

# ALS NEWS



Agriculture and Life Sciences

August 1998

## Techno Trek

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## Agriculture and Life Sciences

A Publication for Alumni and Friends of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University/August 1998

### Modern Odyssey

An ALS alumna and nine other voyagers will travel around the world by land and by sea. Following them will be a million school kids hooked up to the Internet. You can go too.

In September, on her 25th birthday, Monica Flores '94 will set out for Antigua, Guatemala, on the first leg of a two-year, 50,000-mile journey. No air travel allowed.

Flores is off to see the world slowly and from the ground. Along the way she'll take the time to help out others—while electronically sharing her every adventure with a million American secondary school students. You, too, can go along. All you need is a modem, a computer, and an Internet connection. **The Web address is <www.worldtrek.org/odyssey/>**

Last winter Flores was chosen out of more than 1,000 applicants to become one of 10 volunteer team members of *The Odyssey: World Trek for Service and Education*, an experiment in computer-integrated education that aims to encourage community service with the whole world as a venue.

events, and helping the team make decisions about travel routes or how to handle difficult situations.

Among the other nine Odyssey team members is Pierre Allard, a Montreal attorney with 30 years of international work under his belt, who is currently coordinating the establishment of a home for abandoned children in Amapala, Honduras. Also on the trip will be Erika Lomax, program director of Teach for America, the national teacher corps that places teachers in under-resourced urban and rural public schools. Flores is second youngest of the ten.

"Many of the other people have finer credentials, speak more languages, and have more travel experience, but I have enthusiasm and persistence," says Flores, who when beset by self-doubts writes "I can do it" on a piece of paper.

It was her persistence that landed Flores the job.

Late one night last November she received an e-mail message from a friend pointing her to an article about *The Odyssey* in *Hotwired*, an on-line magazine. Before the night was over she had filled out an on-line application—seven pages long, backing up her keen interest in international service work with the details of her volunteer jobs since graduation three years before.

Within months of having received her undergraduate degree in environmental systems technology from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Flores signed on (through

the Jesuit Volunteer Corps) as a community health worker at \$75 per month plus room and board at the Los Angeles Free Clinic, a medical and social services program. She stayed there a year, then bumped her salary up to \$100 a month as the beekeeper at Slide Ranch, a small farm in the coastal wilderness outside San Francisco, where inner-city kids come to get a taste of country life. Both experiences, she says, solidified her commitment to volunteering.

Flores is currently developing Braille music software for transcribers and musicians.

She had been checking out opportunities for long-term international service work with the Jesuits when the *Hotwired* article appeared.

"I didn't think I would make it when I filled out the application," Flores recalls. So she began a relentless campaign of e-mail inquiries about her application's status. By Super Bowl Sunday she had interviewed and, although she wasn't told then that she had made it, she went ahead and bought a plane ticket to the upcoming staff retreat.

Unlike other international education programs on the Web, *The Odyssey* is free. It's supported through an alliance of nonprofit, corporate, and media sponsors under the umbrella of the San Francisco Foundation Community Initiative Funds. The budget is \$850,000.

Flores believes that through technology, the world is becoming a smaller place and that's for the good.

"With the power of the Internet, my generation

is going to be the one that has fewer misunderstandings about other people," she says. "I want to be a part of that."

Melita Winter

#### Itinerary

Antigua, Guatemala  
Cuzco, Peru  
Bamako, Mali  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
Cairo, Egypt  
Jerusalem, Israel  
Istanbul, Turkey  
Teheran, Iran  
New Delhi, India  
Xi'an, China



#### Curriculum themes

- using the Internet and understanding its role in society
- social action in theory and practice
- understanding and appreciating diversity
- causes and consequences of poverty
- the plight of indigenous peoples and minorities
- female-male roles and status
- culturally and economically responsible travel
- the environment and development
- the cultural and commercial effects of globalization
- youth and society

*Kids can surf the Web site, meeting the same people the team meets, reenacting trek events, and helping the team make decisions about travel routes or how to handle difficult situations.*

"When I was a little girl, my parents gave me a children's encyclopedia that had these fascinating stories of how children my age lived in foreign lands," says Canadian-born Flores. "I want to bring the same kind of magic into the lives of children nowadays. Because of the Internet, it will be more than just pictures in a book; on-line they can actually meet with school kids anywhere on the globe."

Before Flores returns to San Diego in September 2000, she will have spent six weeks in each of ten non-Western destinations around the world, traveling east. In each location, five of the team members will volunteer with a grassroots organization arranged through partnerships with nongovernmental organizations. In one place they may work in an orphanage, in another on a communal farm. The other five on the team will be roving reporters gathering information on the region's history, government, and modern culture.

Both groups will report video, sound, and text to two Web sites—one an interactive multimedia "you-are-there" site designed for 7th through 12th grade students, the other a curriculum site for teachers. Kids can surf the student site on their own, meeting the same people the team meets, reenacting trek



**Globe Trotter:** Flores and her fellow travelers will do volunteer work and report on the government and culture of the ten non-Western cities they visit.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



## Old Buildings Slated for Renovation and New Construction

**A** downside of being one of the oldest agricultural colleges in the United States is that we also have some of the oldest buildings in the country. This is a problem we've been wrestling with for several decades. Not only do we have to contend with the lack of environmental controls in many of our classrooms and labs, we also face the responsibility of keeping our buildings up to date in terms of teaching, research, and communication technologies. It's no coincidence that the dramatic increase in college costs over the past 15 years has paralleled the continuous development of new—and expensive—tools that we can use to better serve our students and stakeholders.

Fortunately, the State of New York and SUNY have recognized this fact and provided some of the funds needed to refurbish and even replace some of our oldest facilities. Those of you who haven't returned to campus in recent years haven't had the chance to visit Roberts and Kennedy Halls. These striking new buildings frame the western entrance to the Ag Quad and represent the face of the college for the next century.

