

CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY

## STATION NEWS

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## BRIEFS

## MEET CORNELL'S NEW LEADERS

The top leadership at Cornell has changed dramatically in the last six months and educating the new president of the university, the new provost, and the new dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences about the Experiment Station and the importance of the research being done in Geneva is high on the agendas of Director Jim Hunter and the department chairmen.

President of Cornell Hunter Rawlings, Provost Don Randel, and new Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Science, Daryl Lund, will visit the Experiment Station next Wednesday, September 27.

"The department chairs and I have planned a busy schedule for the full day because it is critical that these leaders understand the importance of Geneva to Cornell and the state, and be proactive in support of the Station," said Hunter.

All employees and graduate students are encouraged to come to the Jordan Hall Auditorium from 1:00-1:30 pm on Wednesday where Cornell's new leaders will be introduced, refreshments served, and an opportunity provided to mix.

"The attendance of all Station employees and graduate students at this function is an important part of our effort to create a good impression," said Hunter who strongly encourages everyone to attend.

### REINERS RECEIVES "OUTSTANDING ALUMNI" AWARD



Steve Reiners, Assistant Professor in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at the Experiment Station, has received the "Outstanding Young

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## FIELD TRIALS AT GENEVA AND HIGHLAND



*Dave Rosenberger, plant pathologist and superintendent of the Hudson Valley Lab (above, far left), presented results of field trials to industry and extension personnel at Highland on September 6 with entomologist Dick Straub.*

Field trials at the Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva and the Hudson Valley Laboratory in Highland, are important proving grounds for new agricultural research. Statistical evaluation of data carefully accumulated over the growing season and during post-harvest handling provides important information to researchers in universities and industry.

New York Fruit Pest Control Field Days were held at both stations on September 6 and 7, sponsored by the departments of Plant Pathology and Entomology. Industry and extension personnel were invited to attend the annual preliminary presentation of results of field trials on the control of diseases and insects attacking New York fruit crops. Results of field experiments on tree fruits and grapes were discussed.

In Highland, the tour took place on Wednesday, September 6, from 9:00 am until noon. The fall fruit tour is held only on alternate years at that location. On September 7, activities shifted to Geneva, where presentations on tree fruits were scheduled for the morning, and grape research plots highlighted after lunch.

Most of those in attendance were representatives from chemical companies, many of whom sponsored much of the research on new products being tested for efficacy against diseases and pests. Companies represented included CIBA-Geigy, Zeneca, Rohm and Haas, DowElanco, Atochem, American Cyanamid, Bayer, and Merck.

While support for agrochemical research has decreased, and is "not in vogue nationally," according to entomologist Dick Straub of the Hudson Valley Lab, pesticides are still absolutely essential to the successful production of horticultural crops across the country.

"Traditional pesticides still are, and will continue to be, the 'backbone of agriculture'."

(Continued on page 2)

(FIELD TRIALS, Cont.)



Industry and extension personnel checked grape and fruit trials closely at the New York Fruit Pest Control Field Day held in Geneva on September 7.

said Entomology Department chairman, Wendell Roelofs, who has pioneered the use of sex attractants in the monitoring and control of insect pests "People don't understand that the U.S. cannot be competitive in agriculture without pesticides. We can reduce them and use them very judiciously, but there are many instances where there are no other controls. There are many instances in which pesticides are essential to keep us competitive because we still do not have viable alternatives."

"University trials are the only source of independent research on the strengths and weaknesses of new and existing products," said plant pathologist Wayne Wilcox, who assumed responsibility for research and extension on grape diseases at the Experiment Station in Geneva in January.

Wilcox noted that the turnout in Geneva was "the strongest" he had seen since the mid-80's. "I believe the increase in attendance this year reflects the interest and resources being directed into research on several new classes of chemistry that are now becoming available to agriculture. Significantly, most of these new products represent a 'high tech' approach to chemical pest control, i.e., they generally are effective at very low rates and have been selected for development because of their environmental and human health safety," he said. "The truth is, current government regulations provide a strong economic incentive for companies to develop crop protectants that far exceed the already stringent standards for environmental and human safety, so that is what the marketplace is providing."

