

CORNELL UNIVERSITY STATION NEWS GENEVA NEW YORK

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JUNE 11-18, 1999

BRIEFS

STATION NEWS

Items for *Station News* should be sent to Pat Blakeslee (pb64), the interim *News* editor in Communications.

ON THE HEELS OF A MARATHON

Over Memorial Day Weekend, Brian Shaw, a graduate student in Plant Pathology, ran a 26.2-mile marathon in Vermont.

"Yes I did finish," Shaw told Helene Dillard, "but this one must go down as the hardest race yet. At the start (8 a.m.) it was 72°F, by the end it was 85°-90°F. There was not a cloud in the sky, which sounds like a nice day for just about any activity except marathoning. The race was run along the lakeshore, so there was not an ounce of shade to be had for the entire distance." Shaw said he was unable to make his goal time, but he "had a definite sense that everyone, including the winner was coming in 15 to 20 minutes slower than expected."

Shaw finished 50 out of 250 in his age group with a time of 3:45:39. Overall, he placed 428 out of about 1,600 runners. The heat apparently took its toll: more than 600 people never finished the race at all.

Shaw drank 35 glasses of water along the way, and can tell you, "There is nothing like finishing a *marathon*."

LEWIS DRIVES HOME THE ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

The able fishing party of Josh, Nate, and Matt Lewis (the Station's mailman), and Rick and Ed Moracco collected \$450 by fishing 10 to 15 hours a day, and finishing third and fourth in the Canadigua Lake

(BRIEFS Continued on page 2)

UPDATE ON AG & FOOD TECH PARK



(from left to right) David Catalfamo, senior deputy commissioner of the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), Dave Soderlund, Eileen Mildernberger, senior V.P., regional ESDC office, Mark Schauerman, regional director of the ESDC, and Director Jim Hunter visited the new Surge Space during the ESDC's recent tour of the Station. Ongoing research activities in agriculture, biotech, and food technology were highlighted. Photo: Rebekka Foster.

Plans to develop a research park for agriculture and food companies on the southern perimeter of the Experiment Station campus continued to unfold during two important meetings held in Geneva and Ithaca this past week.

On Tuesday, June 8, three key representatives of the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) toured the campus to learn more about research programs at the Station and plans for the park. Jim Hunter, Bob Seem, Dick Durst, David Soderlund, Wolfram Koëller, Gary Harman, and Rich Rising, Geneva's Director of Planning and Economic Development, met with David Catalfamo, senior deputy commissioner of the ESDC, Eileen Mildernberger, Senior V.P., Regional Office, ESDC, and Mark Schauerman, regional director of ESDC, to convince them that the state should invest in the project. ESDC has been integral in other important Geneva projects, most notably the initial development of the 700,000-sq. ft. Guardian Glass, which is in the midst of a 50,000-sq. ft. expansion, and the 270,000-sq. ft. expansion of Zotos.

On Thursday, June 3, representatives from Saratoga Associates, ESDC, the City of Geneva, Ontario County, Geneva faculty, State University Construction Fund, CALS, and the University Administration met in Ithaca for a briefing on the project. At that meeting, Saratoga Associates presented a draft of the business plan and the results of a market feasibility study. In that study, 61 firms were interviewed, and 12 firms expressed interest in such a park. Those firms were focused on food science and biotechnology plant-related industries. According to the business plan, companies that are targeted will include entrepreneurs and start-ups, small growth companies, and larger and multi-national companies.

Another important step in the creation of the park was taken in May by Senator Mike

(AG TECH PARK Continued on page 4)

REISCH LAB MAKES *NEWSDAY*

Bruce Reisch, professor in the horticultural sciences department, was featured in an article in the Sunday, April 18 issue of *Newsday*, a Long Island NY daily paper. The article, entitled "Through the Grapevine," was about Reisch and his lab and their work with transgenic grapes. The full-page story noted how the future of New York's wine industry might be carried on tungsten pellets shot from a "gene gun" in upstate New York, and it included photos of Julie Kikkert and the gene gun taken by Station photographer Rob Way.



This photo of Julie Kikkert and the "gene gun" was among those included in a Newsday article about transgenic grape research at the Station. Photo: Rob Way.

