

STATION NEWS

NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Celebrating the past, shaping the present, inspiring the future.

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BRIEFS

Station Visit Featured NY Times Food Section

Harold McGee, also known as the 'Curious Cook' wrote in the November 21 issue of the New York Times about a visit he made along with Dave Arnold, of the French Culinary Institute to the Experiment Station on October 15 to increase and enhance their knowledge of apples. While at the Station, McGee and Arnold toured the ARS-PGRU orchards and spent some time with Susan Brown and Kevin Maloney.

"I had the fruit tasting of a lifetime here last month," McGee wrote. "It went on for 12 hours over two days. By the end I had sampled several hundred different kinds of apples, some like no apple I'd ever tasted before."

Cornell Scientists Participate in Green Industry Show

Dan Peck, Entomology, along with other scientists from Cornell, participated in the Empire State Green Industry Show, which was held Nov. 13-15 in Rochester.

Peck joined four other Cornell scientists in giving an update on two projects funded by the NY Environmental Stewardship Fund. His main presentation during the Golf Course education session was on "Annual Bluegrass Weevil and European Crane Fly Update" in which he shared the most recent information on these two pests—annual bluegrass weevil, an emerging native pest of high-maintenance turf grass, namely golf course playing surfaces, and European crane fly another a new invasive pest of all turf habitats.

Wendell Roelofs Receives Outstanding Faculty/ Staff Award at CALS Alumni Awards Banquet

Wendell L. Roelofs, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Insect Biochemistry in the Department of Entomology, received one of two Outstanding/Faculty Staff Awards at the 2006 Outstanding Alumni Awards Banquet, which was held on November 10 at the Staler Hotel on the Ithaca Campus. Lisa Earle received the other.

"I am pleased to recognize our second outstanding faculty award winner of the evening, Wendell L. Roelofs," said Allison Taisey, a recent graduate of the Entomology Department in Ithaca who introduced Wendell at the banquet. "Wendell has worked closely with my advisor and boss, Dr. Donald Rutz for many years. I have heard many stories of his accomplishments and will soon be embarking on a project with his team that we hope will advance pest control technology yet another step."

After a retrospective of Wendell's career, Taisey read some letters from Wendell's colleagues.

Nominator Jan Nyrop writes, "Dr. Roelofs has done a stellar job in leading the entomology department at Geneva. During his tenure, the department has become a vibrant and successful unit, with several new faculty and a clear sense of mission and purpose."

Charles Linn writes, "Wendell brings to the workplace a passion for his research, a unique ability to promote the best qualities in his team, and a personal level of integrity and honesty second to none. His elite status as a world-renowned scientist is balanced by a humility and trust that bring out the very best in those of us who have had the privilege of working with him. As one of the foremost leaders in his field, his guidance and insights are sought by many. I believe his legacy as department chair will be that of a person who is a great leader, distinguished scientist, and genuine friend of many."

Thomas Baker adds, "I think you would be hard-pressed to find anyone in the professional societies that I belong to who does not know who Wendell Roelofs is, and what an amazing scientist and warm human being he is. With regard to teaching, I will say one thing. I was a sophomore at Cornell in entomology in 1971, a student in the first-ever class in chemical ecology in the world. And for three guest lectures, in came this high-energy young professor who gave such amazing lectures and told such amazing stories about insect sex pheromones, their evolution, and their practical uses that I remember thinking that I



W. Roelofs

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(ROELOFS, continued)

would love to work in a research area like that. And here I am. I can't imagine there being anyone more worthy of this recognition than Wendell Roelofs."

Thomas Eisner says, "I rate Wendy as one of the founders of the field of chemical ecology, and as a researcher of exceptional quality. His papers are models of precision, clearly written, to the point, and invariably significant. He has done breakthrough work, and he has a knack for tackling problems of applied implications. Many of his findings have in fact had practical spin-off. I think of Wendy as the ideal colleague."

Wendell's Comments

"This award is a wonderful tribute to the opportunities afforded me on the Geneva campus to conduct basic research on insects with direct impacts to grower needs. It was a bold step by Cornell University administration at Geneva and Ithaca in the mid-60's to add a chemist to the Geneva Entomology faculty, and it became a wonderful niche for my entire professional career. My colleagues at Cornell and around the world opened my eyes to the beautiful world of insects and to the exciting challenges in decoding their chemical communication systems.

