

CORNELL
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BRIEFS

Michele Humiston Receives IR-4 Award

Michele C. Humiston, Research Support Specialist I for the Analytical Chemistry Laboratories, Department of Food Science & Technology, has been selected by the IR-4 Project Management Committee, as recipient of the 2002 Northeast Region IR-4 Outstanding Technical Service Award. This award was presented in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments as a pesticide residue analyst and her contributions to high quality research at the Northeast Regional Laboratory.



Michele Humiston received the "IR-4 Outstanding Technician" award from David Soderlund, Director of the NE IR-4 Program, at Geneva last week.

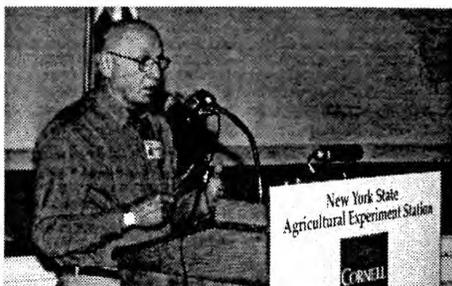
"Michele has been an outstanding contributor to the analytical section of the Northeast IR-4 Program since 1994," said NE IR-4 associate director, Pim Kovach. "She has been the sole analyst for the pesticide residue immunoassay (ELISA) studies since then."

Because of her advanced knowledge of computers and automated analytical instrumentation, Humiston was selected to begin using the LC/MS technology, the newest instrumental addition to the analytical repertoire of the Northeast IR-4 laboratory
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Rep. Boehlert Addresses Ag Forum at the Station



(l-r) Olga Padilla-Zakour, NECFE, Amy Chiang, Boehlert's legislative assistant for agriculture, Cy Lee, chairman of FS&T, and Congressman Boehlert toured the V&B Lab.



(left) Joe Nicholson, Red Jacket Orchards, was one of the panelists in the "Science, Agriculture and the Economy" forum. He was joined by (right, from left to right) moderator Margaret Becker, of NYS Dept. of Ag & Mkts, James Trezise, NY Wine & Grape Foundation, Mike Manikowski, Ontario Cty. Economic Development, and Tom Facer, of Agrilink.



Congressman Sherwood Boehlert (R-23rd District), chairman of the House Committee on Science, promised to "come back to the Station in one year with real accomplishments" for his new district, during the forum on "Science, Agriculture and the Economy," on Thursday, October 24. About 100 people turned out to meet Rep. Boehlert, including Station employees and local agricultural, civic, and industry leaders.

Four members of the local community were invited to address their concerns and outline the cooperative role the Experiment Station plays with their industries. Joe Nicholson, owner of Red Jacket Orchards; Jim Trezise, president of the NY Wine & Grape Foundation; Tom Facer, vice president of Agricultural Services at Agrilink; and Mike Manikowski, director of the Ontario County Office of Economic Development were the speakers. Margaret Becker, deputy commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, moderated.

(Continued on page 2)

(BOEHLERT, continued)

Nicholson pushed for work permits for the Mexican labor pool on which U.S. agriculture depends, to make it easier for Mexicans to work in the U.S. He asked that environmental policies like the FQPA (Food Quality Protection Act) be "based on science rather than emotion."

Trezise said New York's wine and grape industries would have foundered had it not been for Station research, noting that 102 new wineries had opened in New York since 1985.

Facer, who represents the largest vegetable processing company in New York, asked for a "level playing field," as local producers struggle to compete with cheap foreign imports.

Manikowski reported that it was important to leverage the science and the technology developed at the Experiment Station, and noted that the groundbreaking for the Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park might be as early as next spring. He thanked Boehlert for his support of other economic development projects in the area.

Rep. Boehlert, a leading advocate of agriculture and environmental interests who has served in the Congress since 1983, addressed the group for about 15 minutes, and said he is working to maximize the benefits to New York in all federal science programs. He said he emphasizes three M's—"money, management and marketing"—when it comes to agriculture. "Money" means putting fewer commodity subsidy money into field crops, and more into conservation policies that would benefit the Northeast. "Management" is sound farm management, and providing some of the consultants to farmers that only the rich can afford. And "marketing" is to be a lot more aggressive about selling New York agriculture to the urban population that is less than four hours from here. Before leaving, he said, "I have listened, I have learned, and I will return."

"Congressman Boehlert has been a strong advocate to increase funding for scientific research, as evidenced by his support to double the National Science Foundation budget," noted Station Director Jim Hunter, in his remarks. Cornell University scientists at the Experiment Station rely on grants from national scientific research and development agencies to conduct their work.

