

CORNELL
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STATION NEWS

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BRIEFS

REACHING YOUR FINANCIAL
GOALS: TIPS FROM AMERICA'S
EXPERTS

Wednesday, October 28, 1998

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Jordan Hall Lounge (Geneva)

Today's complex financial world offers more investment choices and challenges than ever before. Understanding how to select and guide your investments wisely is the key to achieving your financial goals.

On Wednesday, October 28, 1998, Cornell University will host "Reaching Your Financial Goals: Tips from America's Experts," a free live national teleconference aimed at helping you better understand your financial options. Sponsored by TIAA-CREF, the teleconference will give you the chance to ask questions and learn from some of America's most noted investment experts, including:

- Jane Bryant Quinn, columnist and author of *Making the Most of Your Money*
- Peter L. Bernstein, economist and author of *Against the Gods: The Remarkable Story of Risk*
- Martin Leibowitz, Vice Chairman and Chief Investment Officer, TIAA-CREF
- Elissa Buie, President-Elect, Institute of Certified Financial Planners

ABC News Correspondent Elizabeth Vargas will moderate the discussion, which will focus on:

- Setting your financial goals
- Creating your investment strategy
- Balancing risk and reward
- Choosing the right financial products
- Allocating your assets

You may e-mail any questions you would like the panel to address to:

tiavideo@ix.netcom.com

Please join us on Wednesday, October 28, 1998, from 2:00-3:30 pm in the Jordan Hall Auditorium, Geneva. (Continued on page 2)

ROSIE PROVVIDENTI HONORED

They say the early bird catches the worm, but what they don't tell you is that it's the hard-working vegetable virologist who unearths the disease. Dr. Rosario ('Rosie') Provvidenti, Cornell Professor of Plant Pathology, whom many consider the world's foremost authority on vegetable diseases, continues to arrive at the Experiment Station at 7 am and work long hours. Despite the fact that he retired seven years ago, he directs a very active research program, is a requested lecturer at meetings all over the world, and is as comfortable with conventional breeding as he is with genetic engineering.

Dr. Provvidenti is being honored at a symposium and a dinner in his honor on Tuesday, October 20, that is being hosted by seed companies and the Experiment Station.

"Dr. Provvidenti's vast knowledge in the identification of viruses, and his work in the genetics of resistance is recognized by scientists and seed companies in the United States and around the world," said Jim Hunter. "Many of his discoveries have been used to improve vegetable crops." His work helped to establish good working relationships between seed companies and the Station long before it was popular to talk about partnerships between the university and the private sector.

"Dr. Provvidenti put the Experiment Station on the map as a center of excellence for identifying genes for resistance to viruses in vegetable crops. Without him, the Station—and even the College of Agriculture at Cornell—would not have the renowned program it does dealing with virus diseases of vegetables," said Hunter.

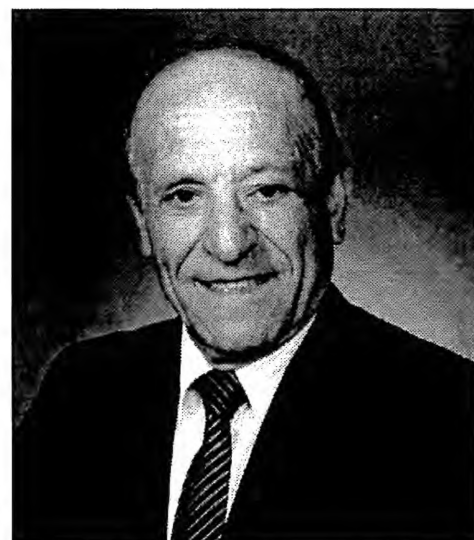
The objectives of Dr. Provvidenti's research program are the identification of viruses occurring in vegetable crops and their biological control. A major emphasis has been directed toward the search for natural sources of resistance utilizing domestic and foreign introduction of cultivated and wild species of beans, crucifers, cucurbits, lettuce, peas, peppers, spinach, tomatoes, and other crops. He has been instrumental in controlling diseases of New York State vegetables, and his work has been applied to varieties of these vegetables from all over the world.

"Dr. Provvidenti has had a distinguished career, and his contributions to the vegetable industry of New York and the United States have been tremendous," said Herb Aldwinckle, of the Department of Plant Pathology and one of the organizers of the symposium.

"Rosie has found and characterized more sources of disease resistance than anybody. He has studied how diseases are inherited, and helped breeders put the resistance into varieties. His work has been indispensable to my work," said vegetable breeder Richard Robinson, of the Department of Horticultural Sciences.

