

CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY

## STATION NEWS

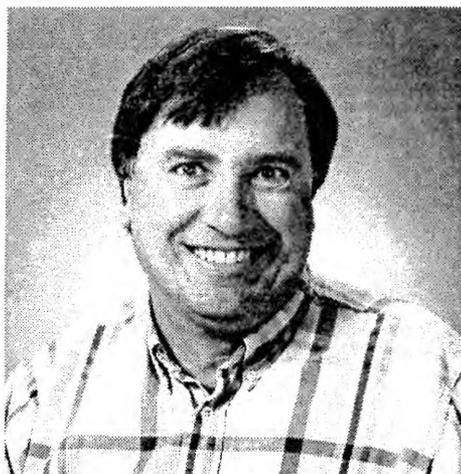
GENEVA  
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## BRIEFS

## Curtis Petzoldt Wins

*Epsilon Sigma Phi Award*

Curtis Petzoldt, who develops innovative programs for managing pests on New York's 211,200 acres of vegetable farms, recently received a service award from Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national honorary Cooperative Extension fraternity. Petzoldt is the vegetable coordinator and assistant director of the New York State Integrated Pest Management (NYS IPM) Program, which promotes both non-toxic and the least-toxic ways of dealing with pests.



Curt Petzoldt

"When we give these awards, we look for people who are creative, who provide solid, trustworthy information that anyone in the field can use with confidence," said David Hawley, the executive director of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Rensselaer County and co-chair of the Professional Recognition Committee of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Petzoldt has been a driving force behind the Northeast Weather Association, a service that gathers data from a network of portable weather stations in farmers' fields, then uses it to provide up-to-the-minute forecasts of diseases and insects of crops ranging from apples to zucchini.

*(Continued on page 2)*Dennis Gonsalves Receives Prestigious  
Agriculture Award

This was the first time in 28 years that the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Award for Agriculture went to a team of scientists. The team was comprised of (from left to right) Gonsalves, Dr. Richard Manshardt, professor of Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences at the University of Hawaii; Dr. Maureen Fitch, a plant physiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Dr. Jerry Slightom, a molecular biologist with Pharmacia Co.

Dennis Gonsalves, former Liberty Hyde Bailey professor of plant pathology, received the prestigious 2002 Alexander von Humboldt Award for Agriculture on Monday, November 4, at the Experiment Station.

Gonsalves and his research team were recognized for developing two virus-resistant papayas that saved the \$47 million Hawaiian papaya industry from ruin by the ringspot virus. 'SunUp' and 'Rainbow' were the first genetically engineered fruit to be commercialized in the U.S. The project utilized the gene gun invented at Cornell and other innovative technologies in what now serves as a model system for developing virus resistance in fruits and vegetables where traditional breeding methods are not successful.

"What inspired our team was the knowledge that we had to apply the best science we could to solve very real problems for farmers and families who were desperate for a solution," said Gonsalves during the two-hour presentation.

Papaya is the second most important agricultural crop in Hawaii. The disease caused a 50 percent drop in production from 1995-1998 before seeds of the virus-resistant papaya were deregulated and made available at no cost to Hawaiian growers. In 2001, production was back to pre-1994 levels.

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(BRIEFS, continued)*

Petzoldt has also helped to link growers, processors, supermarkets, and consumers in providing and promoting IPM-grown and -labeled foods. Foods with the IPM label meet carefully developed guidelines for environmentally sound practices for growing them. This IPM label was among the first in the United States and is found on fresh and frozen goods at Wegmans Food Markets across the Northeast.

"This award means a lot because it comes from my peers, both in IPM and in Cooperative Extension," Petzoldt said. He was honored at an awards dinner at the annual meeting of the Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension Educators on Wednesday, October 16.

### Cornell to Develop NFC Apple Juice for Leroy Project

IFP North America New York, Inc. (IFPNANY) President Herbert "Herb" W. Fiss today announced that Cornell University has agreed to develop a 100 percent NFC (not-from-concentrate) fresh apple juice to be processed at a proposed new IFPNANY juice plant in LeRoy, N.Y.

Cornell food scientists will develop NFC fresh apple juice, an exciting premium beverage that will serve as the signature product for the new plant once it comes on line. The research will be conducted at the Experiment Station and is expected to be completed by January.

NFC apple juice is made by pressing apples for juice and then pasteurizing the product. The juice is filled and packaged into gable-top containers with spouts and sold in the refrigerated section of supermarkets.

"We're excited to have the world's most eminent food scientists working on our behalf to develop this revolutionary new product," Fiss said. "The success of a New York NFC premium apple juice is expected to parallel the success the Florida citrus industry has enjoyed with its NFC orange juice."

