

# CORNELL UNIVERSITY STATION NEWS GENEVA NEW YORK

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MARCH 15 - 22, 2002

## BRIEFS

### Earth Day

Thank you to all of you who have contributed and continue to contribute dead power cells to the recycling program. Hundreds of pounds have been collected in this ongoing effort! (To request a drop-off box in additional locations please email Pat at pgw2.) Make every day Earth Day!

### Respirator Use Training

A makeup session for Respirator Use Training which is required annually for participants in Cornell's Respiratory Protection Program is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2002, 10:30 am - 11:30 am, Jordan Hall Staff Room. This will be the last makeup session for this year. Pre-registration is required. Please email sgd2@cornell.edu to register.

### Free Fitness Classes

Tina Felice, a fourth degree black belt in Taekwondo and chief instructor at Finger Lakes Martial Arts, is in the midst of offering free classes to Station community. The classes will be held Monday, March 18th and Wednesday, March 20th, from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m.

Classes will be held in the auditorium at Jordan Hall.

This is an excellent opportunity for people at the Station to sample Taekwondo to see if it is something they might be interested in. If there is enough of a continued interest, Tina and her sister and co-instructor, Sue, may offer Taekwondo at the Station on a regular basis.

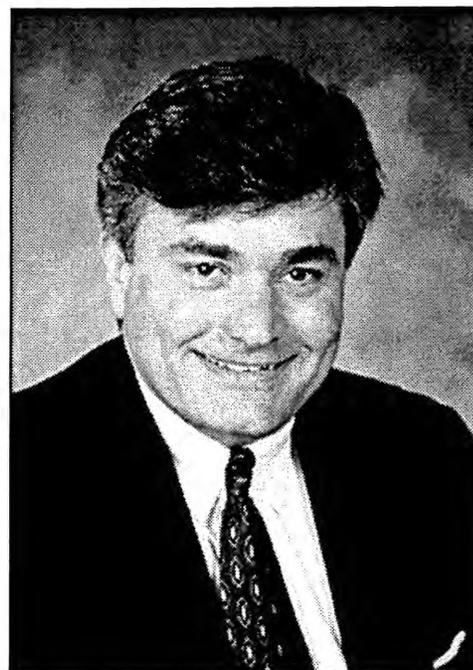
K. A. DeRosa

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## Senators Nozzolio, Kuhl and Assemblyman Magee Announce \$224,000 for the Experiment Station

Continuing their efforts in support of the Agricultural Experiment Station, State Senators Mike Nozzolio and Randy Kuhl, and Assemblyman Bill Magee announced on Wednesday, March 13, that they have secured \$224,000 in State assistance for the Experiment Station. The funding was secured as part of last year's State budget.

"Last year, we achieved a major victory in winning approval for the establishment of the Ag Tech Park at the Experiment Station, which will greatly enhance Geneva's national standing and reputation as a major research center in the development of new technologies and help create new jobs in the Finger Lakes region," said Senator Nozzolio. "It was a pleasure for me to work with Senator Kuhl and Assemblyman Magee in securing this funding to further enhance and support the Experiment Station's work. This represents yet another important investment in the Experiment Station and in the future of Geneva and the Finger Lakes."



Senator Nozzolio

Assemblyman Bill Magee, Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee said, "This investment in the Geneva Station is a real shot in the arm for the Finger Lakes, definitely, but also for agriculture across New York State as the Experiment Station continues to develop new technology and new products to aid and assist our farmers and agribusinesses with becoming more efficient, more diverse and, ultimately, more profitable."

Senator Kuhl said, "We're fortunate here in the Finger Lakes to be home to one of the nation's premier agricultural research centers. This new State investment will boost the regional economy and enhance the Geneva Experiment Station's ability to advance the future of New York State agriculture."

Director Jim Hunter said, "Without these funds, the Station would not be able to continue upgrading equipment needed to carry out field and laboratory research. Modern instruments and machines are essential for Station scientists to help New York food and agriculture industries, and to retain and attract businesses based on the plant and food sciences. The support of Senator Nozzolio, Senator Kuhl, Assemblyman Magee and Governor Pataki is greatly appreciated."

