



STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

VOLUME LXXXVII • NO. 8
May 12 - 26, 2006

BRIEFS

New Employee Joins CAFTP

I am very pleased to announce that Susan Noble began work as the new executive assistant/office manager at the Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park on May 1.

A resident of Seneca Falls, Susan comes to us from MacKenzie-Childs and the Aurora Foundation where she has served in executive administrative assistant positions since 2002. Prior to that, Susan held positions of responsibility at Finger Lakes Health, Seven Lakes Girl Scout Council and other Finger Lakes businesses.

You can contact Susan at 315-781-0070 or susann@thetechnologyfarm.com. Please join me in welcoming Susan to The Technology Farm.

Dan Fessenden

Moyer and Austin Awarded Scholarships

Michelle M. Moyer and Craig N. Austin have been awarded scholarships from The American Society for Enology and Viticulture in recognition of excellence in academics and research in a curriculum emphasizing a science basic to the wine and grape industry. Both are graduate students in the department of plant pathology. Michelle is working with Bob Seem and David Gadoury on a forecasting system for grapevine powdery mildew for eastern grape production, while Craig is working with Wayne Wilcox on direct and interactive effects of shading and sun exposure on development of grapevine powdery mildew. More about their research can be seen at <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/pp/grad/moyer/index.html> and <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/pp/grad/austin/>, respectively.

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Bearing Fruit: NYS Budget Provides Long-sought Funding for Fredonia and Other Station Projects

The “growing” season arrived early for the Station’s vineyard research programs when the legislature provided funding for several Cornell initiatives in the recently passed New York State budget. One project has more than 10 years of planning behind it.

Cornell’s Vineyard Lab in Fredonia, NY, is the recipient of \$5.3 million for land acquisition and new construction, a project that represents a renewed commitment to grape research and extension. State funding will be applied to the design, engineering, and construction of a new research and extension facility and the establishment of research vineyards in a new location.

“Because of the dedication and insight of Senator Catharine Young, this year we are able to move ahead toward the accomplishment of a goal that has been more than a decade in the making,” said Station director Tom Burr. “I also wish to thank Assemblymen Bill Parment and Bill Magee for their continued strong support, and congratulate the grape industry leaders and the staff at the lab for working cooperatively with our elected officials on this great success.”

A joint Cornell-industry working group has initiated a search for a new site with acreage that reflects the soil and climatic conditions faced by grape growers across the region, a site that is free from the development pressure that exists at the current site. Cornell plans to sell the existing Fredonia Vineyard Laboratory and use the proceeds to help fund long-term research and extension activities at the new site.

According to Rick Dunst, manager of the lab, new facilities will provide enhanced opportunities for field research, modernized laboratory space for research on grape juice and wine quality, and additional office space for staff and visiting scientists. It will also include meeting space for grower education and training.

The Vineyard Laboratory was originally established in 1909 and moved to its present location in Fredonia in 1961. Its mission is to support grape growers in the Lake Erie Region, which is home to over 60 percent of the vineyards in New York State.

Research conducted at Fredonia has been aimed primarily at increasing yields, improving quality, and lowering production costs of grapes grown in the Lake Erie Region, especially the cultivars Concord and Niagara. Researchers have made major advances in the areas of vineyard mechanization, grapevine physiology, and development of economic thresholds, and effective control programs for insect and disease pests of these grapes.

According to Dunst, this infusion of funding supports Cornell University, Penn State, and USDA-ARS scientists and educators at a crucial time for juice grape producers who have been struggling with low prices and stiff competition from other regions.

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CALENDAR of EVENTS MAY 12 - 26, 2006

MEETINGS

CHAIRS MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006
Time: 9 AM
Place: Director's Office

CHAIRS & UNIT LEADERS

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2006
Time: 1:30 PM
Place: G-19 Hedrick Hall

ADMIN SERVICE CENTER INFORMATION

The personal car mileage reimbursement rate is \$.445 per mile.

Please remember to use petty cash for reimbursements under \$50.

Be sure to use our new forms for personal car mileage reimbursements and purchases over \$500.