The utilization of resistance genes in the development of new cultivars, and close cooperation with vegetable breeders of public and private institutions continues to be the ultimate goal of Dr. Provvidenti's entire research program.

"Vegetable pathology is a very frustrating kind of research," said Mike Szkolnik, retired professor of Plant Pathology, who is a contemporary of Dr. Provvidenti. "There are very delicate lines (Continued on page 2)



DeCANN WINS IR-4 AWARD

At the IR-4 Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ, earlier this month, Jane DeCann received the prestigious IR-4 Meritorious Technical Service Award. This award was presented in recognition of DeCann's outstanding performance as the Sample Control Officer and Archivist for the IR-4 program.

"Jane is the nexus of the Northeast Leader Lab in Geneva," stated Richard Durst, who, as Director of the Analytical Chemistry Laboratories, is responsible for the operations of the Northeast Regional IR-4 Minor-Use Pesticide Laboratory. "Jane serves as the sample control officer and archivist, she prepares bench books for the analysts, spikes incoming samples for stability tests, maintains freezer records and handles all incoming and outgoing sample sets. Now, she also prepares samples," he added.

As Sample Control Officer, DeCann receives, logs in, and stores all IR-4 pesticide residue samples shipped in or out of Cornell Analytical Laboratories. She corresponds on a regular basis with IR-4 headquarters at Rutgers University and with Laboratory Research Directors and Field Cooperators throughout the United States to ensure that complete and precise sample tracking is maintained. As archivist, she is in charge of the IR-4 archive room at the Station and keeps complete documentation on all archival items and maintains written records of items removed and returned to the archive room.

DeCann has worked at the Station for 22 years, but she noted that it has been enjoyable. "I am grateful toward all the people at the NYSAES and IR-4 Headquarters who make my job a fun and enjoyable one! I like communicating with people all over the US, and when someone comes into my office or the telephone rings, I find it challenging to answer questions or to solve problems quickly."

DeCann, a Geneva resident, is married to Bruce DeCann, and they have two daughters, Amy, of Geneva, and Heather Critchlow, of Clifton Springs. "As a close family, we enjoy doing things with the girls and their mates, and also boating, and traveling," she says.

"I guess IR-4 has recognized me because of my willingness to help anyone. I will make a special effort to fulfill people's needs and will follow up to see if they are satisfied," she opined. "If they need additional information, documentation, etc., I will gladly send it out, promptly."

Durst agrees: "I personally thank Jane for her valuable contributions in the performance of her official duties as well as for her continuing support in many other aspects of this very important program. Congratulations, Jane."

(BRIEFS, cont.)

There is no charge to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Benefit Services at 255-3936. Packets of information will be available for attendees. So that she will have a sufficient supply of the packets available, please contact Charie Hibbard (x210, cah3) if you will be attending.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

FST is surplus the following items: Serial #BCG1212; monitor, Apple 14" RGB; good condition; 1 item; estimated cost: \$125 (from United Computer Exchange: <http://www.uce.com>). No longer needed. Recommended disposal: sale. Serial #HY92475GM0404; monitor, Apple portrait grey w/ NuBus card; good condition; 1 item; cost: \$125 (from United Computer Exchange: <http://www.uce.com>). No longer needed. Recommended disposal: sale. Bids should be sent to Eliza-

(Continued on page 4)



CANDIDATE RESEARCH

An investigation of *Fragaria vesca* in evolution and synthesis of octoploids by Dr. Bob Bors, of the University of Guelph, will be the topic of a seminar on Thursday, October 22, 1998 (see seminar schedule, p.4). Bors, a candidate for the Station small fruits breeding position from the University of Guelph, finds that octoploid cultivars of strawberry are reproductively isolated from a wealth of diversity found in diploid, tetraploid and hexaploid *Fragaria* species. Previous attempts to synthesize octoploids from lower ploidy species has resulted in two semi-fertile synthetic octoploids being released to breeders in the last 25 years.

Improved methodology was adapted and optimized to enhance the synthetic octoploid system. This included embryo rescue, dropper method of colchicine application, flow cytometry, growth chamber flower initiation, many accessions from gene banks, pollen storage and proper timing and temperature for optimum seed set.

In this study, 202 synthetic octoploid were created from seven species in a strategy that focused on diploid *F.vesca* as a bridge species. Crosses were designed in a manner to investigate aspects of evolution theory. Morphological studies of fruiting characteristics also contributed to an understanding of evolution of *Fragaria*.