Our long-term plans include both renovation and new construction. The major project at the moment is the much-needed addition to Mann Library. Built in 1952 from plans drawn up nearly 20 years earlier, Mann was obsolete almost from the moment it first opened its doors. The \$40 million addition will double the size of the library and provide it with the technology, climate controls, and additional space needed to keep it at the forefront of the world's agricultural libraries.

Following the Mann project, we hope to begin renovations of Stocking Hall and the Plant Science building. The first phase of the Stocking project will replace the building's central section, which is terribly deteriorated. Plans for the new building include laboratories, the dairy pilot plant, and a new dining facility. The second phase will renovate the west part of the building, the tower, to accommodate offices and classroom functions. Plant Science plans include refurbishing the greenhouses and upgrading the air supply and electrical systems.

Other projects on the horizon include new research greenhouse units for Guterman Lab; room renovations in Riley-Robb, Bruckner, and Plant Science; and an asbestos removal project and greenhouse replacement on the Geneva campus. Even our oldest building, Fernow Hall, is getting some attention with the installation of new windows. An important building in which many of you spent some hours is Bailey Hall. Its renovation is currently in the SUNY Construction Fund five-year plan.

How long will all this take? At least 15 years. In the very distant future we may even see a new wing added on to Plant Science, which will extend on to the site of old Roberts Hall. I look forward to keeping you informed of our progress on the bricks and mortar in future issues of *ALS News*.

Daryl Lund, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences

## Fear of Spiders Turns into Knowledge



Photo by Robert Banker

**G**iven their propensity for horror-movie behavior, it's little wonder that spiders provoke an immediate reaction of fear and disgust from students. That's why entomology instructor Linda Rayor does something very unusual: she begins her course on spiders by using education to cure her students of arachnophobia—the fear of spiders. She shows them a comedy-horror film called *Arachnophobia*; she talks about spiders in terms of enthusiasm, curiosity, and excitement; and she constantly exposes her students to all manner of spiders.

"People are so scared of spiders, I just don't understand it," says Rayor, who has been teaching her class, Entomology 215, "Spider Biology: Life on a Silken Thread," since 1994.

"People are not as frightened by insects as they are of spiders," she says. "Maybe it's the spiders' long legs, their furriness, and multiple eyes. And people regard their silk as really gross."

But eventually her psychology pays off as Rayor watches a class full of arachnophobes turn into freshly minted arachnophiles by semester's end. The two-credit course, the only Cornell class to offer a specific, full course on spiders, has become such a success that Rayor receives requests from universities across the United States for her syllabus.

Jennifer Chow, a junior from Voorhees, N.J., arrived in the class last August with the usual fear and loathing of spiders. She ended the class owning a Zebra tarantula (*Aphonopelma seemanni*) with venomous fangs and irritating hair.

"Although I can't take her out of her home, since she has fangs, I have grown very fond of her," says Chow of her eight-legged pet. "She's as low maintenance as a goldfish,

which is perfect for a college student, and she's a great conversation piece."

In addition to understanding spider behavior and how they adjust to their environment, students learn the relative risks of poisonous spiders and how silk works. "Because spiders are a model organism for other facets of biology, I sneak in a fair bit of knowledge, more than the students expect," Rayor says.

Perhaps one of the best agricultural predators, spiders might be among the least understood. Currently, only 36,000 of the potential 170,000 spider species have been described in academic journals. Famed arachnologist W. S. Bristowe once estimated that an average country acre was home to 2.5 million spiders making serious contributions to reducing insect pests in the field.

Many of the students opt for buying their own tarantulas, but Rayor tells the class, "If you buy an adult tarantula, you are getting an animal that is 3 to 11 years old and deserves to be treated with respect." They are easy to care for, she says, but need moist, warm areas to live in and to be fed once every one to three weeks.

Some tarantula species are aggressive and fast, and even Rayor does not handle them. "They have half-inch fangs and a feisty nature," she says. "You don't cuddle your fish. I tell students not to cuddle their spiders."

They also have urticating hairs coated with chemicals that itch the skin or inflame membranes.

"I have known people who have gotten urticating hairs of tarantulas in their eyes and needed surgery to have the hairs removed," Rayor says.

Blaine P. Friedlander, Jr.

## FACULTY OBITUARIES

**David B. Hand**, emeritus professor of biochemistry and former chairman of the Department of Food Science and Technology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, died Jan. 22, 1998. He was 92.

Highlighting his tenure as department chairman was the construction of the Food Research Laboratory in 1960. His research focused on the processing and nutritive value of plant proteins, measurement of food quality, and use of food additives.

Hand had an abiding interest in the use of food technology to improve nutrition in this country and developing nations. He served on several national councils and advisory boards.

**Elizabeth B. Keller**, a biochemist who made fundamental contributions to the understanding of how proteins are made in living cells, died Dec. 20, 1997. She was 79.

A professor emerita of biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, Keller still was actively engaged in research and teaching until a week before her death.

Early in her career, Keller worked closely with Robert Holley in a study of the structure of transfer RNA, which culminated in his winning the Nobel Prize. More recently her research focused on genes that cause cancer.

**Jason Millman**, professor of education and an expert on standardizing testing methods, died Feb. 22, 1998, at the age of 64.

Millman spent a large part of his career studying standardized testing of high school and college students, developing evaluation guidelines for teachers, and trying to find accurate ways to measure human performance in an academic setting.

In 1992 Millman was commissioned by the New York State Court of Appeals to study whether the New York Bar exam was biased. He concluded that although passing rates differed across groups, the bar exam was not biased. He also studied the appropriate use of the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

**Willard B. Robinson**, retired director of the Cornell Institute of Food Science and retired chair of the Department of Food

Science and Technology at the New York State Experiment Station in Geneva, died Dec. 28, 1997. He was 79.

