have grown. I hope, I pray, I doubt, I hope again.. That you all have as well.

Which brings me to my point. You might think this is hopeless. There are irreparable divides, insurmountable problems, our media is biased, our leaders are corrupt...

but we can fix this, and we always have. That doesn't mean we'll solve it; we might not, but it is possible.

Nothing is certain. Nothing is black. Nothing is white. Nothing is grey. Everything is complicated. It has always been that way.

But what has ALWAYS made America great, was its ability to overcome oppression, to be different, to take control. We take control by voting, by casting our opinion across the airwaves of this beautiful country and we wait with baited breathe to see if OUR votes resonate with the majority. If so, we rejoice; if not, we think. We think about our peers. We think about whether our concerns are as important as theirs. They may be. They may not be. But we think!

And we talk. And we listen, most importantly. We seek as much value in reading about the "opposing" viewpoint as our own. This is how we have real impacts, and how Democracy can function to the highest efficiency possible. And finally, let's show some accountability here, guys!! **We made this mess. Now let's fix it.**

~dNA



REFERENCES

What The Candidates Think About Climate Change

- <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/climate/>
- <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/issues>
- <http://www.jill2016.com/plan>
- <https://www.johnsonweld.com/environment>

History in the Making

- <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/10/20/politics/donald-trump-i-will-totally-accept-election-results-if-i-win/index.html>

Problems in the Political Process

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7tWHJfhiyo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7tWHJfhiyo>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3_0x6oaDml

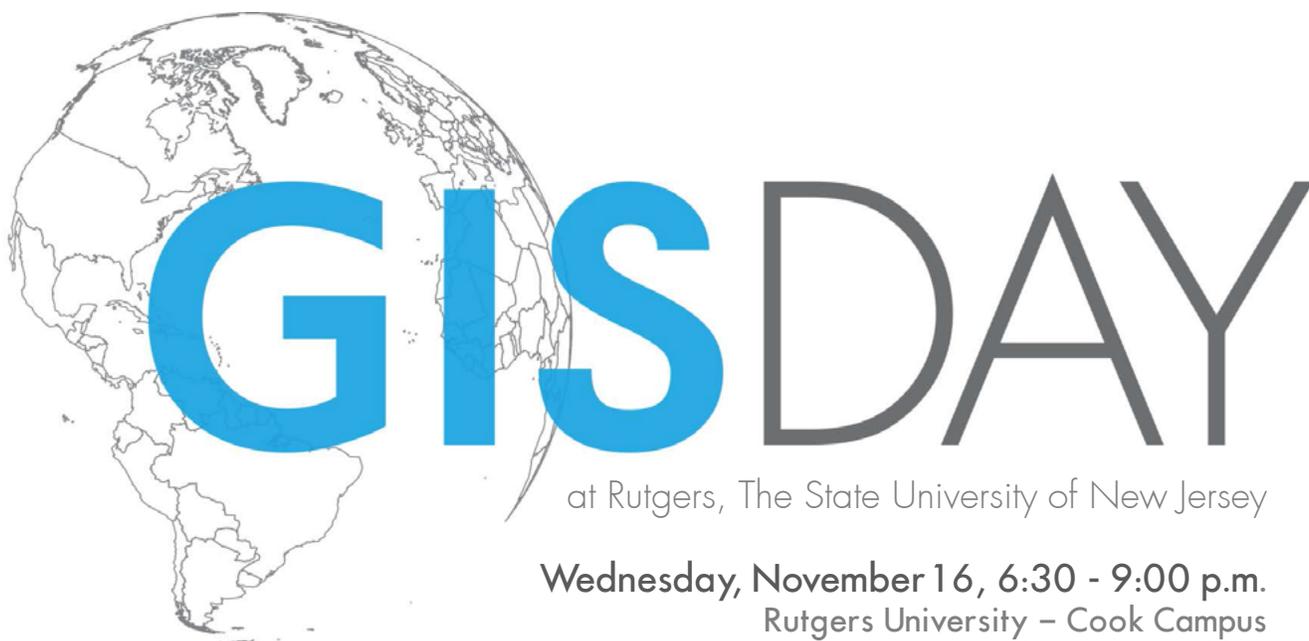
Endangered Species of the Month: American Bison

- <http://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Library/Mammals/Bison.aspx>
- <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/a/american-bison/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_bison

DESIGN:
Quinn Chin & Kris Khunachak

COVER PHOTO & BACKGROUND PHOTOS:
Megan Hunziker

Follow us on [Facebook!](#)



at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Wednesday, November 16, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Rutgers University – Cook Campus
Environmental & Natural Resources Building
14 College Farm Road, New Brunswick, NJ

COME LEARN, CELEBRATE, AND DISCUSS THE CURRENT STATE
AND THE FUTURE OF **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS!**

- Get informed with lightning talks from GIS professionals.
- See what students are working on in the poster gallery.
- Learn about Geomatics programs at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.
- Network with professionals and students.
- Enjoy free food and drinks.

Sponsored by:

The Rutgers Environmental Planning and Design Club

The Department of Landscape Architecture

The Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources



RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

PRIMATE CONSERVATION CASE STUDIES FROM VIETNAM

Lecture by Dr. Mary Blair

Dr. Mary Blair is the assistant director for Research and Strategic Planning at the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History. Her research investigates the diversity of slow lorises throughout Vietnam as well as the patterns, scales, and drivers of the illicit trade in these amazing primates.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016
3:30PM
RUTH ADAMS BUILDING-001**



**SPONSORED BY:
THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY FOR PRIMATE CONSERVATION CLUB**