TAE CHI

5:30 - 7 PM - Mondays
May 15, 22, June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 10
Sawdust Cafe
8 sessions/ \$50
No discounts or single class fees

(CALENDAR continued on page 6)

(FREDONIA, continued)

"This new facility will be the foundation upon which new technology will be developed and will be essential to enabling industry grape producers to be competitive in a global marketplace," said Tom Davenport, director of Viticulture Research for National Grape Cooperative in Westfield, NY.

Other Geneva programs and projects funded in the state budget included:

- \$85,000 for the establishment of a viticulture program and associated operating costs for the Hudson Valley Laboratory in Highland, NY (see related story).
- \$200,000 for the New York State Seed Laboratory at the Station.
- \$500,000 for equipment for the Experiment Station.

A. Goldweber

Wine and Grape Program at Hudson Valley Lab Receives \$85K in NYS Budget

In the recently passed New York State budget, the legislature provided \$85,000 for Cornell University's Hudson Valley Laboratory (HVL) in Highland, NY, to enhance wine and grape research and extension programs.

Researchers and extension educators working out of the HVL will seek to boost economic opportunities for the Hudson Valley's wine and grape industries by working with local industry to identify grape cultivars that are best suited for the area's soils and climatic conditions, and control diseases and insects that attack grapes.

"Through the vision and initiative of Senator Bill Larkin, it is extremely gratifying that there is now funding designated for viticulture research at the Hudson Valley Laboratory," said Station director Tom Burr. "The lab has a long history of accomplishment in tree fruit and vegetable research. For the first time, the lab will have responsibility for viticulture research as well. I thank the fruit industry leadership in the Hudson Valley for supporting this initiative that will stimulate growth and prosperity of the wine industry in the valley."

"Cornell will cooperate closely with industry leaders in the Hudson Valley to further refine research and extension objectives so industry needs can be met as quickly as possible," says Dave Rosenberger, plant pathologist and superintendent of the HVL.

"An initial objective is to provide the industry with assistance in identifying suitable grape-growing sites because low temperatures can damage some of the best wine grape varieties during winter," explains Rosenberger. "To evaluate sites, we will be installing temperature-recording instruments throughout the valley, including on cooperating growers' land, and combining that data with meteorological models, soil maps, and historical data to get a good picture of the best locations for expanded grape production."

Cornell researchers from the Station and extension specialists from other parts of the Hudson Valley have been working to improve production practices, promote innovation, and solve problems for vintners and grape growers all along the Hudson River, from Poughkeepsie to the Champlain Valley. Recent activities have included:

- Professor Thomas Henick-Kling, who leads Cornell's enology research program, and Dragana Dimitrijevic, extension associate, have held one-on-one consultations with 15 Hudson Valley wineries on how to improve wine quality.
- Extension associate Kevin Iungerman coordinates a project to help growers evaluate cold-hardy grape cultivars suited to the upper Hudson and Champlain Valleys. The project has been assisted by the University of MN grape program, grape growers in Northern NY, VT, and Quebec, with funding assistance from his CCE Association partners and from the New York Farm Viability Institute. In 2005, these joint efforts enabled establishment of the wine grape field trial site at Cornell's Willsboro Research Farm. A like effort, now including colleagues at the University of VT, is examining joint grape programming, including new, small winery start-up issues for the region.
- Workshops on the selection of climate and soil appropriate grape cultivars for the Hudson Valley, coordinated by Fruit Extension Educator Steve McKay have been held at various locations over the past several years.

The current economic impact of New York State wine, grapes, and grape juice has been estimated at \$3.3 billion. According to the New York Wine and Grape Foundation, there are 38 wine producers in the Hudson Valley, including Brotherhood Winery, the nation's oldest continuously operating winery.

A. Goldweber





Nicole Russo Receives Gilmer Award

Nicole Russo, a graduate student in the department of plant pathology, was recently named the third recipient of the Robert M. Gilmer award. The Gilmer Award is presented in recognition for excellence in research, academics, and service to the department of plant pathology at Geneva.