Robinson established an international reputation in his career as a food chemist and enologist. He was recognized as an authority on nutrition and food safety. He was a member of several committees of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. As a consultant to the U.S. Interdepartmental Committee on Nutrition for National Development, he served as food technologist for nutrition surveys in Colombia, Bolivia, and Honduras.

# Irradiation Puts the Juice Back in Burgers

The Food and Drug Administration has given the nod to irradiating beef. But will consumers buy burgers that have been treated with gamma rays? They should, says food scientist Robert Gravani.



"Despite common beliefs, the consumer drives the food system," Gravani explains. "People may think that the food industry is trying to push irradiated foods on us, but it doesn't work that way. A company can produce as much of a product as it wants, but if nobody buys the product, it won't be on the grocery shelves very long."

Irradiation pasteurizes food by using radiant energy, just as milk is pasteurized using heat. The food is passed through a

field of gamma rays released by the common medical radioisotope cobalt-60. As the rays pass through the food, much as light passes through a window, they kill insects, fungi, and bacteria that cause disease or food spoilage by disrupting their DNA.

Because the energy is not strong enough to change the nuclei of atoms in the food, the food itself cannot become radioactive. A variety of techniques are used to maintain the taste, texture, or nutritional quality of the foods.

We are routinely exposed to irradiated products in daily life. Surgical gloves, sutures, bandages, intravenous fluids, medical and dental instruments, drugs, cosmetics, and nonstick cookware coatings are all made safe by irradiation. The risk of foodborne illnesses in space is wiped out by irradiating the foods that the astronauts eat during flight.

The main advantage to irradiating ground beef is that the deadly bacterium *E. coli* 0157:H7 can be destroyed and consumers can enjoy their hamburgers cooked pink and juicy. The only other way to kill this bacterium is by cooking the meat to 160 degrees F. until it is well done.

It's this assurance of safety that makes irradiation advantageous when used with other foods as well. Low doses can kill at least 99.9 percent of *Salmonella* bacteria in poultry. In grains and spices (usually imported from other countries) irradiation can destroy pathogenic bacteria and parasites along with insects and insect larvae that otherwise would have to be killed by fumigation.

Irradiated foods have been commercially available since the late 1950s, and research on the safety of food irradiation has been conducted for nearly 50 years. Scientists who have studied food irradiation strongly support this food preservation technology. Many prestigious international and national organizations and agencies endorse food irradiation. For example, the World Health Organization urges people to choose irradiated foods whenever they can. The American Medical Association and the American Dietetic Association vouch for them, too.

But remember, Gravani says, nobody in the food industry sees irradiation as a silver bullet that can be used to solve all of our food safety problems, cover up bad food, or replace proper handling, storage, and temperature control as food moves from farm to table. Only top quality and wholesome foods should be processed with this technology. If food is of questionable quality, it should not be irradiated.

Gravani suggests looking at irradiation as just one more preservation technology alongside heat preservation (such as pasteurization and canning), freezing, dehydrating, concentrating, fermenting, smoking, or sealing in modified-atmosphere packaging.

"Irradiation is just another arrow in the industry's quiver that should be used as part of an overall program to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of our foods," Gravani says. "I believe people should have a choice to buy irradiated products if they want them."

Metta Winter



By law all irradiated foods must be labeled with the international symbol for irradiation: simple green petals (representing the food) in a broken circle (representing the rays from the energy source). This symbol must be accompanied by the words, "treated by irradiation" or "treated with radiation."

## Pasteurization Faced a Battle, Too

In 1886 the German chemist Soxhlet recommended improving the health-related qualities of milk by using the heat treatment developed by Louis Pasteur 20 years earlier to prevent spoilage in wine and later, in beer. Public controversy raged. Even though it soon came to be recognized that raw milk carried diseases including diphtheria, typhoid, tuberculosis, and scarlet fever, it wasn't until the 1920s that pasteurized milk became common throughout the United States and Canada.

What eventually turned the tide was a rising concern for the public's health. Today acceptance of irradiation is being hastened by widespread outbreaks of foodborne illness, such as that of the dozen people who became seriously ill last summer from ground beef contaminated by the virulent bacterium *E. coli* 0157:H7. The incident prompted the nation's largest meat recall—25 million pounds of beef patties had to be pulled from the food supply.

### Compare these early false objections to pasteurization with those currently leveled against irradiation:

- Pasteurization may be used to mask low-quality milk.
- Pasteurization gives rise to a false sense of security.
- Pasteurization destroys beneficial enzymes, antibodies, and hormones and takes the "life" out of milk.
- Pasteurization significantly lowers the nutritive value of milk.
- Pasteurization is not necessary in a country where milk goes directly and promptly from producer to consumer.
- Pasteurization is unnecessary, because raw milk does not give rise to tuberculosis.
- Pasteurization impairs the flavor of milk.
- Pasteurization fails to destroy bacterial toxins in milk.

(Adapted from *Food Irradiation: a Guidebook* by Morton Satin, Technomic Publishing Co., Inc., Lancaster, Pa., and Basel, Switzerland, 1993, pp 98 and 99)

**O**n a weekend last January when more than 41 million Americans turned to their newspaper supplement, they came face to face with a steer whose otherwise benign countenance glowed a menacing hot pink. The photo and headline—Should You Eat Irradiated Meat?—were real grabbers.

The copy for this cover story in the *USA Weekend* magazine questions why consumers remain leery of irradiated meat, even though experts say it is safe.