Reisch's work in developing genetically engineered grapes that would be resistant to fungus was described. Transgenic grapes would reduce or eliminate the uses of fungicides on the grape crop. Since pesticide runoff is a growing problem on Long Island and a major contributor to this problem has been farms and vineyards, many farmers and environmentalists are excited about the possibilities transgenic grapes hold. In the future, genetic engineering may also be used to create grapes that have an earlier ripening date and whose levels of sugar, alcohol, and resveratrol can be manipulated. Reisch expects that if trials go well, the transgenic seeds could be distributed to growers in the next two to three years.

The *Newsday* article marked a busy press month for Reisch, who was also mentioned in the April 11 London Sunday *Times* in an article about the possible future applications of genetically engineered grapes.

C. Weeden

(BRIEFS, cont.)

Trout Derby held June 5 and 6. The group was trolling from the Lewis' painstakingly restored 19' 1969 Penn Yan, named 'Money Pit II'. The team came in third with a 9.77-lb lake trout caught by pulling copper line with a Bladerunner spoon, about 120' down, 20' off shore. Their fourth place winner was a 9.45-lb. lake trout, caught in 214' of water, about 20' off the bottom, just two hours before the end of the Derby.

"It was a joint adventure," said Matt Lewis, who has only been fishing a year. "I was driving the boat and running the fish finder. Rick, who has been teaching us how to fish, would get them on the hook. Josh would bring them into the boat with the net."

The first place winner was an 11.98 lb. lake trout. There were 428 entries in the derby, compared to 2,300 entries in the Seneca Lake Memorial Day Derby, in which the group also fished but did not place. They plan to fish in the Cayuga Lake Derby in August and will be going to a carp derby this weekend in Seneca Falls.

LAMBOY'S PAINTINGS TO BE EXHIBITED

Four of Warren Lamboy's paintings were chosen for a juried exhibition at the Hucker Gallery at the Geneva Historical Society (Prouty Chew Museum). The exhibit, entitled "Fantastic Visions: Imagination in Art," is sponsored by the Ontario County Arts and runs from June 4 through August 1, 1999. The museum, located at 5443 South Main St., Geneva, is open 9:30 am - 4:30 p.m. Tues.-Fri., and 1:30 pm-4:30 p.m. on Sat.

Cornell: The Big Picture

June 18, 1999

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (lunch is provided)

115 Ives Hall

Have you always wanted to learn more about Cornell but just haven't found the time or the resources? A more complete understanding of Cornell can clarify aspects of daily life and work, and uncover a genuine sense of pride. Join us in this one-day appreciation of Cornell, examining who we are and why. The presentation includes a panel of various Cornell ambassadors, interesting trivia, and history. Dress comfortably and be prepared to take a walking tour of the campus. \$15

Panelists:

Gould Colman
George Peter
Caroline Spicer
Peggy Haine
Jennie Farley
Tom Scott

Program Agenda:

Introduction/Orientation
Panel Discussion
Lunch
Tour
Cornell Pursuits
Wrap-up

Facilitators:

Tim Durnford
JoAnn Shepherd
Cynthia Smithbower

Please register by, Monday, June 14.

The registration form is in the Catalogue of Workshops or at: <<http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/OHR/Catalog/chome.html>><http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/OHR/Catalog/chome.html>

VIDEO AVAILABLE

Cornell Prof. Harold G. Craighead recently presented a lecture in Ithaca concerning the biological applications of nanotechnology. A videotape of the lecture is available from Kathy DeRosa (x211 or kad2).

RETIRED PLANT PATHOLOGIST AL BRAUN DIES

Dr. Alvin J. Braun, 83, professor emeritus of plant pathology at Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, died Monday, June 7.