Dr. Robert M. Gilmer was a faculty member in the department of plant pathology at Geneva from 1950 to 1975 and served as Department Chair from 1967

– 72. He is fondly remembered for his intelligence, his great

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Herb Aldwinckle (left) and guest speaker Chris Kearney (right) present Nicole Russo with 2006 Gilmer Award Certificate.

(RUSSO, continued)

breadth of knowledge of plant diseases and for being a free thinker who challenged conventional views. Dr. Gilmer was known internationally for his research on virus diseases of deciduous tree fruits and grapes.

The award, named in Dr. Gilmer's honor, is funded from an endowment bequeathed by him to the department of plant pathology. Recipients receive up to \$1,000 to support presentation of their work at a scientific meeting or to support research at a collaborating institution. The remainder of the funds is used to support the student's own research. The total dollar amount of the award is \$5,000.

"Having been a close friend and colleague of Bob Gilmer, and Nicole Russo's major professor, it was a great pleasure for me to be able to present the 2006 Robert M. Gilmer Award to her," said Herb Aldwinckle. "Nicole is a very worthy recipient because she epitomizes the well-rounded qualities of breadth and depth in plant pathology that Bob Gilmer himself exemplified, and which are the criteria for the award."

Aldwinckle pointed out that Nicole has excelled in her comprehensive coursework and has an outstanding academic record at Cornell. "She tackled her research problem on the nature of resistance of the B.9 apple rootstock to fire blight with zest, skill, and imagination, and I should say, a lot of hard work in the lab, the greenhouse and the field," he said. "The problem was of concern to the US nursery industry who provided some seed money to fund the study. Nicole's results are novel and of such significance that she has been asked to talk at a nurserymen's conference and to apple growers."

Aldwinckle went on to say that in addition to her main project, she also has a substantial sideline studying strains of the fire blight bacterium (*Erwinia amylovora*) that are tolerant to streptomycin, and that since streptomycin is the main weapon that apple growers use to combat the devastation of fire blight, it is critical to monitor and eradicate tolerant strains when they occur. "Her work has already resulted in an outbreak being found and, with the

(Continued on page 4)

Steve Reiners Recognized for Leadership and Administration

Steve Reiners was presented with the "Leadership and Administration Award" marking the end of his term as President of the American Society of Horticultural Sciences - Northeast Region (NEASHS). Reiners received the award at the Northeast ASHS meeting, which was held January 5-6 in Washington, DC.

"It's very nice to be recognized by your peers in the region and nominated and elected as President of this group," Reiners said. "One of the things I accomplished during my term of office was to

move our annual meetings back to college campuses in the Northeast." For the past fifteen years the NEASHS have been meeting with the Northeast Weed Science Society at downtown convention centers around the region.

"We decided to go back to our roots and meet at our own colleges. This past January, I served as the local coordinator and hosted the first campus based meeting in Ithaca," Reiners went on to say. "By all accounts it was very successful and next year we will be meeting at the University of Maryland, College Park."

"Steve has taken a leadership role in the Northeast region of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences. In 2003, he was the President-elect and the next year became the President of that organization," said Al Taylor, horticultural sciences chairman. "His award in Leadership and Administration for 2005 is actually the culmination of three consecutive years of service. Along with Steve's award at the regional level, he is well recognized for his extension efforts with the New York vegetable industry and being the key organizer for the annual Fruit and Vegetable Expo."



Al Taylor presents Steve Reiners with the Leadership and Administration Award from the American Society of Horticultural Sciences, Northeast Region.



Arbor Day 2006

The Experiment Station's 17th annual Arbor Day ceremony took place on Friday, May 5, at the northwest corner of Station grounds. Martin Goffinet, chairman of the Arboretum Committee at the Station, officiated. This year the ceremony celebrated the new group planting of 15 species and varieties of dwarf conifers in this area, which historically has been called the Pinetum. Over the years the Pinetum has lost most of its conifers to age, disease, and environmental problems such as low temperature, poor soil conditions, road salt during winters, and a brisk west wind. In providing some history of the Pinetum, Goffinet noted that at one time there were over 115 conifers and other trees and shrubs in that area, but relative few remain. Just last week three large dead conifers had to be cut down and removed.