When professor of food science Robert B. Gravani MS '69, PhD '75 asks his students what picture comes to mind when he uses the words "irradiated food," they invariably say nuclear power plants such as Three Mile Island or Chernobyl. There's the rub that for nearly 40 years has put the brakes on adopting a safe, well-re-

*The main advantage to irradiating beef is that there is no heat involved. So hamburger lovers can eat their burgers rare and juicy with no fear of the deadly E. coli 0157:H7.*

searched food preservation technology that can help ensure the safety and wholesomeness of our food. Consumers in 28 other countries around the world eat irradiated foods with no ill effect.

Now that the Food and Drug Administration has given the OK to irradiating beef, it can join the U.S. approved commodities list along with wheat flour (available since 1963), pork, poultry, spices, fruits, and vegetables. But irradiated foods will be on the grocery shelves only if consumers want them. And that will happen only when we are convinced that they are safe and that the technology is to our advantage.

# Grad Students Work Behind the Scenes

**G**raduate students sometimes seem like the invisible throngs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Who are the grad students? How are their studies funded? And what is their contribution to the college and the university? The following statistics give a snapshot of ALS grad students for the 1997-1998 academic year.

## Demographics

- 42 percent are foreign students
- 90 countries are represented
- ages range from 22 to 58
- 475 are female, 517 are male

## Degree programs

- 706 Ph.D. candidates
- 274 master's candidates
- 12 nondegree students

## Financial support

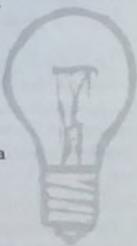
- 208 teaching assistants, who assist faculty in teaching courses
- 19 graduate assistants, who help their departments in a variety of capacities
- 50 research assistants, who primarily work on faculty members' research projects
- 248 graduate research assistants, who work on a funded research project contributing to their dissertation
- 82 receive Cornell fellowships
- 181 received government and other types of fellowships from outside the university
- 132 are self-funded
- 72 have unknown funding sources

Here is a sample of the innovative research projects being worked on by ALS graduate students.

## What Price for Electricity?

There is a national trend to deregulate the electric power industry and convert it from a regulated, government-owned system to a competitive industry. The way the market is set up could have a tremendous effect on the price of electricity. In spite of the enthusiasm shown for deregulation, research suggests that consumers may not benefit, because current industry-proposed markets may not produce the hoped-for decreases in electric power prices.

John Bernard and Bob Ethier in agricultural, resource, and managerial economics are studying alternative types of market mechanisms for determining the price of electric power under a competitive market.



## Better Fresh Dough Is Coming

Fresh dough products cannot be made from whole grain wheat because of the discoloration that occurs within hours. The discoloration is caused by the same enzyme that causes bananas, apples, or potatoes to brown after they are cut open.

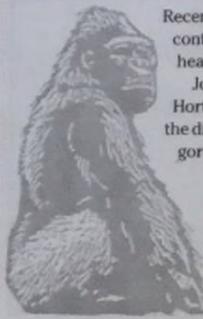
Molly Cadle in plant breeding has a strategy for genetically engineering wheat to produce pizza and bread dough that can be stored longer and has higher quality without chemical additives. Her work is novel because it utilizes wild germplasm, molecular genetics, and transformation and solves a problem that people can identify with.

## Gorillas Use Food as Medicine

Recent evidence suggests that animals eat certain plants to control infection, regulate physiology, and otherwise maintain health.

John P. Berry in plant biology (through the L. H. Bailey Hortorium) is investigating the phytochemistry of food plants in the diet of gorillas, particularly the highly endangered "mountain gorilla," which numbers only about 600 in the world.

Approximately 30 percent of the food plants in the herbaceous diet of mountain gorillas were found to contain antibacterial constituents, most of which remain uncharacterized. The continued identification of antibiotics and other compounds used by animals will likely help us explore the wealth of natural products in the plant kingdom.



## Who Gains, Who Loses with Dairy Trade Rules?

Phil Bishop in agricultural, resource, and managerial economics is looking at international trade in dairy products. In many countries, dairy products make up a large proportion of food expenditures. As governments move toward less subsidization of agriculture and as trade negotiations move toward free access to foreign markets, the United States, as the largest dairy producer and the largest dairy consumer, must carefully consider the consequences of changes to existing trading rules. For example, who stands to gain and who stands to lose?

## Spinach Goes Hydroponic

"The spinach is amazing. It has no damaged leaves or dirt and tastes great," says Leslie Katzman in floriculture and ornamental horticulture. She is working in controlled environmental agriculture, growing plants hydroponically for a wide range of markets. Currently she is germinating spinach for a hydroponic system.

Katzman has several reasons for doing this research. Hydroponic crops support local production because they can be grown anywhere at any time of the year. They have less environmental impact than traditional crops do because her system uses no pesticides and recirculates nutrients and water. And they have better quality, she points out.



Leslie Katzman holds one of the spinach plants she has germinated to grow in a hydroponic system.

## Plants Remove Lead from Soil

Phytoremediation is a new and promising field that combines chemistry and horticultural science in an effort to improve the earth. Plants can be used as low-maintenance, low-cost tools to extract pollutants, provide surface stabilization, and improve the aesthetic value of contaminated soils.

Ruby S. Beil in floriculture and ornamental horticulture is examining phytoextraction of lead-contaminated soil. Lead is sparingly soluble and therefore difficult to remove from soil, and its toxicity to vertebrates, especially human children, is well known and especially problematic because of lead's intimate association with human habitation. The primary objective of Beil's study is to induce lead uptake into the shoots of low-input perennial plants (tall fescue and red maple) by adding synthetic chelation agents to contaminated soil.

## Ants and Plants Are Symbiotic

Fabian A. Michelangeli, working through the Bailey Hortorium, is researching the evolution of the symbiosis between ants and plants, called myrmecophytism. The plant provides the ants with some nesting structure, as well as food, and the ants protect the plant against herbivores such as other ants, grasshoppers, and caterpillars. Myrmecophytism is believed to play an important role in maintaining biodiversity among plants and ants in the tropics.