"The prestige of Cornell University helped to attract extremely bright postdocs, graduate students, and visiting scientists from around the world with expertise in biochemistry, behavior, neurophysiology, and molecular techniques. This talented team of scientists, supported by dedicated technicians, generated exciting and cutting-edge research. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Cornell, and I am deeply indebted to many for their continuous support, including administrators, colleagues throughout the world, the Geneva community, my wonderful wife, Joanna, and our whole extended family."

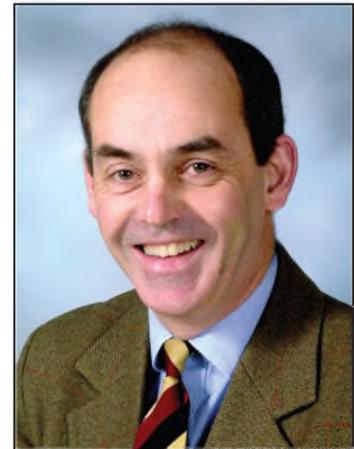
"Please join me in congratulating Wendell as the first Geneva faculty member to be honored with a CALS Outstanding Faculty Award," said Station director Tom Burr. "Wendell's career is exemplified by remarkable productivity, leadership, and the ability and desire to contribute to so many collaborative endeavors. He has always been one of the first to step forward and has in many ways strengthened the world-renowned reputation of the Station."

J. Ogrodnick

Two Station Researchers Receive CALS Research and Extension Awards



A. Shelton



A. Landers

Dr. Tony Shelton and Dr. Andrew Landers, Entomology, were among the recipients of CALS Research and Extension Awards for 2007, which were presented during a reception on November 19 on the Ithaca campus.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Research and Extension Awards recognizes a broad range of accomplishments contributing to the realization of the CALS vision "To be the preeminent college for research, teaching, and extension of agriculture and life sciences, developing leaders to address the global challenges of the 21st century." Since no single award can adequately recognize the diverse accomplishments of CALS faculty, several awards have been established.

Tony Shelton received one of two Awards for Applied Research. (The other went to Dave Barbano, food science, on the Ithaca Campus.)

The nomination statement for Shelton recognizes his leadership in research on the biology and management of insect pests affecting vegetables, his commitment to applied research and his ability to communicate the results of his research to stakeholders. Three projects in particular were cited.

The first involves onion thrips, a significant and hard-to-control pest of onions. The Shelton lab developed the Thrips Insecticide Bioassays System (TIBS), and has used this method since 2001 to assess the regional susceptibility of onion thrips to insecticides in commercial fields in NY.

The second involves the swede midge (SM) a new invasive pest of crucifers and a threat to the \$60 million NY cabbage industry. Shelton led a proactive research program prior to the arrival of SM in the US by contacting colleagues in Europe to obtain a colony (which he kept under quarantine here at the Station). His program's applied work and his efforts with extension colleagues in NY and Canada led to a research-based Best Management Practices Guide that is serving as the national model for SM management. His outreach efforts in this area resulted in several awards to the SM team for their extension efforts.

The third example illustrates the international impact of Shelton's research. In addition to his efforts on behalf of NY growers, Shelton is recognized as a world leader in developing resistance management strategies for transgenic insecticidal plants.

The results of this work have been published in leading journals including *PNAS* and *Nature Biotechnology*. His 15 years of work on crucifers expressing insecticidal proteins from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) for the management of the diamondback moth has led to a private-public partnership to produce Bt cabbage and cauliflower for India and Africa, and he is one of the leaders on the project. Additionally, he is a key member of the

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(RESEARCHERS, continued)

Cornell Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II (ABSPII) on Bt eggplant for India, Bangladesh and the Philippines. Both projects will greatly reduce the use of traditional insecticides on these crops.

“Tony Shelton is a highly accomplished scientist who has worked effectively on problems of importance to agriculture at multiple levels,” wrote Lisa Earle, professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics in one of several letters supporting his nomination. “He is a skilled communicator and a stimulating collaborator. In addition, he has produced valuable publications, including highly cited review papers, on issues important to contemporary agriculture. It is hard to imagine a more worthy candidate for this CALS award.”