Dave Rosenberger, plant pathologist and superintendent of the Hudson Valley Lab, was similarly pleased with the turnout. He presented summary results on rainfall, McIntosh phenology, Apple Scab infection periods and Scab Ascospore Maturity and Discharge, noting that disease pressure was generally lower than normal because of the extremely dry and warm season. In general, although it was a much drier spring and summer in the Hudson Valley, critical rainfall fell in July.

At Highland, entomologist Dick Straub, presented preliminary results of insecticide and acaricide trials, noting that there was extreme damage from European red mite, plum curculio, and pear psylla in non-effective treatments. Because of warm, dry conditions, a very high degree of arthropod pressure was seen in trials this season.

In Geneva, Harvey Reissig's research team presented results on aphicides, acaricides, new compounds against Obliquebanded leafroller (OBLR), and preliminary and secondary insecticide testings. Graduate student Scott Lawson presented results of his pheromone disruption study on OBLR.

Speaking for Art Agnello's team, technician David Kain presented results of predator mite control trials using Agri-Mek, Omite, Carzol and oils.

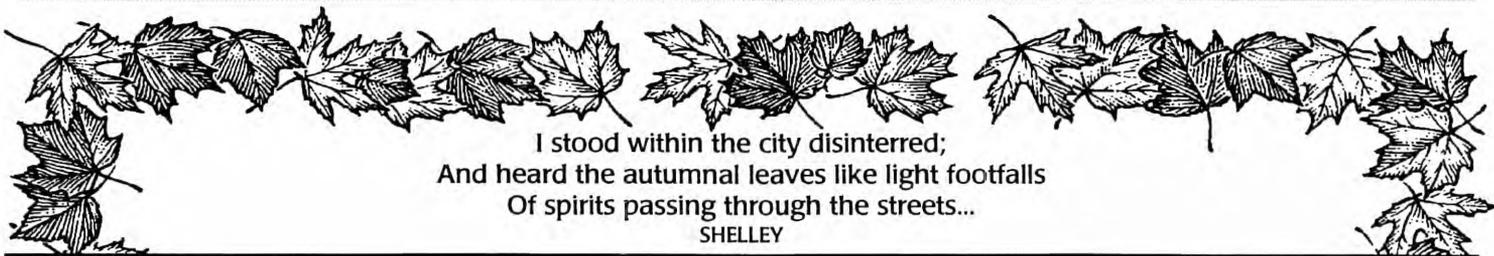
Results of fungicide trials for control of apple scab and powdery mildew which are under the supervision of Tom Burr were presented by Bud Smith. Although scab was generally on the light side this year, heavy disease pressure in the experiment orchard allowed for good separation of experimental treatments. Some new chemicals that are being developed looked particularly good for scab control.

In the afternoon, Wilcox and Gregory English-Loeb presented the results of grape trials performed on vineyard plots in Geneva and Dresden.

"We had good results in our grape trials using a new fungicide, which is a synthesized version of a compound that occurs naturally in a certain mushroom," said Wilcox, who noted that this compound is very non-toxic, and is the first fungicide available that controls all four of the major fungal diseases of grapes in New York. Currently, growers must combine two different materials if they need to control Downy Mildew, Powdery Mildew, Phomopsis Cane and Leaf Spot and Black Rot. "This may be commercially available by 1997, so we are trying to determine the most economical way for New York growers to use it before it is introduced."

Wilcox also noted that he and his team had good results with trials pinpointing the optimum timing for control of these diseases using a minimum number of sprays with existing compounds.

Some, but not all, of the results of this year's trials will be presented at the New York State Horticultural Show and various Cooperative Extension fruit schools this winter. "Many of the materials tested are experimental and not of interest to a general audience," noted Straub. 🍀



I stood within the city disinterred;  
And heard the autumnal leaves like light footfalls  
Of spirits passing through the streets...