Michelangeli is focusing on *Tococa*, a genus endemic to the tropics that comprises more than 30 species of shrubs, half of which are myrmecophytic. The fact that in a group of closely related species some present the symbiotic association and others don't, allows Michelangeli to study the evolution of myrmecophytism within a group with similar ecological and genetic constraints.



Faculty Profile: Gerald F. Combs Jr. M.S. '71, Ph.D. '74

# He Mobilizes People to Avert Malnutrition

Rather than thinking of nutritional deficiencies as medical problems, Jerry Combs sees malnutrition as a failure of the food system.

**T**he two little girls were both five years old: Jerry Combs's lively and determined daughter Kiersten and the other one, a wan figure lying back wearily in her mother's arms. Combs had just been shown the x-ray of the second girl's chest. Her heart, enlarged five times its normal size, pressed right up against her rib cage. He knew she wouldn't live long.

Combs's Chinese hosts turned to him and said, "Professor Combs, selenium expert, what shall we do?"

"I could barely keep from crying," recalls Combs, a professor of nutrition with joint appointments in the Division of Nutritional Sciences and the Department of Animal Science, who had been invited to China in 1980 to investigate reports of Keshan disease, a cardiomyopathy in children eating a severely selenium-deficient diet.

"I had never felt so impotent in all my life. The bench science I had done up to that point seemed so esoteric and irrelevant. I decided that just publishing wasn't enough, that whatever I did from that point on would need to have relevance for children like that," he says.

On a recent afternoon, Combs's desk in Savage Hall is strewn with Polaroids of more children. They were taken just weeks before in rural Bangladesh, not far from the Burmese border. The long bones of their lower legs are bent; some have bowed legs, others knock knees. Combs points out that in that society, young girls who cannot walk can expect to have few opportunities and little social standing.

"Rickets," he says, "destines them to become beggars in a country with 40 percent unemployment."

A year ago in June, Combs first laid eyes on these children, who suffer from a disease that nutritionists do not expect in tropical countries. Yet more than 15,000 Bangladeshi children suffer from it. In less than a year he mobilized an international consortium of agricultural and medical experts who, with full participation from the local people, are gearing up to address the children's plight. And he found public and private moneys to the tune of \$350,000 per year for each of the next three years to support this effort.

How did he pull off such a comprehensive response to a problem that a local nongovernmental organization has spent the last seven years trying to stir up interest in? Combs has become audacious, he says, since that afternoon almost 20 years ago when the contrast between two five-year-old girls "changed the trajectory" of his life. And he has become a famous scientist too; his book *The Role of Selenium in Nutrition*, which references 2,000 scientific papers, is the bible in the field. So with his own weight, and Cornell's name behind him, he can get the job done.

Looking back at his childhood, you might say that the writing was on the wall. Ask Combs a question, and he'll tell you a story. One of his favorites is about wallpapering with his dad, Gerald F. Combs Sr. Ph.D. '48, an internationally renowned poultry nutritionist inclined to talk shop.

As the story goes, Combs Sr. had scrawled the chemical structure of the

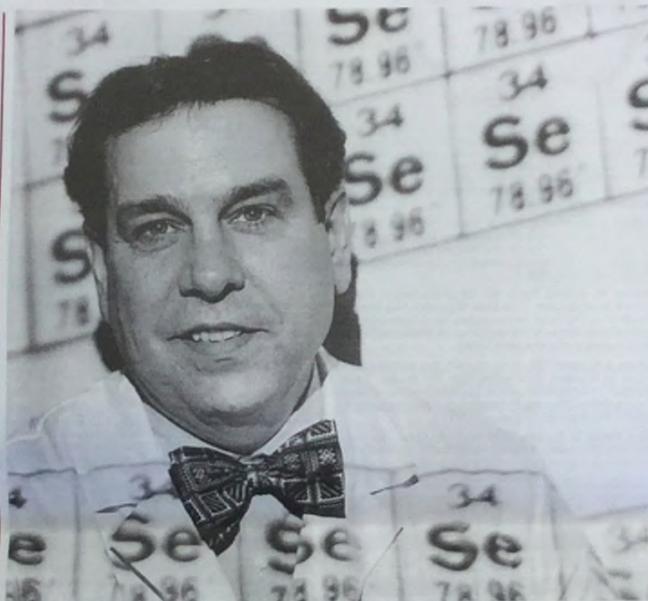


Photo by Frank Dimeo

**Essential Combs:** Selenium is the last of the 40 nutrients currently recognized as essential for human nutrition. Combs is an expert on selenium and malnutrition.

vitamin folic acid on the dining room wall in paint, assuring his teenage son not to worry, that the wallpaper they were putting up later that day would cover it. But, when wet, the wallpaper didn't cover the paint. Combs says, "We were sweating bullets for fear my mother would find the paint had bled through!"

When Combs Jr. was 16, his dad, as deputy director of nutrition of USAID, led the only authoritative nutrition survey of Bangladesh. And he brought home his own slides of Bangladeshi children.

venting the diseases of malnutrition. Rather than thinking of these diseases as medical problems, they should be seen as failures of food systems.

"It's no longer good enough to measure agricultural production in terms of yield per acre," Combs says. "That way of thinking has left us in a world where 40 percent of the women are anemic and 35 percent of children under age five are stunted. Every day 100 children in Bangladesh alone go blind due to a vitamin A deficiency. Instead of thinking of food as a

*"It's no longer good enough to measure agricultural production in terms of yield per acre. That way of thinking has left us in a world where 40 percent of the women are anemic and 35 percent of children under age five are stunted."*

—Combs

Under ordinary circumstances, people who consume adequate amounts of calcium and phosphorus and are exposed to enough sun to manufacture their own Vitamin D won't get rickets. Combs hypothesizes that two factors are involved with the Bangladeshi children—a predisposing one that is likely to be a low calcium intake and an exacerbating factor, possibly heavy metals, that interfere with the body's use of calcium. One immediate solution is to increase the amount of calcium in the children's diets. So you give them calcium pills, right?