The funding secured by the Legislators will be used to assist the Experiment Station with upgrading equipment and machinery and to support the wine production training facility.

The funding brings New York State's investment in the Experiment Station to over \$1.5 million since 1995.

(BRIEFS, continued)

### Hazardous Mail Update

UPS will no longer accept a box that once carried hazardous materials and had the black diamond mark on it if you use the box to send non-hazardous materials. They will not accept the box if the diamonds are blackened out or warnings are crossed off. If you have non-hazardous materials, please ship in a box without the warnings. Of course, you can reuse your hazardous box when shipping hazardous materials but you must have the extra paperwork that goes along with it.

### Pollen of Plants Native to New York State

Over the past three years, the Dept. of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Cornell University has collected the skeletons of three mastodons in association with the Paleontological Research Institution of Ithaca, NY—one each in Chemung, Wyoming, and Dutchess counties. In addition, the department has access to material collected several years ago near Rochester.

Along with these skeletons, samples of “matrix”—the surrounding dirt—were taken and have now been analyzed for other, smaller fossils. With the help of several thousand school children, we have found snails, fish and turtle bones, spruce cones and seeds, charophytes, ostracodes, etc.—all telling us about life in shallow ponds in New York about 12,000 years ago.

The Dept. of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences is now ready to take the next step.

With the help of Michelle Goman, a new researcher at Cornell, we intend to look for yet smaller fossils—the remains of pollen that fell into the pond during the past 12,000 years. In order to sort out the many kinds of pollen, we need to establish a “reference” or comparative collection of pollen from plants that are “native” to New York State. We need pollen from plants that are found today in the counties where we collected, and we need pollen from plants that may have lived there 12,000 years ago—plants that live today in tiny refugia, where the modern climate mimics that of the past, or, perhaps, in northern New York and Canada.

Perhaps such a collection already exists for parts of the state. If so, and if you are aware of such a collection, could you

(Continued on page 3)

## Valencia Receives Perrine Scholarship

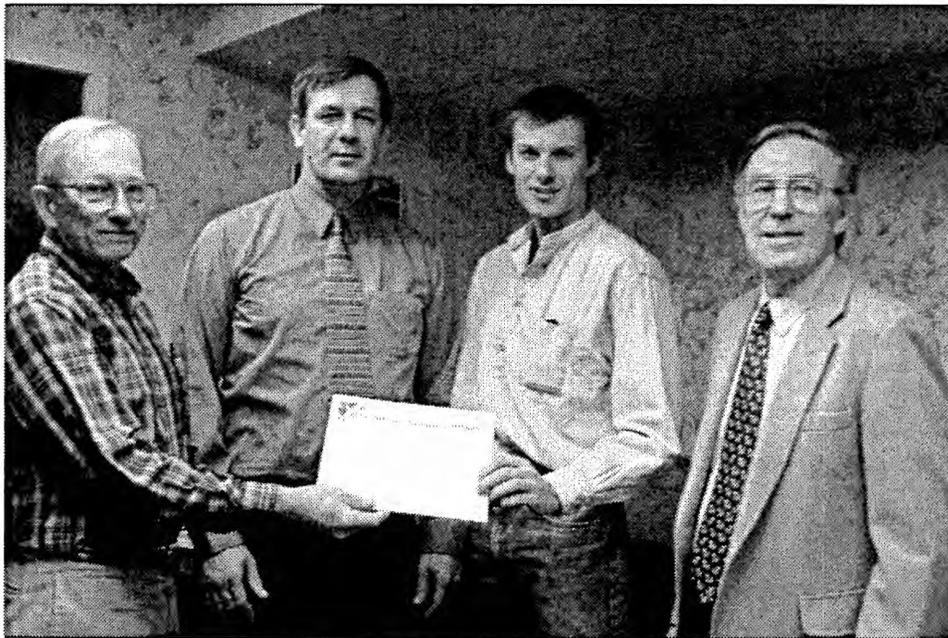
Alejandro Valencia, a Ph.D. candidate in horticultural sciences at Cornell, received the 2002 Perrine Scholarship Award during a small ceremony at the Experiment Station on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The award is in acknowledgement of his work in pomology. Horticultural sciences chairman, Hugh Price, and Station director, Jim Hunter, presented the award to Valencia on behalf of the Perrine family.