Rep. Boehlert has served on the House Committee on Science since 1983, and was elected chairman in January 2001. The Committee has jurisdiction over all federal

(Continued on p. 4)

Dennis Gonsalves and Team to Receive the 2002 von Humboldt Award for Agriculture on Nov. 4

For developing the virus-resistant papaya that saved the Hawaiian papaya industry from devastation by the papaya ringspot virus (PRSV), Dennis Gonsalves, the former Cornell University Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of plant pathology, and his research team will receive the prestigious 2002 Alexander von Humboldt Award for Agriculture on Monday, November 4, in the Jordan Hall Auditorium.

The research team includes Richard Manshardt of the University of Hawaii, Maureen Fitch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Jerry Slightom of Pharmacia.

"It is somewhat unique that a group of scientists from different institutions and different expertise worked together early on to use a very new technology to develop and

implement a timely solution for a severe agricultural problem in Hawaii," said Gonsalves.

The team was instrumental in characterizing PRSV in Hawaii in the early 1980s and conducting research to identify effective ways to control the disease. One promising approach for controlling the virus was to genetically engineer plants with the coat protein gene from the infecting viral pathogen—an approach that is referred to as "parasite-derived resistance." The team cloned a PRSV coat protein gene from a Hawaiian strain of the pathogen and successfully transformed papaya. By 1991, they had demonstrated in greenhouse experiments that this approach produced papaya plants that were resistant to the virus. In 1992, they conducted field trials on the island of Oahu with two genetically engineered disease-resistant varieties.

That same year, PRSV invaded Puna, where 95 percent of the \$47 million dollar papaya industry had located. By 1998, papaya production in Puna had plummeted 50 percent. But the researchers had been working diligently with APHIS, the EPA, and the FDA to guide the two new varieties through deregulation. Concurrently, they worked to address the ownership of intellectual properties.

On May 1, 1998, seeds of 'SunUP' and 'Rainbow' were released to the Hawaiian papaya growers. In 2001, production was back up to 53 million lbs/year.

Representatives of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will present the award during a ceremony on November 4, followed by a reception. A dinner in honor of the awardees is being held at Glenora Winery on Sunday, November 3.

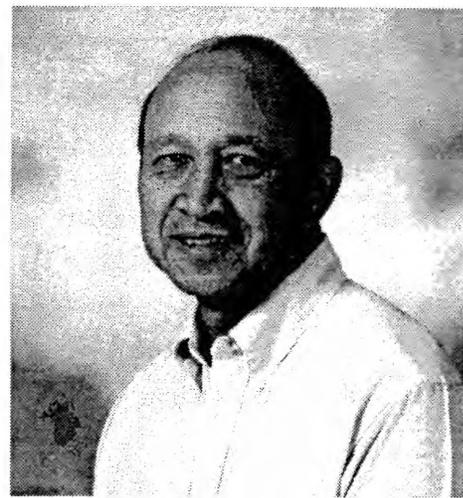
After 25 years with the Experiment Station, Gonsalves left Cornell last spring to become the director of the USDA's Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center in Hilo, Hawaii.

"The efforts of the team clearly portray the potential benefits of biotechnology in agriculture and have led to further scientific discoveries that will impact the development of disease resistance in other valuable crops throughout the world," said Susan A. Henry, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "The course they followed through the development, testing and commercialization processes has received national and international recognition. Their work certainly represents one of the great success stories in American agriculture."

Named in honor of Alexander von Humboldt, the 19th-century German naturalist and geographer, the award is presented annually to the person or team judged to have made the most significant contribution to American agriculture during the previous five years. The team receives a \$15,000 award, a medallion, and certificate.

In addition, the foundation has awarded Cornell a \$5,000 Alfred Toepfer scholarship to a Cornell student for agricultural studies in Germany. Jodi E. Creasap, a graduate student in plant pathology, has been chosen for that honor (see related story, next page).

(Continued on p. 3)



Dennis Gonsalves

Jodi Creasap to Receive Toepfler Scholarship Award on Nov. 4

Jodi E. Creasap, a third-year graduate student in Cornell University's department of plant pathology at Geneva, has been named the recipient of the Alfred Toepfler Scholarship, the student component of the Alexander Von Humboldt Award.

"Ordinarily, a student affiliated with the von Humboldt Award winner's research program would receive the student award and do research with the primary awardee," said Thomas Burr, chair of the plant pathology department at Geneva, and Creasap's major advisor. This case, however, is unusual because Dennis Gonsalves, this year's Von Humboldt recipient, is no longer at the Station. He said he wanted the student award to remain in the plant pathology department at Geneva. His request was approved by members of the von Humboldt Foundation who oversee the award. "We requested that interested students write a proposal to be evaluated by three faculty members," said Burr.