As one of the most visible areas of our campus, complete with Station signage and a historical monument, the Pinetum needed a face-lift. Some years ago the Arboretum Committee and grounds staff met with Administration and discussed long-range goals for the Pinetum. However, the committee's recommendation for the planting of several beds of dwarf conifers could not be realized because of budget considerations. The plan languished until spring of 2005, when an anonymous donor came to Goffinet with the express desire to enhance the Pinetum with a newly developed bed of a variety of dwarf conifers. This bed, planted last year, served as this year's Arbor Day centerpiece. The 15 selections of conifers in the bed demonstrate several growth habits (spreading, globe, upright), colors, textures, etc. The fact that they made it through the winter is encouraging. Part of the value of this planting is that the Station and local community can evaluate these specimens for possible use in their own gardens. This experimental approach to the planting is also in keeping with the scientific and educational efforts of the Station.

Goffinet praised the concern, interest, and financial help of the donor family, which brought a significant part of the long range Pinetum plan to reality. Goffinet also used the opportunity to thank all those who contributed time, plants, and donated funds over the years since the beginnings of the Arboretum Committee in 1989. Because of those efforts there have been at least 93 trees and shrubs donated, and 17 Arbor Day trees celebrated. Many of those donated trees have been memorial trees, either planted as part of Arbor Day or in their own dedication ceremony.

Goffinet also listed two other recent donations at Friday's ceremony. A Frasier fir from the plant pathology department was recently planted on the east side of the Soils Building. The other exciting gift is from contributions to a memorial planting for Tom DeYulio, who passed away last year. The donated funds will be used by the Station's grounds staff to renovate a portion of the Rock Garden with several hydrangea varieties and other plants. Goffinet noted that the last 12 months saw the passing of several former Station staff or their close relatives and that many have asked about memorial tree plantings. Many are not aware that there is a policy in place and approved by former Station Director Jim Hunter, to be found on the Station's web pages. Those with Cornell passwords can access this policy at <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/adm/policies/nysaes/DonationPolicyArb.html> or, Martin Goffinet can email the policy as an attached file.

Goffinet closed the ceremony by thanking Administration for allowing the celebration, the grounds staff for its continuing efforts to do the most it can within its budget, and to the Station Club, which purchased 30 chokecherry seedlings that were given away to attendees.

submitted by M. Goffinet



Martin Goffinet (2nd from the right) talks about the new plantings in the Pinetum area of the campus during this year's Arbor Day celebration. (inset: One of the 15 new plantings - a Dwarf Colorado Blue Spruce.)

(RUSSO, continued)

cooperation of the grower and Cornell Extension staff, successfully eradicated," he said. "Nicole was also an invited speaker at the recent fire blight symposium held as part at the annual meeting of the Northeast Division of the American Phytopathological Society (APS)."

In addition to her academic and research successes, Nicole has served the plant pathology department in several ways, especially with new student orientation, and as a student representative to the faculty. In addition to the Gilmer Award, she has received two travel awards from the national APS, two international travel grants from Cornell, and has obtained two grants from the Arthur Boller Endowment for her research studies.

Russo was presented with a framed certificate commemorating the event, and her name was inscribed on a plaque on permanent display in the plant pathology seminar room.

As part of the day's events, a seminar was presented by Dr. Chris Kearny, a former student in plant pathology who is currently an associate professor of biology at Baylor University.

"I have always felt the Geneva Experiment Station offered its students a unique and rewarding research experience," Russo said. "It is gratifying that the Gilmer Award exists to recognize the commitment students make to be a part of this research community."

J. Ogrodnick

Need a good laugh?

Come out to the Comedy Playhouse in Geneva on Thursday, May 18 at 9 PM for Comics against Cancer. Proceeds go to the Geneva Relay for Life which will be held at Hobart's Loman Field, June 16-17. Tickets are \$12. Please let Nancy Long know if you are interested. Contact her at npl1 or x2288. It is sure to be a fun evening.