The scholarship was established by David Perrine (Cornell '22) in 1993 to support pomology research at Geneva. The \$2000 award supports Valencia's Ph.D. research program and educational expenses. Valencia is the seventh recipient of the award.

“Members of the Perrine family—the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren—have been very generous in making annual contributions to the endowment they established in memory of David B. and Fanny F. Perrine,” Price said. “Monetary awards such as this are greatly appreciated by graduate students who are in the final stages of completing their degree.”

Valencia, who is in his third year of study with Terence Robinson, was praised by his major professor. “Alejandro has developed into an independent thinker and researcher over the two and one-half years he has been at Cornell. He has done very well in his course work and his research,” said Robinson. “His goal is to help fruit growers remain profitable through improved crop management strategies. His research, although somewhat fundamental, has a practical goal: Help fruit growers replant apple trees and quickly get them into production to respond to changing markets.”

Valencia is conducting research on the factors that affect the growth of young apple trees. He is attempting to relate basic physiological concepts with the growth of apple trees in the first and



(l-r) Hugh Price, Terence Robinson and (far right) Jim Hunter presented the 2002 Perrine Award to Alejandro Valencia (2nd from r) on March 8.

second year after transplanting from the nursery. He alters the nitrogen available to the trees, studies the effect of the over-growth this causes, and analyzes the different root/shoot ratios. Concurrently, he studies water uptake in relation to apple tree size with the aim of understanding the effect of water stress on young trees. Young trees have a high resistance to water flow because of their small root systems.

Before coming to Cornell, Valencia, who is from Chile, received his bachelor's degree in horticulture in 1996 from the Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso. After graduation, he worked for three years as the manager of the Andes Nursery Association. The purpose of the company was to find new fruit varieties, bring them to Chile, evaluate them, and finally sublicense them to the

(Continued on page 3)

(SCHOLARSHIP, continued)

nurseries involved in the association. "It was a great job because I had to travel all over Europe and the US visiting breeding programs to sign agreements for the varieties," Valencia said.

What Valencia enjoys most about his work is proposing new lines of inquiry. "I like to develop new hypotheses to work on. It involves reading and studying what other people are doing in a given area, but it is nice to come up with ideas that your advisor and committee likes," Valencia said. He also said he especially enjoys working outside, taking care of trees, and making measurements during the summer. He noted that, "Geneva—and particularly the Station—is great place to work."

One of Valencia's biggest challenges is taking classes in Ithaca while conducting research in Geneva. "This is more stressful in spring when we start working in the field and also have to study for finals," Valencia said. This problem should be alleviated soon as he is planning to move to Geneva in May.

After he receives his Ph.D., Valencia will probably return to Chile and find a job, preferably in an applied research center. Eventually, he hopes to start his own business.

When he is not studying or working on his research, Valencia loves sports, movies, and BBQ. He plays volleyball, usually twice a week, and sometimes participates in big tournaments in the national league (USAVP). "My dream will always be to become a professional player," Valencia said.

J. Zakour

## Surplus Vehicles For Sale

1. 1987 Ford Aerostar van, 69K miles, \$300.00 min. bid
2. 1986 Ford Ranger pick-up, 62K miles, \$500.00 min. bid
3. 1985 Dodge pick-up, 71K miles, \$800.00 min. bid
4. 1990 Dodge sedan, 117K miles, \$250.00 min. bid
5. 1991 Olds sedan, 104K miles, \$1,000.00 min. bid
6. 1993 Ply. sedan, 116K miles, \$1,075.00 min. bid
7. 1993 Ply sedan, 109K miles, \$1,075 min. bid
8. 1999 Chev. 12 pass. van, 63K miles, \$11,700.00 min. bid

Sealed bids with description of vehicle turned into B&P office by 11 am April 1, 2002. For more information contact the Fleet Garage at ext. 2304.