Creasap received her B.S. degree in Biology from Hiram College, a small liberal arts school in Ohio, in 2000. Her current research involves the bacterium *Agrobacterium vitis*, which causes crown gall disease of grapes. This bacterium infects wound sites on grape and causes the development of galls, or plant tumors at the wounds. *Agrobacterium* is unique in that during infection it transfers a part of its bacterial DNA into the plant where it becomes incorporated into the plant genome and is expressed resulting in crown gall. The disease can cause death of young vines. Creasap is researching which cells in the grape wound are susceptible to infection by *Agrobacterium* and the role that plant hormones play in initiating the development of such cells. She is also investigating how a non-pathogenic strain of *A. vitis*, strain F2/5, is able to function as a biological control of grape crown gall.

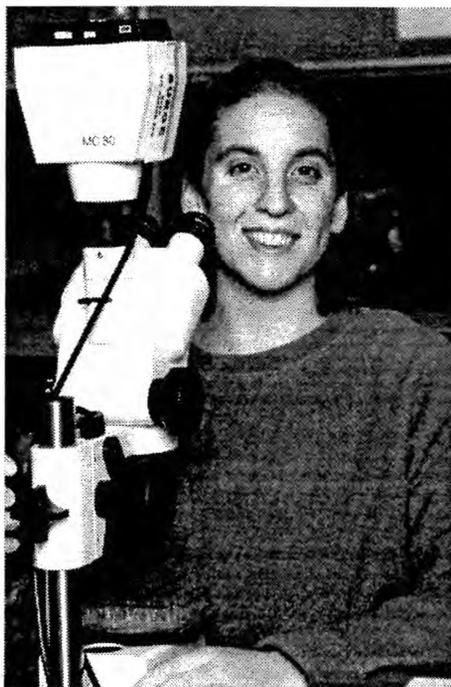
One of the scholarship stipulations is that the student work in Germany. Creasap will be working for two or three months with Dr. Cornelia Ullrich at the Institut Fur Botanik, Darmstadt University of Technology in Darmstadt, Germany.

"We are very pleased that Dennis requested that the student award be kept in the department and that we were able to select a student to receive it," Burr said. "The award provides Jodi with a great opportunity to work in a leading laboratory in Germany that studies transformation of plant cells by *Agrobacterium*."

And how did Jodi Creasap react to the news? "Hooray!" she said. "I need to learn some German, especially important phrases like... where's the beer?"

In a more serious vein, she went on to say, "I'm thrilled and grateful to the von Humboldt Foundation to be awarded this very exciting and interesting opportunity. By studying with Dr. Ullrich, I will be able to apply their technology to the grape crown gall system to improve our understanding of how crown gall infects cells in wounds on grape. Another aspect of the project will be to further our knowledge of how the crown gall biological control strain is able to prevent grape cells from becoming infected by the pathogen."

J. Ogradnick



Jodi Creasap

(GONSALVES, continued)

Previous Cornell recipients of the von Humboldt Award include Steven D. Tanksley, Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of plant breeding, Dale Bauman, Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of animal science, and Wendell Roelofs, Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of insect biochemistry and chair of the entomology department at the Experiment Station.

L. McCandless

(BRIEFS, continued)

and she has served as the principal analyst for LC/MS projects.

"In addition to her technical contributions, Michele has been of great value in assisting and training other analysts in computerized data acquisition and analysis," noted Kovach. In particular, she recently completed the training of a second analyst for LC/MS studies.

Winterizing Station/Department Vehicles

This is a reminder that all vehicles in your department should be prepared for winter use or storage soon. Since antifreeze is expensive, any leaks or cooling system malfunctions should be called to the attention of the Fleet Garage.

It is advisable to have the above done before the middle of November. Please schedule your vehicles with the Fleet Garage as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to perform the work required. Please be advised that the installation of snow tires on vehicles that need them can be accommodated at this time. Call the Fleet Garage at x2304.

Benefits Open Enrollment & Art Show

Cornell's annual Benefits Open Enrollment period for endowed health and dental plans and the Select Benefits Dependent Care Account is Nov. 11-Dec. 6, 2002. The Open Enrollment period for the Select Benefits Medical Care Account is Nov. 11-Dec. 31, 2002. The state contract college health plans' Option Transfer Period begins when the NYS releases the new health rates and ends 30 days from the release date.

At Geneva, the Benefair describing these and other options is Dec. 5, in Jordan Hall.

If you wish to enter some of your art work for the Fine Art Exhibit occurring at the same time, contact Amy Andersen at ada10 or x2314.

Annual Book Sale & Exchange

It is that time of year to browse your personal library and donate unwanted books (hard or soft cover) to the Library's Annual Book Sale/Exchange on Nov. 9 in Jordan Hall. Puzzles are welcomed donations. Receive one free book for every three you donate. The Library can only accept books Nov. 7 & 8 during regular working hours. Please, no magazines or condensed Readers Digest.

All proceeds benefit the Frank A. Lee Library at Geneva.

