

CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY

## STATION NEWS

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## BRIEFS

## COME TO RECOGNITION DAY!

Director Jim Hunter, department chairs, and unit leaders are inviting all Station employees, graduate students, and visiting scientists to spend the afternoon of Friday, September 19, at a special Personnel Recognition Day at the Pavilion, from 1-4 pm.

"We want to recognize the hard work, energy, and achievements of Station personnel by coming together for an afternoon of food, friendly competition, and zany games," said Wendell Roelofs, who is in charge of the organizing committee.

Lunch, consisting of chicken, zita and meatballs, a vegetarian entree, tossed salad, potatoes, roll and cake will be catered by Club 86 and served by Director, chairs, and unit leaders, from 1-2 pm.

During lunch, everyone will sign up for afternoon activities, which will take place from 2-4 pm. There will be contests, like horse-shoes, football and softball throw (distance and accuracy combined; men and women's); putting (for accuracy for the long putt), foul shot, and Frisbee throws. Everyone is also encouraged to sign up for Zany Games like the Hoola Hoop Endurance, Tricycle Race, 6-Person Sled Race, Water Balloon Toss, 3-Legged Race, Sack Race, Shovel Race (men's and women's) and a giant Twister game. Volleyball will be on-going.

Prize winners of each event will get the chance to throw whipped cream pies at the director and department chairs at a distance to be determined by Wendell. "This could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Roelofs noted. Helene Dillard is in charge of making the pies.

The event is free. Employees who want to come need to sign up with their Station Club representatives by Friday, Sept. 5, so organizers will get a good head count.

As is the policy for holiday parties, em-

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COLLEGE STUDENTS TAKE TO  
STATION LABS

Elizabeth Brownold studies the effects of *Trichoderma* on honey bee hives.

This summer, Kristie Morrell, a William Smith College senior from Victor, NY, spent eight weeks at Cornell University's Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva preparing for a future in family planning. Sort of.

"I want to be a genetic counselor to pregnant couples. I would advise them as to what kind of possible diseases their child could face based on their own genetic compositions," Morrell said, "and a lot of what I've learned at the Station will help me in the future."

In Norm Weeden's lab in the Horticultural Sciences department, Morrell worked on mapping two genes in pea plants—one for root growth direction, and the second for lesions on the plant.

"Kristie found a DNA marker for a pea plant mutation which causes roots to not respond to gravity. Scientists are using this mutant as a model to see how roots might grow in space," Weeden said.

Morrell was one of 11 students from Hobart & William Smith Colleges who spent this summer studying as a Howard Hughes Scholar. This was the last year of a three-year, \$550,000 summer research grant received by the biology department at HWS from the Undergraduate Biological Sciences Education Program of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The institute is a Maryland-based, nonprofit medical research organization geared toward the advancement of fundamental knowledge in biomedical science and the application of new scientific knowledge to the alleviation of disease and the promotion of health. The grant came out of a program designed to help strengthen education in biological sciences from the undergraduate level on.

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(STUDENTS, cont.)

The students received free room and board at HWS, and a \$2,000 stipend for eight weeks of laboratory work either at HWS or the Station. The seven scholars that studied at the Station were placed in the labs of professors Norm Weeden, Joe Kovach, George Abawi, Charlie Linn, Tom Burr, Jim McFerson, and Dick Robinson. The remaining four worked under HWS professors Beth Newell and Joel Kerlan.

"The program is a great opportunity for both the researcher and the student. It allows the researcher to conduct medium length experiments that require a significant background in science and it allows the student to train in a research facility," said Weeden.

Jim McFerson agreed. "Having undergraduates in the labs is very stimulating. We are given the chance to present our research to a new, younger audience, and to show them that agricultural research is not just taking care of an orchard or working in a greenhouse. And we learn from the students by seeing what's on their minds and forcing ourselves to explain things," he said.

This summer, McFerson's lab enjoyed Nancy Wheeler's company as she characterized different apple and cultivars used flow cytometry to estimate nuclear DNA content and evaluate the ploidy level of the particular plant.

"It gave me the opportunity to work in a research situation from the ground up, starting with the literature searches and finishing with a poster and presentation," said Wheeler, a senior from Thetford, VT.

"This type of work is where learning sinks in. You aren't just memorizing things for next week's exam. You're applying stuff that you learned throughout the school year to real research," said sophomore John Fargo. Fargo, from York, ME., worked on HWS campus with senior Melissa Fasolo, from New Hartford, NY. Together they studied a secondary sex characteristic in male Japanese quail.

All of the scholars agreed that the summer research program was much different than traditional science classes and that in a way, it was more demanding. For sophomore Thomas Duquin, it meant being more creative.