Wrong, Combs says. That solution is inherently unsustainable; it will work in poor countries only so long as rich ones will pay the bill. What Combs proposes instead is to start thinking smarter by taking a broad systems approach to pre-

generic commodity, we need to see it as a vehicle for providing nutrients."

A food systems approach offers the ultimate virtue—sustainability. Cropping systems can be designed to optimize nutrient output while decreasing the needs for fertilizers and other inputs. In this era of biotechnology, it is possible, using genetic techniques, to enhance micronutrients such as vitamin A or beta-carotene in the staple grains—rice, wheat, and maize. (While these grains make up about 90 percent of the diet in developing countries, they currently provide little more than calories and some protein.) Other critical micronutrients could be added to foods, such as by fortifying table salt with iodine.

Combs is a central figure in the Food Systems for Improved Health working

group. It's an interdisciplinary team within the college that includes plant nutritionists, plant physiologists, agronomists, horticulturists, soil chemists, and other nutritionists. Together they are spearheading an international effort to find permanent food-based solutions to the diseases of malnutrition. It was Combs who came up with the idea of an international workshop to promote the approach more broadly.

Three years ago he chaired "Food-Based Approaches to Preventing Micronutrient Malnutrition: Setting an International Research Agenda" held in Salt Lake City. One hundred opinion leaders from 31 countries attended.

At 51, Combs says he sees his diverse skills in nutritional biochemistry, entomology, animal production, grant writing, public speaking, and organizational management coming together to further this new way of thinking about food production and health.

"Your days are the coinage of your life," Combs says. "So I want to spend mine doing something that's worthwhile."

Melita Winter

## People Taking Selenium for 10 Years Had Fewer Cancers

**F**or 15 years, Jerry Combs has been studying the relationship between selenium and cancer. In a 1996 report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, he and his co-authors from Cornell and the University of Arizona were the first scientists to show that a single nutrient can change a cancer risk.

"Although more than 100 animal studies and dozens of epidemiological studies have linked high selenium status to low cancer risk, this is the first double-blind, placebo-controlled cancer prevention study with humans that directly supports the thesis that a nutritional supplement of selenium, as a single agent, can reduce the risk of cancer," Combs says.

In 1983, the researchers recruited 1,312 randomized patients with histories of skin cancer at seven dermatology clinics located in low-selenium areas of the United States. The patients were given either a placebo or a 200-microgram daily supplement of selenium. The idea was to see whether selenium would reduce the average recurrence rate.

Ten years later the results were not significant for skin cancer, but were "compelling" for overall cancer incidence and mortality rates, Combs says.

While he and his colleagues are following up on this breakthrough, Combs emphasizes the importance of consuming low-fat diets that are at least adequate in selenium and are balanced with respect to other essential nutrients. The most important dietary sources of selenium are meats, fish, and cereals.

Susan Lang

## ALUMNI NOTES



1930s

**Eugene J. Gerber '38, MS '41** of Gainesville, N.Y., is a retired Colonel of the U.S. Army. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Florida for entomology and nematology.

**Charles N. Hunt '39** of Gainesville, was in the banking and management investment field for 35 years. He is now retired from being the senior vice-president of the Liberty National Bank and Trust Company.

**Robert W. Wilson '39** of Slingerlands, N.Y., has been retired from the landscape architecture field for 22 years. His wife, Gladys, died March 31, 1997, and he later moved from Eastis, Fla., to his home in the Beverwyck Retirement Living Complex in Slingerlands.



1940s

**Donald R. Nesbitt Sr. '40** of Albion, N.Y., is still playing golf and enjoying good health and retirement.

**Arthur E. Underwood '41** of Cortland, N.Y., is retired and now resides in the Cortland Memorial Nursing Facility.

**John M. Bishop MS '42** has retired and moved from Cheshire, Conn., to Venice, Fla. He is farming in Florida, raising vegetables and flowers on "Bishop's Farm."

**James H. Whitaker '42, MSA '47** of Storrs, Conn., taught at the University of Connecticut for 30 years in agricultural engineering. After retiring, he worked in India for three years and Kenya for one year. Now he does community work and is the author of *Agriculture Buildings and Structures*.

**John T. Conner Sr. '44** of New Paltz, N.Y., is the owner of Sunnysgables Farm in Montgometry, N.Y. He and his son,

**John T. Conner Jr. '72**, operate a thoroughbred and standardbred horse breeding farm. His granddaughter, **Kristie Conner**, is a freshman in the class of 2001.

**George B. Elliott '44** of Cortland, N.Y., is retired, and his five children are all married and in their 40s.

**Robert D. Farrell '48, DMV '51** of Mount Upton, N.Y., is practicing veterinary medicine. He won the NYS Practitioner of the Year in 1995.

**Lawrence Lewis '49** of Troupsburg, N.Y., has retired from the U.S. Postal Service as a rural mail carrier. He has owned two dairy farms and he sold farm and dairy equipment for 15 years. His father passed away on July 6, 1997, at age 95.



1950s

**J.P. Holbein '50** of Biloxi, Miss., is a retired general manager of the Michigan Blueberry Growers Association. He spent 10 years as a consultant to the trade association. His major activity now is being part of the lives of 10 grandchildren and catching crabs from their dock on the Tchoutaca Bouffa River. His wife of 52 years, Mary, is active in church and knits Norwegian sweaters.