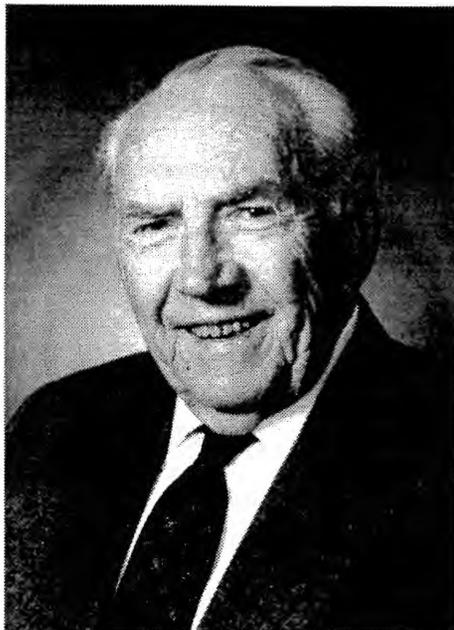
Braun began his career at the Geneva Station in July 1945 and retired in January 1977. His entire career was spent conducting investigations on small fruit and grape diseases. He was responsible for developing up-to-date spray schedules that could be used by New York grape and berry growers, determining what new fungicides were best to use, analyzed and made recommendations related to proper spray equipment growers should be using, and studied virus diseases to see if control measures could be developed either through the use of cultural means or through the breeding of resistant varieties. He worked cooperatively with scientists in what was then the department of pomology at the Geneva Station on developing disease-resistant varieties of grapes and small fruits. Braun also worked closely with growers in New York State, always providing them with the latest information from his research findings.

"Not only was he a fine scientist who had a world-wide reputation, but he also was a fine human being," said director of the Station James E. Hunter, who was chairman of the department of plant pathology during Braun's later career at the Station. "He was a quiet individual, but he had a way of communicating with people that made you listen to what he had to say. His information was always helpful to the grape and small fruit growers in the state, and they used his recommendations for disease control routinely."

Braun received his B.S. degree in biological sciences from the University of Chicago in 1937, his Ph.M. degree in botany from the University of Wisconsin in 1938, and his Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from Oregon State College in 1947, two years after he joined the staff of the Station's plant pathology department as an assistant professor.

Prior to coming to Geneva in July 1945, Braun was a research assistant in the department of plant pathology at the University of Wisconsin in 1937-1938; a nursery inspector in the Department of Agriculture and Markets, State of Wisconsin, Madison during the summer of 1938; research assistant in small fruit disease investigations at the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, Corvallis, 1938-1942; an analytical chemist with Sherwin-Williams Company, Chicago, Illinois for part of 1942-1943; and an assistant pathologist with the United States Department of Agriculture in Salinas, California, from 1943-1944. He continued with the USDA as a pathologist conducting surveys of plant diseases in Ohio and Michigan in 1944-1945.

Braun was promoted to associate professor at Geneva in 1950 and to professor in 1957. In 1956, he spent a sabbatical leave in the nematology section of the USDA Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland. In 1966-1967, he spent 18 months as a consultant in plant nematology for the United Nations F.A.O. rice project in Bangkok, Thai-



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land. His final overseas assignment was in 1975 when he spent six months on sabbatical leave at the Research Institute of Pomology at Skierniewice, Poland.

During his 31 years at the Geneva Station, Braun studied different fungal and bacterial diseases of grapes and other small fruits and how to control them. Most of his work was of a very applied nature and was of direct benefit to the growers of New York State. He was probably best known for his work on the development of fungicide control programs for grapes, but his work on diseases of raspberries and strawberries was also of significant benefit to growers.

In addition to his highly successful professional career, Braun was also an active leader in the community, especially within the Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder among other positions.

Surviving Braun are his wife, Edith; two sons, Ken (Gail), Naperville, Illinois, and Robert, Billerica, Massachusetts; a daughter, Andrea (David) Gransee, New Canaan, Connecticut; grandchildren Abigail and Katherine Tarbox, Caroline Gransee, and Karen and Stephen Braun; a brother, Joseph Braun, Port Orange, Florida; and numerous nieces and nephews. The couple lived at 509 West North Street in Geneva.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by De Vaney-Bennett Funeral Home. There will be no calling hours. A memorial service will be held at the Presbyterian Church in Geneva on Monday, June 14, at 11:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, friends may send a donation to the Professor Alvin J. Braun Memorial Fund, c/o Mike Riley, Director of Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 272 Roberts Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853.

R.E. Krauss

CALENDAR of EVENTS
JUNE 11-18, 1999

SAVE THE DATES

Station Picnic

Friday, July 16, 3:00 p.m.

Station Pavilion



Station Golf Tournament

Friday, June 18, 4:45 p.m.