The study concludes that *Fragaria* likely evolved from high altitude flavorless species, and that *F.vesca* is not the progenitor of the genus. *F.vesca* is more appropriately viewed as a highly evolved diploid with multiple adaptations that have contributed to its widespread distribution. It is, however, possible that *F.vesca* contributed to the evolution of polyploid *Fragaria*.

FLU SHOTS

Can't afford to lose a week of work this winter? Get your flu shot now!!

PLACE: Flu Vaccine Clinic to be held in the Sawdust Cafe, Geneva Campus.
First come, first served.

DATE: Monday, October 19, 1998

TIME: 8:00-9:30 am

Cost of the influenza vaccine: \$10, be prepared to pay with (exact) cash, check (made out to Cornell University) or bursar. Spouse and children (none under 14) are welcome to receive vaccines at the cost of \$10 per person. Questions? Call Gannett Health Center: 8-5-6954 or 607-255-6954.

(ROSIE, cont.)

between vegetable varieties and the strains of viruses that affect them. Once you think you have made a tremendous contribution, you come to the humiliating realization that somewhere in the world, the same virus decimates another strain of the same plant. Rosie has traveled all over the world searching for plant genetic material, studying the viral causes of disease, and trying to improve or at least reduce the loss in productivity of important vegetable crops."

Dr. Provvidenti received his doctorate in microbiology from the University of Palermo in Italy, in 1947. He came to work at the Experiment Station as a research associate in the Department of Plant Pathology in 1954. He had the unique distinction of being promoted from a non-professorial position to a professorship in 1984, and was named a Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor upon his retirement in 1991. In 1986, he was named a Fellow by the National American Phytopathological Society.

His wife of many years is Margaret, and he has two children, JoAnn and Nino, as well as several grandchildren. According to Dick Robinson, Dr. Provvidenti has a serious interest in history, particularly the culture and people of the Roman Empire, and he is a very entertaining traveling companion.

The symposium, which starts at 2 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in Geneva, is being chaired by Dennis Gonsalves, also a Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor. Speakers will include Dr. Henry Munger (Dept. of Fruit and Vegetable Sciences), Dr. Ted Superak from Harris Moran Seed Company, Dr. Phyllis Himmel from Seminis Vegetable Seeds, Professor Margaret M. Kyle-Jahn (Dept of Plant Breeding), Dr. Seitaro Sakamoto from American Takii, Inc., Dr. Clark Nicklow, from Nicklow Seeds, Donald Wertman, from Seedway, and Professor Richard Robinson (Dept Hort Sciences). Following the reception and dinner, speakers will include professors Helene Dillard, Herb Aldwinckle, Dennis Gonsalves, Steven Slack, Jim Hunter, and Rosario Provvidenti, himself.

L.McCandless

STATION CLUB BANQUET



Friday, November 6, 1998 ~ Club 86

Social Hour 6:00 pm ~ Dinner 7:00pm

Music by E'Co

Dancing following dinner and presentations

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Broiled Fish</i> | <i>\$17 MEMBERS</i> | <i>\$20 NON-MEMBERS</i> |
| <i>Prime Rib</i> | <i>\$21 MEMBERS</i> | <i>\$24 NON-MEMBERS</i> |
| <i>Baked Chicken</i> | <i>\$15 MEMBERS</i> | <i>\$18 NON-MEMBERS</i> |
| <i>Vegetable Lasagna</i> | <i>\$15 MEMBERS</i> | <i>\$18 NON-MEMBERS</i> |



*See your Station Club Representative
for Tickets.*

Deadline to purchase tickets:

Friday October 30.

**SAES
HALLOWEEN
P.A.R.T.Y**



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1998, 6:00 PM



SAWDUST CAFE

CALENDAR of EVENTS

OCTOBER 16-23, 1998

LTC

- Class:** CU Library Gateway
Date: Tuesday, October 20, 1998
Time: 9:00-10:30 am
Place: LTC, Jordan Hall
- Class:** ADW User's Group
Date: Wednesday, October 21, 1998
Time: 9:00-10:30 am
Place: LTC, Jordan Hall
- Class:** CU Library Gateway
Date: Thursday, October 22, 1998
Time: 9:00-10:30 am
Place: LTC, Jordan Hall

SEMINARS

ENTOMOLOGY

- Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 1998
Time: 10:30 am
Place: Room 310 Barton Laboratory
Speaker: Maydienne Andrade
 Dept. of Ecology & Systematics
 Cornell University, Ithaca
- Title:** Sexual Cannibalism in Redback Spiders: Male Self-Sacrifice and Constraints on Mating Success
- Social interaction with speaker at 10:00 am.
 Coffee and cookies will be available.*

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

- Date:** Thursday, October 22, 1998
Time: 11:00 am
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Speaker: Dr. Robert Bors
 University of Guelph
- Title:** Investigation of *Fragaria vesca* in Evolution and Synthesis of Octoploids

Dr. Bors is a candidate for the small fruits breeding position in the Department of Horticultural Sciences.