**Robert J. Lambert Jr. '50** of Ithaca, N.Y., has recently retired after teaching freehand drawing in the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell for 42 years. He will continue to teach on a less frequent basis for the next three years.

**Janeline W. (Wirth) Tobin MS '52** of Bradenton, Fla., is retired from the New York State Education Department. She lived in Old Forge for two years, but decided she was not a woodswoman so moved to her new home in Florida for a heated pool and a good library.

**Glenn A. Crowson '53** of Oswego, N.Y., has retired after 30 years of teaching. He's active with the Grange, Lions, Knights of Columbus, and is president of the Oswego County School Pageant. Presently he's a photographer for Trader Publications in Liverpool, N.Y.

**Mrs. Henry W. Burgess '55** of Salisbury, Conn., has found her Cornell courses to be incredibly useful, especially City

Planning and Landscape Design. She has been chairman of the local historic district commission for 10 years, and is active at her own town's Historic Home.

**Robert B. Snook II '58** of Bayville, N.Y., is the president of RBS Delivery Service.

**Thomas G. Farnell '59** of Littlefalls, N.Y., is a dairy farmer thinking about retiring.



1960s

**John J. Sullivan '62** of Canandaigua, N.Y., works for Morgan Samuels Inc./Trinwad Genetics. He deals with international sales and production for the most elite genetics of Holstein cattle in the world. He is married to Julie Nelson and has six children, five daughters, and one son.

**Sandra Kebbe Hansen '63** of Dexter, Mich., spent many years with a large multidisciplinary planning and design firm, and then entered a partnership with another landscape architect from the same firm. Their enterprise is now 5-1/2 years old.

**David E. Cochrane '66** of Acton, Mass., has been a professor of biology at Tufts University since 1976. He teaches, conducts research, and does a lot of administrative work. His wife, Pam, is a clinical psychologist. Together they have two children, Alec and Jessica, and a border collie named Maggie.

**Phyllis W. Barlow '67** of Groton, N.Y., is a retired Cooperative Extension agent in home economics for Oswego, Wayne, and Ulster counties.



1970s

**James I. Marion '70** of Grahamsville, N.Y., is the resource management director for the NYS Department of Correctional Services. He is in charge of direct recycling and organic waste composting for 70 prisons and the D.O.C.S. agriscience program at nine farms.

**Howard R. Jacobson '71** of Canandaigua, N.Y., is the senior vice president at the Canandaigua Wine Company.

**Gerald B. Smith '71** of Truro, Canada, is the executive director for the Department of Agriculture and Marketing. He worked as a horticulturist on Prince Edward Island for four years.

**Leonilda M. Burke '74** of Ballston Spa, N.Y., recently retired in 1998 and sold her own business. She now has interests in horse training and carriage driving.

**Sandra Brown Kryger '74** of Walden, N.Y., is a licensed veterinary technician and a certified veterinary practice manager, and just finished her second term of the NYS Board for Veterinary Medicine. Kryger owns her own consulting business called Sundown Veterinary Management Consulting.

**Kevin R. Malchoff '74, MBA '75** of Eden, N.Y., is the executive vice-president for Rich Products Corp. in Buffalo, N.Y.

**Mark J. Dewey '75** of Byron, N.Y., owns Dewey Produce. With his wife, Kim (Britt) Dewey, they have three children: Meghan (a freshman at Cornell), Sarah, and Nathan.

**Anthony T. Zieno '75** of Sidney, N.Y., is the owner of Manufacturer's Rep. Agency with 10 sales representatives covering 11 Northeast states. He and his wife, Ann, and 11-year-old daughter, Alycia, visit campus often.



1980s

**Jim Bittner '80** of Barker, N.Y., was one of four U.S. Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmers for 1998. The award was based on progress in agriculture, soil, and water conservation practices and contributions to the well-being of the community, state, and nation.

**Robin C. Schuttenberg '80** lived in Asia for four years working for USIS in Singapore as an academic guidance counselor for students bound for the United States. She is now the director of humane education for the Tompkins County SPCA. She's married and has three children and two dogs.

**Karen J. Evert '81** of Yorkville, N.Y., is a senior underwriter for the Metropolitan Property and Casualty. She is active in birdwatching, astronomy, and counted cross-stitch.

**Elizabeth Graper Thomas '81** of Trumansburg, N.Y., owns Liz Thomas Orchard Consulting and was honored at the NYS Horticultural Society meeting on Jan. 22, 1998. She was recognized for her achievements in integrated pest management (IPM). Thomas is on the board of directors of the Northeast Weather Association, attends conferences and trade shows, is active in her local PTA, as well as being a mother of five.

**Laurie B. Crist Ramos '83** lives in Orlando, Fla.

**David C. McIntyre '84** of Palo Alto, Calif., was recently made senior counsel at the law firm Fenwick and West LLP. He concentrates his practice in patent litigation and is currently president of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

**Ann A. Ormsby '84** of Auburn, N.Y., is a key account manager for NYSER. She and her husband, Tim, have two children. She enjoys horseback riding, hiking, and boating with the family, and boating and fishing.

**Ma Veet Deha '85** of Ithaca, N.Y., is known as the "Compost Queen of Tompkins County." She is the compost educator for Cooperative Extension and is still seeking options in her field of vegetable crops.

**Paul K. Kintner III MS '85** of Tucson, Ariz., started his own business in 1993, K3 Fossils & Minerals, of which he is now president. He collects, buys, trades, and sells mineral and

fossil specimens. He still maintains interest and business activity in the food science arena, as well as being active in nature conservation and outdoor and sport activities, including ice hockey.

**Brian E. Mitchell '86** of Baldwinsville, N.Y., has worked in the field of occupational safety and health for the last 11 years. He's happily married to Patti who has a career as a nurse practitioner. Together they have two children, Todd and Dana. Their free time is spent enjoying outdoor activities.