SHELLEY

## DEBORAH ROBERTS RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP

Deborah Roberts is finishing up her doctorate in the Food Science & Technology Department at the Experiment Station in a very strong way. Not only has she recently received her third Institute of Food Technologists Graduate Fellowship, but Terry Acree, her faculty mentor, freely acknowledges that "she walks on water."

"Receiving a fellowship is a high honor for Deborah," said FS&T chairman Mark McLellan. "They only give out four or five per year nationally."

IFT awards are supported by food companies and given in varying amounts to graduate and undergraduate students. Roberts received \$5,000 award on the basis of her research, class performance, and recommendations.

"I am honored to be selected to receive one of these awards," said Roberts, who is originally from St. Louis, Missouri. Roberts received her undergraduate degree in Food Science from Purdue in 1991 and came to Cornell as an NSF Fellow in 1991. She has been working with Acree since then and expects to finish her PhD next month. She and her husband, Matt Roberts, will leave for Switzerland in January. Deborah is going to work for a flavor chemistry research group at Nestlé. Matt will be pursuing a postdoc.

Roberts' specialty is flavor chemistry. She has been working with Acree to develop a new device called the retronasal aroma simulator—the "artificial mouth," as they call it—which is used to analyze the flavor of different foods and to investigate the effect of food components on flavor release.



*Mark McLellan hands graduate student Deborah Roberts the Fellowship award from the Institute of Food Technologists.*

They reported on the new simulator to the American Chemical Society at the national meeting in Anaheim, California, in April.

The retronasal aroma headspace simulator is really a glorified Waring blender, operating at body temperature and in tandem with a gas chromatograph, noted Roberts.

Since April, the device has received a lot of media coverage, having been written up in various newspapers, *Discover* magazine, and *New Scientist*. It is also featured in a video segment shot by Kevin Colton and narrated by Roberts that will be delivered to a science news company in Japan. In October, Roberts is being interviewed by National Public Radio for a segment on "Pulse of the Planet."

"As an NSF Fellow, Deborah could have gone anywhere in the country she wanted to," explained Acree. "Not only is she a good scientist, but she creates new science. She is also a real genius in dealing with people, able to work with the best and the worst and get them to do anything. It is a rare talent."

Both Acree and Roberts intend to continue to collaborate after she leaves the Station.

## 21ST ANNUAL EMPLOYEE/FAMILY DAY



Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 7, and make plans to enjoy chicken barbecue or cheese tortellini and Big Red football at Cornell's 21st Annual Employee/Family Day.

Employee/Family Day gives us a chance to bring our families to Cornell, to introduce them to our colleagues and co-workers, and, in a relaxing and fun environment, to learn more about the opportunities and programs Cornell offers.

The traditional chicken barbecue will follow the 1:00 pm football game where Cornell will take on Harvard. Serving will begin at 3:30 pm and end at 5:30 pm. Combination football/meal tickets are \$5.00, football-only tickets are \$3.00, and meal-only tickets are \$2.00.

Watch your campus mail for ticket purchasing information. Also, watch your Quickmail and next week's *News* for more information about tickets being available for sale here on the Geneva Campus. We'll keep you updated.

# THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 15-22, 1995  
EVENTS • MEETINGS

**Monday, September 25, 6:30 pm**  
Conference Room, Food Science & Technology  
*English as a Second Language*

**Wednesday, September 27, 1:00 pm**  
Auditorium, Jordan Hall  
*Reception to introduce President Rawlings, Provost Randel and Dean Lund.*

**Wednesday, September 27, 6:30 pm**  
Conference Room, Food Science & Technology  
*English as a Second Language*

## PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD WalkAmerica

The March of Dimes is sponsoring a local WalkAmerica on Sunday, October 1, to raise money to fund research and education in its Campaign for Healthier Babies. WalkAmerica is a 5-mile trek which begins at 10:00 am (registration at 9:00 am) at the Seneca Lake State Park. Many local businesses are participating with teams and Donna Roelofs is trying to organize a team from the Experiment Station. She welcomes any and all walkers. If you are interested in participating as a walker or as a sponsor, please contact her via QuickMail or at x325. "Let's put our best foot forward and show our community support!" she says.