Judith Anne Nedrow 1952 - 2006

Judy Nedrow, Extension Aide and Trac Software Support Specialist, passed away Tuesday, May 2, at Highland Hospital, Rochester, surrounded by her loving family. In lieu of flowers, donations in honor of Judy Nedrow can be sent to University of Rochester, Gynecologic Cancer Fund, 125 Lattimore Road, Suite #258, Rochester, NY 14620.

Judy graduated from Cornell University with a degree in animal science and communication arts. She operated her own business, DataTrak Solutions, providing computer software support for agricultural businesses and farmers across Western and Central NY. She most recently worked with Juliet Carroll at the NYS IPM Program and was instrumental in creating the farmer friendly, Excel-based Trac Software for generating pesticide records and reports. At the Experiment Station Judy worked for Chuck Eckenrode and Paul Robbins, Department of Entomology; for John Kasper, The NY State Fruit Testing Cooperative; for Don Donahue, NYS Horticultural Society; for Curt Petzoldt, Vegetable IPM; and for Keith Waldron, Livestock and Field Crops IPM.

Judy's bright, cheerful personality and love of all living things came through in everything she did. She was an avid gardener and maintained beautiful gardens at her home in Clifton Springs. She will be missed by many at the Experiment Station. At the request of her family and of those in the IPM Program whom she touched with her generous and loving spirit, plans are being developed to plant a tree and dedicate a bench in the natives garden on the Experiment Station grounds in memory of Judy.

J. Carroll



Judy Nedrow

(CHILD, continued)

Tom Gibson demonstrated the apple peeler and Jim Ballerstein showed how food is canned.

The next stop was horticultural sciences for a Gene Gun demonstration and a tour of the growth chamber and tissue room, by Patricia Wallace and Suren Samuelian.

During lunch, the children enjoyed a bag lunch from home and watched the video "Cornell - Birth of an American University."

Following lunch, Holly King hosted a tour of the library and everyone went on a scavenger hunt.

The afternoon sessions included a bacteria/fungi study and use of the microscope with Christine Smart, David Gadoury, Holly Lange, Maryann Borsick and Laura Wakefield in plant pathology, and a spray lab presentation by Andrew Landers in entomology.

Jim Ballerstein showed the children the hydroponics system that was set up in the old greenhouse range, and Mary Jean Welser helped them examine plant materials found in a happy meal.

The day concluded with a seedling give-away by Gary Chicoine and closing remarks from Marc Fuchs.

It turned out to be a very informative, fun-filled day for our young visitors.

A special thank you goes to Tom Burr for his support of this year's event, and to all those who participated in the planning, implementation and presentations. Your hard work and dedication is indeed extraordinary!

A. Andersen

Bring A Child To Work Day

Twenty children and their parents/guardians participated in this year's Bring a Child to Work Day, which was held April 27.

Cornell's Agriculture and Technology Park Executive Director, Dan Fessenden, made opening remarks, stressing the importance of the work being done at the Station, about new research to be done at the Technology Farm, and what it all meant to consumers and New York State. The children enjoyed refreshments as Soon Kong offered safety tips for the day.

The group got to see first-hand, the equipment used at the Field Research Unit, as well as the various tools used in the Carpentry Shop. Ed Bailey explained and showed how tools have changed over the years and how tools are now more efficient.

From the Carpentry Shop, the group visited PGRU and got to do two experiments with cryogenically frozen grapes and extraction DNA from bananas. Bill Srmack, Kas Deys and Lindsay Clark were the presenters.

From there the group went to the pilot plant in food science & technology where

(Continued in next column)



Jim Ballerstein demonstrates canning equipment to wide-eyed children (and parents) in the pilot plant.

Lab Safety 100% Club

Geneva EH&S would like to congratulate the Nault, Reissig, NYS Seed Testing and Koeller labs as qualifying for the Lab Safety 100% Club. This means they scored a perfect 100% with EH&S on their lab consultation. This is a remarkable accomplishment and requires the participation of everyone within the lab group.

The 100% Club drawing contest winner was "NYS Seed Testing." They will receive a free pizza compliments of EH&S. The drawing was held at a Station Administrators meeting.