“Dr. Shelton has received many requests for invited presentations at national and international meetings. These invitations provide an indication of how well respected his work is,” wrote John Trumble, Professor of Entomology of California at Riverside. “I have seen many of Dr. Shelton’s presentations and, given the effort he puts into hypothesis selection, research design, and analysis of his experiments, it is clear to me why his services are in demand.”

An excerpt from the nomination statement for Andrew Landers, who received the Outstanding Accomplishments in Extension/Outreach—Individual Award reads:

An essential element in any extension outreach program is to be an effective communicator, and Andrew is certainly one of CALS’ best. Andrew is an undisputed world leader in pesticide application technology and is in constant demand to provide information and present talks to his New York Clientele, as well as to others worldwide.

Talks about pesticide droplet size and speed could bore most people involved in agriculture, but Andrew’s talks have the unique ability to be entertaining as well as convey important information.

Some of Andrew’s important contributions in extension and outreach include:

- Conducting research and extension classes to show growers how to improve disease and insect control using their existing equipment more efficiently and explain why newer, novel systems work better.

- Developing new methods of reducing drift and improving spray deposition through applied research and extension efforts. This work includes improving the design of traditional crop sprayers, e.g. air deflectors, nozzle configuration, nozzle types, and passing this information on to growers. Using NY IPM and ARDP grants he designed and developed patternators for growers to build on-farm, and improve deposition by 30% while reducing drift by 70%.

- Increasing growers’ awareness of environmental concerns with spray pollution. Working closely with the NY Dept of Environmental Control, and EPA, Landers’ group highlighted the importance of good environmental stewardship via teaching good practices with pesticides. In 2006, working with Orleans County Soil and Water District Landers obtained a \$472,000 grant to help growers purchase sprayers with sonic sensors which will reduce drift by up to 75% and reduce pesticide use by 25%. Landers continually searches for new alternatives and has introduced growers to alternative techniques such as steam and hot foam systems.

- Increasing growers’ knowledge of engineering controls for operator protection. Working with colleagues in Human Ecology and EPA in Washington DC Landers has conducted surveys of engineering controls in the USA and shared that information via extension publications, web pages and conference presentations. In the last four years, for example, he has averaged 45 conference/workshops presentations per year.

Information delivered to farmers, growers and students over just a four-year period from 2002 – 2006 further attest to his numerous contributions. These include: four book chapters, 67 research papers, 17 extension publications, 22 bulletins/fact sheets, two web sites, 41 newsletter articles, and two trade journals.

“Andrew provides cost effective/cost reducing opportunities that are easily incorporated to support ultimate savings to the business bottom line,” wrote Tim Moore Director of East Coast Grower Relations and Vineyard Operations for Centerra Wine Company in one of the letters supporting Andrew’s nomination. “These projects have been integral to reducing



(RESEARCHERS, continued)

spray drift, while increasing canopy penetration and deposition. Andrew maintains ability unmatched by few peers to communicate his expertise to an always engaged grape growing community. I highly recommend him for this most prestigious award.”

“Anyone who says that the term ‘engineer with a sense of humor’ is an oxymoron has never heard Andrew speak,” wrote Wayne Wilcox.

“These awards for Tony and Andrew are highly deserved. They reflect the excellence and impact of their work and the high regard in which they are held by their peers,” said Dave Soderlund, Entomology Chairman. “These are the only CALS awards presented to Geneva faculty this year – to have them both in the Entomology department is a real coup. This is yet another recognition of the quality of the work done by the faculty of this department.”

J. Ogradnick



**Come Join Us . . .
February 12-14, 2008**

The Experiment Station family extends its sincere condolences to Linda McCandless and her family on the loss of her father who passed away on November 11, 2007.