CALENDAR of EVENTS
NOVEMBER 1-8, 2002

SEMINARS

Plant Pathology

Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2002
Time: 3:30 PM
Place: Room A133, Barton Lab
Speaker: Dr. David Gadoury, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Geneva
Subject: Powdery Mildew: Problem Solved, Time to Move On

Food Science & Technology

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2002
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: FST Conference Room
Second Floor
Speaker: Dr. Olga Padilla-Zakour, Dept. of Food Science, Geneva
Subject: Increasing the shelf-life of apple cider without adding chemical preservatives

FITNESS

Aerobics

Date: Mon. & Fri.
Time: 12:10 - 1 PM
Place: Sawdust Cafe

Taekwondo

Date: Mon. & Wed.
Time: 12:10 - 1 PM
Place: Jordan Hall
Auditorium

*"Knowledge is power
and enthusiasm
pulls the switch."*

—STEVE DROKE—

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT: small two bedroom trailer, basement, garage, nice yard. Less than 2 miles from station. hlw7@nysaes.cornell.edu phone: 2433 or 781-8504.

FOR SALE: Electric Treadmill. Digital read out. Folds up for easy storage. \$150. Call 787-2244, 585-6204 or email sec46@cornell.edu

FOR RENT: Large 1 bedroom Apartment, walking distance from station. \$500/month plus electric. Security deposit required. Contact dbc10 or 781-1808.

FREE TO A LOVING HOME: 6 calico, black & white, & black long-haired kittens, most are seven-toed. Approx. 6 weeks old, very friendly and looking for a loving, adoptive family. For further info, please call x2314 or e-mail ada10.

FALL CLEANUP SALE: JOHN DEERE model 33 manure spreader: 7' wide from outside-tire to tire, needs minor wood repair, w/owners manual; \$450. TROYBILT "Junior" 17" rear tine rototiller: 5hp, like new condition; \$650. DIESEL FUEL TANK: Agway 39" high x 3" across round tank, needs crank handle and hose repair; \$200. LAWN ROLLER: 37" wide, excellent condition; \$150. BILLYGOAT "Quantum 35" gas powered, four-wheeled, walk-behind pavement vacuum sucker w/ bag, good condition; \$75. DOUTHERM Forced air furnace: 30,000 BTU input rating, natural gas or propane w/honeywell control. Good for hunting

Food Drive for the Geneva Food Pantry
Sponsored by Station Club

The Geneva Center of Concern's Food Pantry is the primary source of emergency food for Geneva's elderly and needy families.

In 2001, more than 3,100 families consisting of 4,076 adults and 3,736 children; and 322 elderly were served by the Pantry.

Today, the Center serves an average of 350 families per month. With today's declining economy and fewer job opportunities, the Center will certainly see an increase in requests for help.

We, at the Experiment Station, have an extraordinary opportunity to make a difference in people's lives — people that we see every day — on the street, in our schools, in our community.

We will be holding a Station-wide food drive for two months, from October 18-December 18. Please look for the specially marked box in your department and join us in our efforts to collect much-needed items for the Food Pantry.

The most needed items are canned soups and vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, canned or bottled juices, small boxes of cereal (18 oz or smaller), oatmeal, macaroni & cheese or other pasta, baby food or formula, and Raemen noodles, also donations of personal items like soap, razors, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, towels, washcloths, and large-sized diapers (sizes 5/6).

If you have questions about donating, please call Amy Andersen at x2314.

Members of the Station Club thank you for your kindness and generosity.



25th **Holiday**
Craft & Book
Sale
Saturday
November 9, 2002
in **Jordan Hall**

(BOEHLERT, continued)

non-military scientific and technology research and development programs, on which the federal government spends more than \$30 billion a year. The committee oversees the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the science programs of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of Commerce and Energy.

During his remarks, Boehlert noted that Cornell received \$250M from the federal government for research last year.

While he was at the Station, Rep. Boehlert also went on a 45-minute tour, to see an entomology and plant pathology lab in Barton, the USDA facility, NECFE, the Fruit & Vegetable Pilot Plant, the V&B Lab, the Ag & Food Tech Park site, and Loomis Farm. His legislative assistant for agriculture, Amy Chiang, joined him on the tour, as did Steve Johnson and Ann-Marie Adams, of Cornell Governmental Affairs. While in Geneva, before coming to the Station, he met with representatives of the *Finger Lakes Times* and had lunch at the Ramada. He went on to Knapp Vineyard after the Station event.

Rep. Boehlert, who was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1982, is seeking re-election in the newly re-drawn 24th Congressional district in next week's election, on Tuesday, Nov. 5. His district now includes all of the city and town of Geneva, where the Experiment Station is located; all of Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, and Seneca counties; and parts of Broome, Cayuga, Oneida, Ontario, Otsego, Tioga, and Tompkins counties.

L. McCandless