## Think Spring



**GardenScape 2002—The Rochester Flower & Garden Show will be held at the Dome Center, 2695 East Henrietta Road in Henrietta, NY, March 14 - 16 (9:00 am - 9:00 pm) & March 17 (9:00 am - 5:00 pm)**

**Highlights:** 'Bursting with Color' is the theme this year. Come see more than 20 landscaped gardens, 80 vendors and displays. Children can learn and enjoy in the interactive children's garden.

**Seminars:** Daily, 5 shows, hourly, beginning at 11:00 am On Sunday only, beginning at 10:30 am

**Headliners:** Thursday, Pam Duthie, Chicago Botanic Garden, garden designer, writer, television and radio personality; Friday, Douglas M. Roth, publisher, editor; Saturday, John Brookes, School of Landscape Design in England, author, television and radio personality; Sunday, Lee Reich, "Weedless Gardening," author, lecturer, writer.

**Show Information:** Bob Kretzer, manager (716) 265-9018 and [www.RochesterFlowerShow.com](http://www.RochesterFlowerShow.com)

**Ticket Price at the door is: Adults \$10 • Children 6-12: \$4.00  
Children 5 and under: Free**

(BRIEFS, continued)

please let me know?

If not, I am asking your help in collecting pollen from identified plants during the coming spring. Many of you will know far better than I how to collect pollen. Some of you—leaders of children's or Master's gardening groups—may want instructions. I am working with Dr. Goman now on a hand-out. If you have time and an interest in this project, please contact me and I will send instructions and materials for collection.

*John Chiment, Dept. of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, 607-255-1010, [jjc1@cornell.edu](mailto:jjc1@cornell.edu)*

### New Risk Management Web Site

Senior extension associate Wen-fei Uva has announced that the Horticultural Business Management and Marketing Program at Cornell has just kicked off a risk management education web-site at [http://aem.cornell.edu/special\\_programs/hortmgt/risk/](http://aem.cornell.edu/special_programs/hortmgt/risk/) Under this site you can find the schedule for a series of risk management articles to use in newsletters, other risk management articles, and helpful risk management web-sites.

The first article of the risk management newsletter series is "Why Buy Crop Insurance" by Dr. Jerry White. Among other things, he notes: "In 2000, the Hudson Valley experienced severe hail damage that left fruit growers with an estimated two million bushels of unmarketable apples. We conducted a retrospective survey and analysis of how growers had managed their hail damaged crops. We asked what growers wished they had done differently in 2000. Six of the 30 who responded said they wished they had bought crop insurance prior to the season. As one grower put it, 'Over 20 years you lose money buying insurance. The idea is to be there after 20 years.'"

He also notes that crops insurance "is not an investment tool! It's a risk management tool that is used to put a safety net under cash income. In times of low production and damaging weather such as hailstorms, wind storms, and drought, crop insurance enables farm families to meet their financial obligations, both business and personal, and helps ensure the survival of the farm business."

*Keep in mind: White notes the deadline is March 15 for insuring eligible spring-planted crops. The deadline for perennial crops was last November.*

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**

MARCH 15 - 22, 2002

**MEETINGS**

**CALS CHAIRS MEETING**

**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2002  
**Time:** 3 PM  
**Place:** 264 Roberts Hall

**SEMINARS**

**HORT SCIENCE**

**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2002  
**Time:** 11 AM  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Staff Room  
**Title:** "Measuring and Modeling Carbon Balances in Apples and Grapes"  
**Speaker:** Dr. Alan Lakso, Dept. of Horticulture, Geneva

**PLANT PATH**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2002  
**Time:** 3:30 PM  
**Place:** Room A130, Barton Lab.  
**Title:** "Fire blight resistant transgenic apples: when will we be eating them?"  
**Speaker:** Dr. Herb Aldwinckle, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Geneva

**FOOD SCIENCE**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2002  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Place:** FST Conference Room, second floor  
**Title:** "Are the Culinary Arts Actually Food Science?"  
**Speaker:** Craig A. Hartman, Executive Chef, Statler Hotel, Ithaca

**LTC**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2002  
**Time:** 10-11 AM  
**Place:** PGRU Conference Room  
**Subject:** Windows Basics, Open forum Demonstration, not a hands-on class. Please register for this class by sending an email to mji4@cornell.edu  
**Instructor:** Jane Irwin