"I found that in 'real world learning', I had to come up with my own ideas and techniques," said Duquin, who, with the help of plant pathologist Tim Widmer, in-



Above: Thomas Dugwin samples from a local irrigation ditch.

Below: Kristie Morrell pipets "blue juice" into PCR samples for gel electrophoresis.



vented a water collection device. The device was necessary for Duquin to extract and identify nematodes in soil to determine the levels of nematodes in irrigation ditches.

According to James Hefti, a senior from Pulaski, NY, interpretation of new data also requires some creative thought. "It is easy to generate pages of numbers, but figuring out what those numbers mean can be very difficult," he said. Hefti, who studied the effect of leaf position on the rate of photosynthesis in blueberry plants at Zurich Bog, considered his summer research an adventure. "I had to carry the equipment out to the bog, fight off biting insects, and also deal with the heat because there are only a few shaded areas there."

Elizabeth Brownold, a junior from Camp Hill, PA, worked in the IPM department with

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(STUDENTS, cont.)

Joe Kovach. There she studied the effect that *Trichoderma*, used in *Botrytis* fungus control, has on honey bee hive health by examining death rates, sealed brood population, honey production, hive weight, and how many spores each bee is carrying.

"This is a lot different from what we do in lab classes at school. It's nice to see that the research I've done at the Station served a practical purpose. I preferred it to classwork because it gave me a more active role in the experiment," she said.

Under Tom Burr's supervision, sophomore Kate MacNamara worked on a population study of the amount of the fungus *Aureobasidium pullulans* found on eight different types of apples. The fungus is known to cause russet on apples. MacNamara also performed PCR Analysis on the isolates of *A. Pullulans* from the different cultivars to determine the genetic diversity of the fungus.

Gretchen Krull, a senior from Buffalo who worked in Roelofs' lab with Charles Linn, studied the behavior and chemical communication of the male European cornborer moth through testing their response to various synthetic pheromone blends in both the laboratory and the field.

"Gretchen did such a great job from the start that we discovered she had time on her hands, and so she was also involved in the development of ovipositioning tests involving apple odors and the apple maggot fly," said Linn. "She's one of the best students I have had in this program."

For Krull, who has studied abroad in Australia and will be studying in Mexico this winter, the feeling was mutual.

"Everyone has been supportive, helpful, and extremely nice. They are the reason that I have loved my job at the Station, and I will miss them very much."

The other two participating students were freshman Renee Monet, who worked in Dick Robinson's Station lab, and Maithreyi Krishnswami, who studied under Beth Newell. All of the scholars wrapped up the summer with a poster presentation.

Liz Spittler

**Last Call for Whale  
Watch volunteers!**

(BRIEFS, cont.)

ployees who are going to participate are expected to work until 1 pm. If employees do not want to attend, they are expected to work the afternoon.

Stay tuned for more details in next week's *News*. Let's be there!

## APS IN ROCHESTER

Over 1,600 plant doctors met in Rochester from August 9-13 for the annual American Phytopathological Society meetings. Cornell University, and, in particular, the Experiment Station, were particularly well-represented.

During the meeting, NYSAES scientists walked away with top honors. Thomas J. Burr and Gary E. Harman were named Fellows in the organization. Wayne Wilcox received the Lee M. Hutchins Award. (Complete stories on these three gentlemen will appear in next week's *News*.)

In addition, the meeting received good coverage in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*. Helene Dillard appeared in a 4" x 6" photo in the "Local & State" section, with high school teacher Brian O'Keefe, looking at a dish of developing spores. *D&C* Staff writer Corydon Ireland devoted two stories to education and a vulnerable food supply. An editorial, "Fruits of their Labor Abound," appeared in the same Wednesday edition, which may be the first time ever the society has received that kind of recognition in Rochester.

"These pathologists help protect our fruits, vegetables, forests and farmlands from poison-spewing insects and dangerous viruses, bacteria and fungi," it said. "Our produce is thus healthful and pleasing to the palate, and our farms, woodlands and backyard gardens are pleasing to the eye. . . we'll be glad they're there."

We're glad they're there too; kudos to Plant Path.

## CORNELL RECREATION COMMUNITY NEWS

### Visit Shoals Marine Lab with CRC:

CRC is sponsoring a trip to Shoals Marine Lab, Cornell's "Window on the Sea". This three-day trip to Appledore Island off the coast of Maine will be an adventure. Tide pools and craggy coves, a seabird in flight, the surf breaking on the shore—these are the sights and sound of Appledore Island.

The bus leaves the Cornell campus at 8:30 a.m. on August 29 and returns at 9:30 p.m. on August 31. Accommodations will be in dorm rooms, and bed and bath linens will be provided.

The cost is \$175.00 per person, and this includes everything (transportation, lodging and meals on the Island) except meals on the road.