*Big Oak Golf Course
 Packwood Road*

STATION SOFTBALL

Week #4 Games

Tuesday, 6/15 Service Staff vs. Hort Sci
 Thursday, 6/17 Food Sci/PGRU/Comm vs. Barton Lab

Week #2 Results

Hort Sci defeated Barton Lab
 Service Staff defeated Food Sci/PGRU/Comm

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: Yamaha 650cc Maxim Motorcycle. This bike is a great find! A1 Shape! It is a 198d2 with less than 7,000 original miles. Brand new Battery! I love this bike! It breaks my heart to have to sell it! But, I really need the money more than the bike. \$1500. Call Denise after 7:00pm at 716-526-6984. Email: dls4@cornell.edu.

FOR SALE: 1989 Chevrolet Cavalier: 2 door. Runs well, body in good shape. \$1450. Call 607 292 3948 or e-mail baube@linkny.com.

RECYCLE YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHING: Have you cleaned your closets and dressers lately? We need your unwanted clothes, shoes, belts, purses, sheets, pillowcases, linens, blankets, and drapes. With the help of St. Pauly Textile, of Rochester, your clothing donation will be used in the U.S. and 3rd world countries. Bring your articles for recycling to the Geneva Middle School on Friday, June 11, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. You may drop off your articles for recycling at the Middle School parking lot at 63 Pulteney Street. If possible, please put your articles in clear plastic bags. Thank you for your support. Your donation is tax deductible. Sponsored by the Geneva Middle School Russian Peace Partnership.

(AG TECH PARK, cont. 'd)

Nozzolio (53rd District) and Assemblyman Craig Doran, when they introduced legislation to authorize SUNY to lease and contract for the development and construction of a park "for businesses engaged in the development of agriculture, food, and related technologies."

The Station recently became a member of the Association of University Related Research Parks. Associate Director Bob Seem is attending the annual meeting of the association this week in Madison, Wisconsin. He expects to learn more about how research parks have been developed at other university and colleges, what amenity packages they offer, how the institution retains some measure of control, the nature of faculty interactions with park tenants, and how leases and fees are structured.

In initial planning stages, the park has been referred to as the "Ag-Tech Park," but is now being referred to informally as "The Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park at Geneva."

The park will have a twofold mission. Firstly, it will serve as a financially self-sustaining entity to foster the creation, retention and expansion of agriculture and food-related technology-based enterprises for the benefit of both the state and local economies. Secondly, it will enhance the long-term viability of the Station by fostering support for faculty research projects from firms located in the park, as well as strengthen the case for state support for the Station.

A local development corporation, or LDC, will manage, develop, and operate the Ag & Food Tech Park, and it will be managed by a board of directors. Partnering organizations will include the Station, Cornell, Ontario County and City of Geneva Industrial Development Agencies, and other non-voting members who have strategic contributions to make. Facilities proposed for Phase I of the park will include a 20,000-sq. ft. incubator research building, a 30,000-sq. ft. multi-tenant research facility, and 5,000-sq. ft. greenhouse, as well as related infrastructure. The 10-year project is expected to cost \$6.25 million. With 85 percent occupancy at \$9 per sq. ft., revenues after expenses would amount to \$550,000 per year.

In a recent article in the Finger Lake Times, Mike Manikowski, executive director of the Ontario County Office of Economic Development, called the Ag Tech and Food Park at the Station "the most exciting project" planned in the County and one he is "confident" will come to fruition.

According to Manikowski, plans for the next 18 months are to address the tasks of securing land control, anchor tenants, and finding and establishing the local development corporation.

"All these tasks are necessary to the successful launch of the project," said Manikowski.
L. McCandless

WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD TRAINING

The last training session for the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) will be held on Friday, June 25 in the Auditorium of Jordan Hall from 1:30-3:00 pm. The June 11 session has been cancelled due to construction in Jordan Hall.

All new employees who will work in farm fields and/or greenhouses and all new B&P staff should attend as soon as possible after their first day of work. New employees should bring with them to the training session a signed copy of the "Basic Pesticide Training Requirements for Workers" from the back of the current electronic version of the *Station Safety Manual*. *The Manual* is found in the safety folder on the CC fileserver.

Employees trained in 1994 are required to be trained again in 1999 and should attend a training session before the expiration date on their WPS Handler Verification Card.

No pre-registration is necessary.

This training is in addition to any OSHA training that may be required for lab or office workers. Call Mart VanKirk (781-5307) for more information.