**FITNESS**

**Aerobics**

**Date:** Monday and Friday  
**Time:** 12:10 - 1 PM  
**Place:** Sawdust Cafe

**FREE TaeKwonDo Classes**

**Date:** Monday & Wednesday, March 18 & 20, 2002  
**Time:** 12:10 - 1 PM  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Auditorium

**CLASSIFIED**

**FOR SALE:** Self-cleaning electric range. Works great and is in excellent condition. Also a butcher block countertop and deep stainless steel sink with faucet as well as metal kitchen cabinets that go with the countertop. email Ralph D'Amato at rjd15@nysaes.cornell.edu, Ext. 2310 or at home 946-4635.

**LAKE HOUSE FOR RENT:** Two bedroom, year-round home, seven miles south of Geneva on the west side of Seneca Lake. Sleeps five comfortably. Natural gas central heat and city water. Fully equipped, eat-in kitchen, large open living room. Window enclosed 35-foot by 10-foot porch stretching across entire front of the house overlooking the water. Porch also has extra bed, dining room size table, couch and chairs. 70 feet of stone beach, 100 foot long wood and steel dock with 40-foot by 8-foot end platform allowing plenty of room for fishing and sunbathing. 25-foot by 100-foot side yard, great for kids. Rent is \$750/week with weeks still available in July and August. Pictures available or arrange to come and see for yourself, 257 Oak Tree Drive off West Lake Road, one mile south of Kashong. Contact Herb Cooley hje1 or call 789-9159 after 6PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1989 Volvo 240 sedan. Excellent running, clean, indestructible car. \$3,500. dmg4@cornell.edu or 789-8112.

**BEACH HOUSE:** Vacation getaway on beautiful, southwest shore of Canandaigua Lake, is only a 45 minute drive from Geneva, 10 minutes from Naples. Swim, sun, golf, fish, romance, relax, loaf, wine country, Bristol Valley Theater, Grape Festival, etc. Situated right on the water, suitable 1-2 couples or small family. Very nice beach area. Rowboat and canoe included. Summer openings remain in August. Reduced rates by week or weekend in Spring and Fall. Interested? Contact Elaine at elg2

**SAVE YOUR TOPS TAPES!!!** The Geneva High School Band is presently collecting Tops tapes as a fundraiser. Tapes are turned into the Geneva store and Tops donates funds to the band for every \$600 total collected in tapes. Funds donated to the band are used for expenses associated with upcoming competitions and trips. Please collect your tapes, place them in an interoffice envelope and send them to Janice Valerio, Plant Pathology, Barton Lab.

**COTTAGE FOR RENT:** Newly built, 18 miles south of Geneva on West side of Seneca Lake. Just a step off the path of the Finger Lakes Wine Trail. Enjoy a relaxing vacation of swimming, fishing and boating. Email Mary Lou Hessney at mlh5.

**FOR SALE:** Young goat kid, Nubian/Boer cross, \$ 35.00. Call x2496 or 315-585-2248.

**SPRING CLEANING SALE and Give Away,** Saturday 3/16/02, rain or shine, 9- 5 or until its all gone! 1569 Warncke Rd, Lyons (off Route 31 East). 946-5531. Dining room set, misc. household items, music boxes. All items priced to sell, and worth the trip! All prices negotiable! Coffee, juice, doughnuts, music, misc. items, free!

**GOOD BICYCLE AVAILABLE:** Older model, but not much used. Raleigh Sprite 10-speed with 19" mixte frame, upright handle bars, front bag, rear rack, good tires, bell (!). Helmet goes with. \$25, or free to graduate student working with Expt. Sta. professor. Contact MaryLou Dumbleton at 2290 or mld2@cornell.edu.

**FOR SALE:** Leaving in early April. Must sell a Performa computer and an Omega Zip drive. Both items are in excellent condition since I only used them for writing my thesis. If interested, please call Baozhong Meng at 2434 or 781-8465 at home. We can then discuss the price.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**WalkAmerica**

The Geneva Experiment Station will have a team for the annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica. Please mark your calendars, Sunday, May 5, 1:00 p.m., for the Walk! More info to follow.