"We are very excited to provide the technical expertise and innovation that will support the success of this project," said Olga Padilla-Zakour, who directs the NYS Food Venture Center at Geneva.

"New York has the most flavorful apples and we will use our knowledge and expertise to develop a safe process that will retain that great flavor in a premium refrigerated apple juice. This is a critical project that will benefit New York apple growers and will also create economic development in Western NY," she said.

*(Continued on p. 4)*

*(GONSALVES, continued)*



*(left to right) Dennis Gonsalves, Heinrich Toepfer, Jennifer Gonsalves, and Carol Gonsalves.*

The team is comprised of Dr. Richard Manshardt, professor of Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences at the University of Hawaii; Dr. Maureen Fitch, a plant physiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Dr. Jerry Slightom, a molecular biologist with Pharmacia Co. When the project started 14 years ago, Fitch was a graduate student of Manshardt's and Slightom was a molecular biologist with Upjohn. Gonsalves was the project leader.

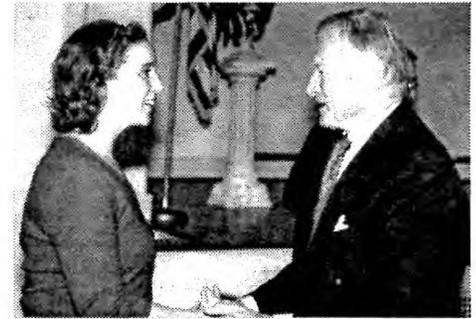
During an emotional acceptance speech before members of the foundation, colleagues, and friends, Gonsalves called the event his "swan song." The Experiment Station has been the center of Gonsalves' research program for 25 years, until last spring, when he left Cornell to become the director of the USDA's Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center in Hilo, Hawaii.

During the award ceremony, Gonsalves was praised by members of his team as a "visionary and innovative thinker," who was able to "connect on a personal as well as a technical level," in leading the team over various technical and regulatory hurdles. The challenges were many, as Gonsalves pointed out during his presentation about what the adoption of the virus-resistant papaya meant to Hawaiian farmers.

Susan A. Henry, Ronald A. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, encouraged the assembled group of Cornell scientists and former von Humboldt awardees to "continue to explore the use of all available technologies," in solving the world's food problems, and "to answer questions that are raised by their use intelligently."

"We are really one world," she said during her keynote address. "As scientists at Cornell, we cannot dismiss a problem because it affects one area of the world that is far from our doorstep. This is an eloquent story of how the principles of genetic engineering can solve a very real problem that had no other traditional solution. The world cannot afford to abandon

*(Continued on p. 3)*



*Heinrich Toepfer presents the Alfred Toepfer Scholarship to Jodi Creasap.*

a technology simply because it is controversial."

The controversy surrounding consumer acceptance of genetically modified organisms has limited approval of genetically engineered papaya in certain Asian and European markets. Papaya is highly nutritious and full of Vitamin A. It is a staple in many Pacific Rim and Third



*Joanne Labate (left) and Phil Forsline had displays on genetic and molecular diversity at the USDA-ARS Plant Genetics Resources Unit for members of the von Humboldt Foundation. (pictured, from right) Bete Toepfer, of the Toepfer family who founded the award, Heinrich Toepfer (can't see him), and Jack Hessler, president of the Foundation look at Labate's display.*

World countries. Representatives of Bangladesh, Africa, Jamaica, Thailand, Venezuela, and Brazil have been working with Gonsalves to develop disease-resistant varieties for their countries. Papaya, a fast-growing tree fruit, begins to bear in the first year, and—except for susceptibility to ringspot virus—is easily grown.

"It is somewhat unique that a group of scientists from different institutions and different areas of 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 who holds bachelor of science and master of science degrees from the University of Hawaii, and a doctorate from the University of California-Davis. He has over 180

*(Continued on p. 3)*

## Ann Cobb Named Outstanding Employee

Long-time Station employee Ann Cobb was named the "Outstanding Employee of the Year" during the Experiment Station's Annual Banquet on Friday, November 1. Cobb came to the Station a little over 27 years ago as a part-time worker and has never left. She worked as a full-time pathology research technician for George Abawi, and then for Harvey Hoch. She currently works for vegetable pathologist Helene Dillard, who has just begun her tenure as director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

For her recognition, Cobb received a beautiful wood-framed "Outstanding Employee" certificate, free membership in Station Club, and free admission to all Station Club events for the year, a \$20 gift certificate for Station Club merchandise, and a \$20 gift certificate to the Cornell Campus Store. Of greatest significance, she also received the "Employee Recognition Parking" sign. This highly coveted designation allows the employee of the year to select any parking space on campus as her own private parking spot for the year.

There were 27 letters of recommendation for Cobb from co-workers, research program supervisors, and industry personnel.