### CLASSIFIED

**WANTED TO BUY:** A family-sized tent with rain fly. Call Bill or Anna at 789-7223.

**FOR RENT:** Two-bedroom apartment at 275 Castle Street with full kitchen and bath. Off-street parking. No pets. \$435/month includes all utilities except electric. Security deposit required. Call 789-4428.

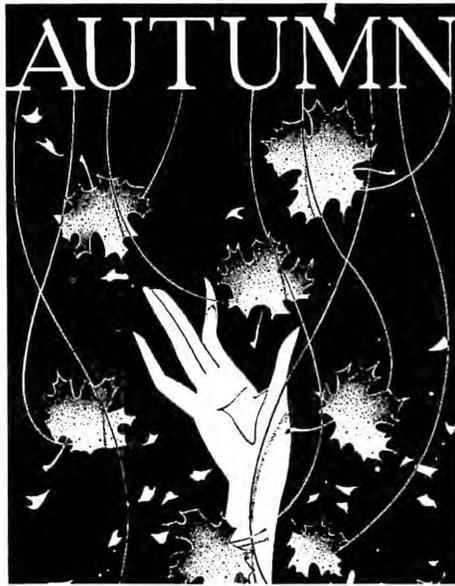
**FOR SALE:** 1986 Toyota Corolla, 4 door, 5 speed, sunroof, 1 owner, well maintained, 130,000 miles, very little rust. Price \$1800. Phone 585-9515 after 6:00 pm.

**YOGA CLASSES** will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:00 PM & 7:15-8:45 PM and Saturday mornings, 10:15-11:45 AM, starting Wednesday September 27, 1995 at Hobart and William Smith Sport and Recreation Center, 283 Hamilton St. Cost: \$5.50 for one class or \$20.00 for 4 classes. People can call Anna Gilman at 789-7223 for details. (No classes on Oct 4, Oct 7, and Oct 14.)

### SEMINAR

#### PLANT PATHOLOGY

**Date:** Tuesday, September 26  
**Time:** 3:00 pm  
**Place:** Barton Lab, Room A133  
**Speaker:** Paula Tennant  
Department of Plant Pathology,  
Geneva  
**Topic:** Differential protection against papaya ringspot virus isolates in coat protein transgenic papaya



### LIBRARY NEWS

Commencing the week of September 25, the library in Jordan Hall will become the focus of the on-going reclassification project. Thus, those visiting the library should be prepared for a noisy and sometimes chaotic reorganizing process. As always, Library staff will be happy to help locate any materials and major changes in locations will be indicated by signs. This project will continue through December and will result in a more organized and usable library collection.

"Thank you for your cooperation and patience", said Library Director Peter McDonald.



### Aerobics

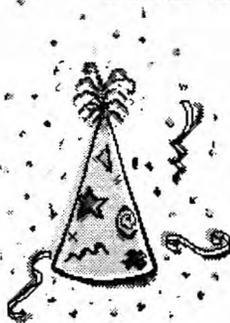
at the Sawdust Cafe

beginning at 12:10 pm every  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
Everyone is welcome!  
No sign-up necessary

## Retirement Bash for Charles (Bud) Smith

6:30 pm on Tuesday, October 24, 1995  
Abigails' Restaurant, Seneca Falls

A \$16.00 buffet includes full salad bar with tossed salad and fixings, bean, beet, pasta salads, fruit, relish tray, cottage cheese, rolls and butter, baked ziti, meatballs, rice, Italian green beans, potatoes, baked chicken, ham and roast beef, coffee or tea, and Sundae dessert



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
# Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Gift Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Dr. Tom Burr" and send to him in Plant Pathology by October 13.  
**Don't miss this chance to help Bud celebrate!**