PLANT PATHOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

Rosario Provvidenti Recognition Day

- Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 1998
Symposium: 2:00 pm
Reception: 6:00 pm
Banquet: 7:00 pm
Place: Ramada Inn, Geneva Lakefront

(BRIEFS, cont.)

beth Keller (x288, esk15) by 2:00 pm, November 4. Bids will be opened at 3:00pm on November 4th.

Business Office is surplusng three Mac SE30/40 computers with keyboard, 8MB Ram. All in good condition. Send sealed bids to Judy Birkett, Business Office by 2:00 pm, Friday, October 16, 1998. Include your name, campus phone number, and department on your bid. Bids will be opened at 3:00 pm, Friday, October 16, 1998.

1999 SELECT BENEFITS ENROLLMENT

The open enrollment period for Select Benefits is November 1-December 4, 1998. Select Benefit accounts include the health insurance premium, medical care reimbursement, and dependent care reimbursement. The health insurance premium, by default, will be deducted before taxes, unless an employee completes the Select Benefit Enrollment Form for 1999 indicating that the premium should be deducted after taxes. (NOTE: Postdoctoral Associates are not eligible for Select Benefit Accounts.)

Cornell University will be sending select benefits information directly to employees' homes later this month. **Please remember that a Select Benefits Enrollment Form must be completed each calendar year for the Medical Reimbursement Account and the Dependent Care Reimbursement Account.**

The open enrollment period for health insurance coverage has not been announced. The New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) information will be sent by the Department of Civil Service directly to active employees' and retirees' homes.

SAVE the DATES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Ramada Inn Geneva Lakefront
 Rosario Provvidenti Recognition Day

Saturday, October 31, 1998, 6:00 pm

Sawdust Cafe
 SAGES Halloween Party

Friday, November 6, 1998

Club 86
 Station Club Banquet

Saturday, November 14, 1998

Jordan Hall Auditorium
 Station Book Sale and Craft Fair

STATION
BOOK SALE AND
CRAFT FAIR

This year's Craft Show & Book Sale will be held on Saturday, November 14th. Station Club is looking for volunteers to help man (or woman) not only the booth that sells Station Club apparel, but also the booth that sells the books. This would involve a mere 1-2 hours of your time maximum and is guaranteed to be a fun job. If you are interested, please let me know what times you would be available and which booth you would prefer (x325, drr2).

The Library will be accepting book donations (jigsaw puzzles and board games, also) on November 12 and 13 **only**. No magazines please. For every three books you donate, you can receive one free!

SPORTS

PING PONG: Thursday nights at 7:30 pm in the Sawdust Café. Contact Roger Magarey (x366, rdm5) for more information.

SOFTBALL: Wednesday nights at 5:30 in the field behind Jordan Hall. Contact Nestor Ortiz (x 303, nho1).

SQUASH: Games weekly. All are welcome. Contact Mark Schmaedick (x 453, mas8) or Gus Gubba (x 433, ag36).

CLASSIFIED

WANTED: Room in a house or apartment from November to January (or possibly to May) for visiting Irish student. Contact Herb (xx369, hsa1) or Joy (x433, jpb10).

FOR SALE: Century car seat/carrier—\$5.00; Playard—\$20.00; Graco Tot Wheels Entertainer—\$10.00; changing table—\$ 35.00; Panasonic microwave—\$50.00. All items are in excellent condition. Call 781-7647.

MOVING SALE: Baby toys, kitchen items, bikes, exercise bikes, and more. October 23, 24, and 25, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, 71 Lyceum Street.

FREE: Sieberling all season radial tire P135 80R13, good tread. Set of 4, 13" Buick rims in good condition. Contact Jim (x378, jpe6).

FOR SALE: 1989 Honda Prelude Si. 72,000 miles. Excellent condition. \$5,500. Available Nov. 9th. Call Donna (x325).