"Ann has cross-cutting skills in plant pathology that span the laboratory, the greenhouse, and the field," said Dillard, in her letter in support of Cobb's nomination. "She is fully knowledgeable of her job and possesses all the needed skills in plant pathology. She carries out her work flawlessly, and is enthusiastic and meticulous in every aspect of her work. She sets high performance standards for herself, and expects no less from others."

Dillard considers Cobb a valued colleague in her research and extension program, one who, in addition to exceptional job performance, also performs excellently as a team player.

"Ann works well with vegetable producers, vegetable industry representatives, extension educators, faculty, students and staff from all departments," said Dillard. "People who work with her have the highest respect and regard for her abilities. They value and trust her diagnostic knowledge and opinions on appropriate disease management strategies."

One of the things that makes Cobb so special is her outgoing personality. "She is always collegial and willing to help others," Dillard concluded.

Cobb says her current job as research technician is divided between applied research



*Dr. Hunter congratulates Ann Cobb on being named Outstanding Employee for 2002.*

and extension activities. With her current responsibilities, she helps address the critical disease management issues of vegetable crops. She studies the biology, etiology, epidemiology, and control of fungal and bacterial diseases, and develops integrated control strategies that are disseminated to industry and other interested parties. This work gives her the opportunity to work with students, extension and industry people, growers, and the public.

One of the things Cobb likes best about the Station is that there are so many opportunities to learn and educate others because of the interactions with people with so many diverse backgrounds.

"Cornell is world renowned for people with highly developed intellects and brains," she said. "What I think makes the Station extra special is 'heart'. People show compassion and kindness; welcoming and caring for each other, families, visitors, and the people served. If something unfortunate happens to one of us professionally or personally, it happens to all of us. People pull together to help out and support in any way they can."

Cobb was very gracious upon receiving the award and had many people to thank in the course of her acceptance speech. "I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for the employee recognition you have bestowed upon me. I want to thank all my bosses, past and present, for giving me the opportunity to grow in my job and facilitate lifelong learning. I also want to express my appreciation to all the many people I have the opportunity to interact with and all the help they have given me, and just for being there." Cobb's deep gratitude went out to the numerous people who orchestrated the award for her by doing all the legwork and requesting

*(Continued on p. 4)*

*(GONSALVES, continued)*

publications, holds 13 patents, and has helped educate 18 graduate students and numerous post-doctorate fellows in his lab.

"We can expect to see more and more team approaches to solving important scientific problems," said Jim Hunter. "We are very honored to be involved in this award and to have another awardee at the Station." He challenged Gonsalves and the state of Hawaii to "give back" to New York, by applying the "model system" they had developed for papaya to fight the European plum pox virus which has infected stone fruits in Pennsylvania and Ontario, and may hit New York next.

The Alexander von Humboldt award is presented annually to the person judged to have made the most significant contribution to American agriculture during the previous five years. The von Humboldt Foundation was founded by Alfred Toepfer (1894-1993), a German grain merchant and philanthropist, and named in honor of Alexander von Humboldt, the 19th-century German naturalist and geographer.

This was the first time in 28 years that the von Humboldt Foundation has awarded the \$15,000 prize to a team of scientists, and the first time a woman has been a member of that team, according to economist Dr. Lore Toepfer, daughter of Alfred, who made the awards.

Previous Cornell recipients of the von Humboldt Award include Wendell Roelofs, Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of insect biochemistry and current chairman of the entomology department at the Experiment Station, who won the award in 1977; Dale Bauman, Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of animal science who won the award in 1985; and Steven D. Tanksley, Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of plant breeding who won the award in 1998. Hunter believes Cornell can rightly claim a connection to a fifth award winner—William S. Bowers—who won the award in 1989 after leaving the Station for the University of Arizona.

On Monday, the von Humboldt Foundation also awarded a \$5,000 Alfred Toepfer scholarship to Jodi Creasap, a graduate student in plant pathology, for agricultural studies in Germany.

Members of the Toepfer family and the von Humboldt Foundation flew in from Germany, San Francisco, Wisconsin, and Mississippi to present the awards. They sponsored a dinner in the recipients' honor on Sunday night, November 3, and toured the Station on Monday morning, before the ceremony.