CALENDAR of EVENTS Continued
MAY 12 - 26, 2006

SEMINARS

PLANT PATH

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006
Time: 3:30 PM, Coffee at 3 PM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Jodi Creasap, Geneva
Subject: Insights on the mechanism of biological control of grape crown gall by *Agrobacterium vitis* strain F2/5

CANDIDATE SEMINAR

**Tree Fruit/Berry Crop
Pathology Position**

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2006
Time: 9:30 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Dr. Amanda Gevens,
Michigan State University
Subject: Characterization of *Phytophthora
Capsici* from Surface Irrigation
Water in Michigan

EXTENSION PRESENTATION

**Tree Fruit/Berry Crop
Pathology Position**

Date: Friday, May 19, 2006
Time: 8:30 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Dr. Amanda Gevens,
Michigan State University
Subject: Managing Curcubit Downey
Mildew

HORT SCIENCE

**Viticulture Assistant/Associate Professor
Candidate**

RESEARCH SEMINARS

Date: Monday, May 15, 2006
Time: 9 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Justine Vanden Heuvel,
University of Massachusetts,
Amherst
Subject: Improving Yield and Fruit
Composition in Cranberry &
Grape

Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2006
Time: 9 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Patricia Skinkis, Purdue
University
Subject: TBA

(SEMINARS, continued)

Date: Thursday, June 1, 2006
Time: 9 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Kaan Kurtural, University of
Kentucky
Subject: Balanced Cropping of
Grapevines and Site Selection
in the Lower Midwest

TEACHING SEMINARS

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006
Time: 10 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
(Can be viewed via Polycom)
Speaker: Justine Vanden Heuvel,
University of Massachusetts,
Amherst
Subject: Principles of Vine Training &
Canopy Management

Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006
Time: 10 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
(Can be viewed via Polycom)
Speaker: Patricia Skinkis, Purdue
University
Subject: Principles of Vine Training &
Canopy Management

Date: Friday, June 2, 2006
Time: 10 AM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Speaker: Kaan Kurtural, University of
Kentucky
Subject: Principles of Vine Training &
Canopy Management

FOOD SCIENCE

**Enology Assistant/Associate Professor
Candidate**

RESEARCH SEMINARS

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2006
Time: 10 AM
Place: FST Conference Rm. #251
Speaker: Jeannine Delwiche, Ohio State
University
Subject: Toward an Understanding of
Flavor Perception and Acceptance

Date: Monday, May 22, 2006
Time: 10 AM
Place: FST Conference Rm. #251
Speaker: Catherine Peyrot des Gachons
Monell Chemical Senses
Center in Philadelphia
Subject: Influence of Viticulture and
Winemaking Practices on
the Sauvignon blanc Aroma

(SEMINARS, continued)

Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006
Time: 10 AM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium
Speaker: Gavin Sacks, Cornell
University, BBI
Subject: Finding the Needle in the
Haystack: Metal Speciation by
Parallel Elemental and Molecular
Mass Spectrometry (PEMMS)

TEACHING SEMINARS

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2006
Time: 10 AM
Place: 204 Stocking Hall, Ithaca
(Polycom in FST Conference
Rm. #251)
Speaker: Jeannine Delwiche, Ohio State
University
Subject: Perceiving Wine Flavor

Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2006
Time: 10 AM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium
Speaker: Catherine Peyrot des Gachons
Monell Chemical Senses
Center in Philadelphia
Subject: Flavor Development from Vine to
Receptor

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2006
Time: 10 AM
Place: FST Conference Rm. #251
Speaker: Gavin Sacks, Cornell
University, BBI
Subject: Tartaric Acid and
Isoalkylmethoxypyrazines in
Grapes

LTC

Subject: Acrobat, Breeze Meeting, and
Breeze Presenter
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2006
Time: 9 AM - noon
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Presenter: Bill Sherman, Strategic
Account Manager New York
Education, Adobe Systems Inc.

Subject: Photoshop 8, Creating
Composite Images
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2006
Time: 9 - 10 AM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Instructor: Jane Irwin