CALENDAR of EVENTS
NOV 30 - DEC 14, 2007

MEETINGS

CHAIR'S & DIRECTOR'S MEETING

Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2007
Time: 3 PM
Place: 348 Morrison Hall, Ithaca

CALS FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, December 5, 2007
Time: 4 PM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab, Audio/Visual Linkage

**** NOTE: The December 11, 2007 Chair's meeting has been CANCELLED.**

SEMINARS

PLANT PATH

Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2007
Time: 3:30 PM, Coffee at 3 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Maryann Borsick-Herman, Geneva
Title: Disease Control Strategies for Vegetables in New York: Deciphering the Web of Induced Resistance

ENTOMOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2007
Place: 310 Barton Lab
ESA Practice Talks: Tony Shelton, Host

Tuesday, December 11, 2007
ESA Meeting

FOOD SCIENCE SPECIAL SEMINAR

Date: Wednesday, December 5, 2007
Time: 3 PM
Place: FST Room 157
Speaker: Mark Wilson, Syft Technologies Ltd., Christchurch, New Zealand
Title: VOC Analysis by SIFT-MS, With Applications in Food Sciences

TAEKARDIO

Day: Monday and Wednesday
Time: 12 - 1 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium
Cost: \$25 for 6 weeks

Please bring water, floor mat, towel and wear comfy clothes.

STATION SAFETY COMMITTEE
SAFETY TIPS

SAFE HAVEN

Jordan Hall is the safe haven for the entire Station community. In case of an emergency building evacuation during inclement weather, the affected building occupants should report to Jordan Hall.

If you have any questions, please contact Soon Kong at 787-2350 or Mart VanKirk at 781-5307.

Thank you for helping to maintain a safe work environment.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix GTP. Green four door with leather seats, heads-up display and 145,000 miles. Asking \$2500. Contact Sarah at sjl38, ext. 2281, or 585-509-5471.

FOR SALE: 2001 Pontiac Grand AM - 103,000, V6, PW, PL, One owner. Excellent condition. \$4,500 or BO. Very reliable. Just inspected. Contact tjf4@cornell.edu or x2307

FOR RENT: Spacious 2-bedroom upstairs apartment off of Park Place overlooking a beautiful English garden. Large eat-in kitchen, washer, dryer, 2 garages (one for parking, the other for storage). \$675 per month plus utilities. No pets, no smoking. Available Nov. 1. Contact Donna Loeb at drr2 or x2325

FOR SALE: Finesse Sewing Machine (made by Singer). Nice light weight easy machine to use. Good for general sewing. It's about 20 years old. I made my first quilt on it 2 years ago and just used it again last week. . . runs fine. It has all the attachments that came with it, a bunch of bobbins and the manual. I received a new beauty last year for Christmas, that put me to three, one had to go! Asking \$50. Contact Donna @ dmb62 or x2492. I'll have it in my office if your interested.

Give The Best Holiday Gift Ever!

The next blood drive is scheduled for Monday, December 3 in the Jordan Hall Lounge from 9 AM - 2 PM. Giving blood saves lives. In one hour, you can directly help save three lives by donating blood. Please call me Gemma at x2248 or email gro2 and make an appointment.

Thanks for giving the gift that lasts a lifetime.

RETIREE NEWS

Annual Retirees Holiday Luncheon
December 13, 2007
Geneva Country Club.

Please make reservations by December 7. Call Sue Dwyer, 781-0360 or Peter Deth 585/526-5906. Join with other retirees to celebrate this festive season.

Retirement Reception for Roger Cullen

Friday, December 14, 2007
2 - 4 PM
Jordan Hall Lounge
Hors d'oeuvres & cake provided

Please bring or send a memento or letter for the scrapbook, being assembled by Kathy Morabito. Gift donations can be sent to Kathy DeRosa, Room B2, Jordan Hall by December 12. Please make checks payable to Kathy DeRosa.

Operation Happy Holidays

Station Club Annual Collection Drive

More than 150 families in the Geneva area will receive gifts for their children and fixings for a Holiday dinner.

We are collecting the following items:

- Hats • Mittens • Gloves • Scarves
- Socks for children ages infant-18 years.

There is a special need for larger socks, gloves, mittens and hats to fit the older children.

- Puzzles • Books • Games

NO TOYS DUE TO RECENT RECALLS.

Also needed are frozen turkeys and canned hams for holiday meal boxes. If you would like to donate one, please bring it to A104, Barton Lab. Monetary donations are always welcome and tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to "Geneva Center of Concern" with a notation to "Operation Merry Christmas."

Please contact your Department or Unit-Station Club representative with questions. Thank you for your kindness and caring.