*L. McCandless*

CALENDAR of EVENTS

NOVEMBER 1-8, 2002

MEETINGS

Chairs Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2002  
**Time:** 3:00 PM  
**Place:** 264 Roberts Hall

Chairs and Unit Leaders Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, November 14, 2002  
**Time:** 1:30 PM  
**Place:** G-19 Hedrick Hall

Chairs Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, November 14, 2002  
**Time:** Immediately following Chairs and Unit Leaders meeting  
**Place:** G-19 Hedrick Hall

SEMINARS

Horticultural Sciences

**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2002  
**Time:** 11:00 AM  
**Place:** Food Science Staff Room  
**Speaker:** Dr. Susheng Gan, Dept. of Horticulture, Ithaca  
**Subject:** Plant senescence: from bench to bank

Plant Pathology

**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2002  
**Time:** 3:30 PM  
**Place:** Room A133, Barton Lab  
**Speaker:** November 12, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Ithaca  
**Subject:** Genetic Basis of Disease Resistance in Pearl Millet: Plans and Prospects

Food Science & Technology

**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2002  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Place:** FST Conference Room Second Floor  
**Speaker:** Dr. Klaas van Wijk, Dept. Plant Biology, Ithaca  
**Subject:** Functional Proteomics of Plastids from *Arabidopsis thaliana* through Prediction and Experimentation

FITNESS

Aerobics

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

Taekardio

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

LTC

Excel - Open Lab/Forum

**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2002  
**Time:** 9:00-11:00 AM  
**Place:** LTC, Jordan Hall  
**Instructor:** Cheryl TenEyck  
**Subject:** This session is an open lab for real-life Excel questions/problems. Cheryl TenEyck will try to answer Excel questions and share the problem and results with the rest of the class. She will discuss related issues that arise during the discussion. If possible, email Cheryl, cnt1@cornell.edu, your Excel questions and related worksheets before the class. Anyone is welcome to attend this session even if you don't provide a problem to discuss.

Holiday Parties

Department/Unit holiday parties will be held this year on Friday, December 20, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Monday, November 25th**  
**9 AM to 3 PM in Jordan Hall**

CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE:** Couch, mauve, very good condition, \$150. Contact Nancy Long (NPL1).

**FREE** to a good home. Very friendly purring gray and white medium-haired kitten with adorable face. Please adopt me! For further information please call x2376, email acc3, or 789-3701 nights.

**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 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.

**FOR SALE:** 1993 Ford Taurus Wagon. Auto, 6 cyl, AC, power steering, windows, locks, folding 3rd rear seat. Mileage: 137,125. Good running condition, would make a great second family car. Asking \$2,000. Call Judy Birkett at 585-526-5840 after 6 pm.

**FOR SALE:** Sofa, dark blue, flowered with shades of rose/ burgundy. Both ends recline. Very good condition. \$150.00. Call 315-781-2723.

**FOR RENT:** New furnished home on east side of Seneca Lake. Available 10/15/02 - 5/31/03. Contact Penny at 315-585-2259 or pyl1@nysaes.cornell.edu

**FOR SALE:** professional drafting table, Hamilton VR20, 3'x5', power lift, excellent condition, \$300. Call Dave x2496.

**FOR SALE:** '95 Coleman Cedar Tent Camper. Sleeps 5, Stove, Sink, Awning & Tent. \$3200 or B/O. Call Holly 315-539-5216 or e-mail: hak@cornell.edu

(BRIEFS, continued)

IFPNANY aims to open a state-of-the-art fruit processing plant in LeRoy, N.Y., that would create 300 new jobs and take in more than 3 million bushels of local apples every year. The plant would use patented technology that would make it a one-of-a kind facility in the U.S.

Pittsford Capital Group of Pittsford, N.Y., is serving as the investment bankers for IFPNANY, working to raise the \$35 million needed to open the plant.

P. Gregg

Recycling Phone Books

The new 2002-2003 Cornell University phone books have arrived. In order to properly dispose of the old phone books, please tear off the cover and put the book in available recycling bins.

Retirees Luncheon Booth

If you're looking for a place tomorrow, Saturday, November 9th, to have an inexpensive, home cooked lunch, come to Jordan Hall.

Bernadine Aldwinckle, chair of this year's luncheon booth, says the Station Retirees will be serving homemade soups and chili, sandwiches, brownies/cookies along with other surprises. All this great food will help keep your strength up as you shop for the holidays, at the book and craft booths. This is the retirees' only fund raising event of the year, so we hope to see you there.

(COBB, continued)

and writing letters of support. "My thanks also goes to my loving family," said Cobb. "Thank you all" she concluded, "for your kindness, friendship, and for making the Station such a special place to work!"

For fun, Cobb has a variety of interests, which include Tai Chi and Qigong, Taekardio, horseback riding, camping/nature, gardening, and jogging. Her husband, Donald, is a farmer and they have two daughters who have both inherited their parents' love of agriculture and science. One daughter, Della, does tissue culture as a research technician for Sanford Scientific, a subsidiary of Scotts Company (the lawn and turf people). The other daughter, Pat, is a pelt technician who determines the calibrations for coatings such as paint. Pat works for JSR Ultrasonics in Pittsford, NY.

Congratulations, Ann, for an honor well deserved.

J. Zakour