For more information about this trip, see the poster in your department or contact CRC at 8-5-7565.

### Buses to stop in Geneva for trip to Buffalo Bills Game:

One bus is already full and tickets for the second bus are going quickly for the CRC-sponsored bus trip to the Buffalo Bills vs. Miami Dolphins football game in Buffalo on November 2. Ticket prices are \$50 per person, and this includes your transportation and ticket to the game. Game time is 1:00 pm. **THE BUSES WILL BE COMING TO GENEVA FOR THOSE SIGNING UP.** The pick-up location has not been finalized yet, but will either be the Geneva exit of the NYS Thruway or the Geneva Chamber of Commerce. More details will follow on this.

If you would like to get in on this event (several from the Geneva Campus already have), contact Janet Beebe at the CRC office at 8-5-7565.

### Discount coupons available for Florida vacation spots:

If you are making plans for your upcoming winter vacation, you might be interested in knowing that CRC has discount coupons available for Disney World, SeaWorld, and Universal Studios in Florida. Also, the Disney coupons are valid for 10% savings at the Disney Stores. Contact the CRC office for information (130 Day Hall or phone 8-5-7565).

**STATION CLUB NEWS**

**Station Club to Sponsor Design Contest:**

Put your thinking cap on—a new design typifying the Station and its work is needed which will be reproduced on Station t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and mugs. Start thinking of some ideas and watch next week's *News* for more details.

**Ping Pong Table Purchased for Sawdust Cafe:**

A new ping pong table was recently purchased by Station Club and is housed in the Sawdust Cafe for Station employees use. Contact Sandy Antinelli at x248 if you are interested in reserving the Sawdust Cafe.

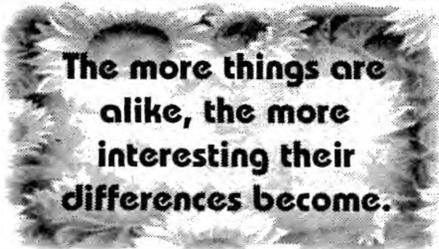
**Discount Tickets for Seabreeze/Raging Rivers Still Available:**

Planning a trip to Seabreeze Amusement Park and Raging Rivers Waterpark? Before heading out, see your Station Club Rep to purchase discount passes. The cost is \$10.95 (a \$3.00 savings off retail price) each and are valid daily through September 1, 1997 (including holidays).

These passes are intended for persons over 48" in height. Passes for those 48" and less in height are available at the park gate for \$9.95 each, and children two years of age and under are admitted free.

**Deposit Your Soda Cans and Help Support Station Club:**

Just a reminder that the soda can recycling boxes in Station buildings helps fund Station Club activities. Over \$150 in 5¢ bottle returns has been collected since October 1, 1996. Consider depositing the empty cans or bottle from the soda you bring to work instead of carrying the empties home. Deposits of larger cans and bottles are also gladly accepted. If they don't fit in the box, leave them on top to be collected.



**STATION SOFTBALL**

*Serv Staff Wins Director's Cup*

Serv Staff carried home the Director's Cup last Thursday evening after defeating FSPE in the final Championship game. This is the second season for this winning team to take home the trophy under the team name "Serv Staff" and the sixth season when combining wins under their former team name "B&P". Congratulations again Serv Staff (a.k.a B&P)!



*The winning team. Front row (L to R): Jeff Rios, Ken Bell, Jeff Thibault, Brian Lasher, Jim Abbott. Back row (L to R): Al Fairbrother, Dave Lasher (Captain), John VanderWeide, Chris Olmstead, Scott Burden, Jason Legott.*

Photo by hard-working Commish, Matt Lewis

**WHALE WATCH '97 IS HERE**

**SENECA LAKE**



August 22, 23, and 24 are the dates for Whale Watch '97. A few slots are still open for volunteers in 2-hour shifts at the Station's exhibit starting Friday night from 5-7 pm; Saturday, 11 am-7 pm; and Sunday, from noon-6 pm.

To volunteer, contact Sandy Antinelli at x248 or sja2@nysaes.cornell.edu. Check out the complete schedule and times available in the "Whale Watch Folder" on the "Computer Center File Server" which is updated daily.

For their efforts, volunteers will gain free admission to Whale Watch for the day, and there will be a noon-time pizza party for volunteers on Thursday, August 21. At that time, volunteers will get instructions and their tickets.

**SUMMERTIME ACTIVITIES**

*Ultimate Frisbee*

Every Wednesday on Barton Lab Lawn  
 5:00-5:30: Learn the sport and throws  
 5:30: Play Ultimate  
 Questions? Contact Amy at x355.

*Volleyball*

Every Tuesday  
 6:00 pm  
 Near the Pavilion behind Jordan Hall  
 Questions? Contact Andrea at x268