**David H. Pugh '86** of Cobleskill, N.Y., and his wife, Jody, have two children, Jennifer and Gregory. He is the vice-president and branch manager of the First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA, and continues to see and meet Cornell alumni both personally and professionally.

**Phil Wiles '86** of Oswego, N.Y., became a partner at his insurance agency, The Partners. His wife, Tracy (Keller) Wiles '88, is the associate director for the ALS Planned Giving Program. Their son, Graham, is three years old.

**Paula Zehr '86** of Lowville, N.Y., has taken her hobby of pumpkin growing to a new extreme. For the past 12 years she has been growing giant pumpkins, which brought her the 1996 World Title with a pumpkin weighing 1061 lbs. It was named "The Great Can Do." Paula and her husband, Nathan, can be seen in the *Guinness Book of World Records* (see picture here). Along with this excitement, their first child Julian Widrick Zehr was born on Jan. 18, 1998.



**Melanie S. Commins '87** of Ithaca, N.Y., received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Virginia Tech. She has worked as an architect, a certified Montessori teacher, and an accountant. Currently she is a busy mom with three young children.

**(Susie) Li Chung Ying MS '87** of Ithaca, N.Y., is the director of research for survey intelligence in Ithaca. She has worked for Claritas as a demographer, and for NYSEG in pricing and economics and market research.

**Jean A. Ferreri '88, DVM '97** of Oradell, N.J., is a veterinary intern at Oradell Animal Hospital.

**Phillip E. Goodrum '89 MS '95** of Manlius, N.Y., is a scientist and environmental consultant for the Syracuse Research Corporation. He's completing his Ph.D. at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse; his research area is childhood lead poisoning. His wife is Amy Wilson (H.E. '89). They will be celebrating their 4th wedding anniversary this December. He enjoys horseback riding and winter mountaineering.



1990s

**Bridget Infante '90** just moved back to the Ithaca area to relocate her own business which designs and manufactures toys. She is also a pre-school teacher at Montessori, and earned her M.A. from N.Y.U. She has decided to trade in her metro-card for a home office, her rollerblades for ice skates, and her goldfish for a golden retriever.

**Lynda M. Tyler Lehr '90** of Canastota, N.Y., is the senior loan officer at the First Pioneer Farm Credit. She has one son, J. Dylan Lehr, born on Aug. 8, 1996.

**Stephen R. Weinstein '91** of Atlanta, Ga., was married to Elizabeth Searey on Nov. 29, 1997. Searey graduated from Florida State in 1991.

**Teresa A. Fischer '92** of Locke, N.Y., is a herd veterinarian for Willet Dairy, LP.

**Heather G. Savickas '92** has recently moved to Lawton/Fort Silo, Okla., with her husband. They own a small, 10-acre "farm" with two horses and their dog Jagee.

**Donna C. DeCostanzo '93** of Richmond Hill, N.Y., attended N.Y.U. School of Law. She graduated with a J.D. in law in 1996.

**Nathan C. Heilman '93, DVM '97** of Oradell, N.J., is a veterinarian for Delsego Ver Curis.

**Jean Joseph V. Toussaint '93** moved back to Haiti after graduating from Cornell. He works by himself producing large quantities of rice and pineapples.

**Mun Sin Monica Fung '94** now lives in Hong Kong.

**David A. Lon '94** of Buffalo, N.Y., is a 4th-year medical student at SUNY Buffalo.

**Matthew W. T. Spencer '94** of Cooperstown, N.Y., graduated in May 1998 from Wake Forest University School of Medicine. In mid-June he will begin an internship at Brown in Providence, R.I.

**Eileen M. Sierk '94** of Batavia, N.Y., is the merchandising assistant for J.C. Penney. She plans to get married in May 1999.

**Goal Travis '00**, student writer

The drawings of the eyeglasses for each decade are by Ithaca artist Jim Houghton.

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• **Outstanding Alumni and Faculty Awards**—presented at an annual banquet during Homecoming weekend, six alumni and two faculty received the prestigious awards from the ALS Alumni Association.

• **Senior/Grad BBQ**—over 600 students and faculty mingled on the Ag Quad during Senior Week.

• **Reunion Breakfast**—over 225 alumni enjoyed a hearty breakfast at the Triphammer Lodge and Conference Center, recognized retiring faculty, and heard a college update from Dean Daryl Lund.

• **Regional Events**—dues help offset the cost of local events like hockey game gettogethers, apple and pumpkin picking, dinners with faculty speakers, picnics, and Dean-Alumni Gettogethers.

Dues money also supports six Freshman Scholarships each year, this publication—ALS News—ALS Alumni Career Link, Open House/Transfer Day, and many other worthwhile activities.

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# Making of the Mann

The state is erecting a new building for Mann Library. Now it is up to Cornell to rescue unique and rare books that are deteriorating, acquire new books to keep the collection current and comprehensive, and enable Mann to remain the leader in library computer technology.

Visiting China in 1985 as a guest of the Chinese government, Kraig Adler, professor of neurobiology and behavior, attended a dinner in Fuzhou. There he met a man in his 80s who had studied genetics at Cornell in the early 1930s. Because of this Western influence, the man had spent the years of the Cultural Revolution toiling in rice fields, and Adler may well have been the first Westerner to have contact with him since the revolution. As he sat down next to Adler at the banquet table, the gentleman leaned over and whispered two pressing questions, "Is Johnny's Big Red Grill still there?" and "How is that great library?" The second question referred to the Albert R. Mann Library in the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Human Ecology.

Hearing the praises of Mann Library spoken around the world is not so unusual. At Mann, Cornell students and faculty and people worldwide have access to the sum total of human achievement in agriculture, biological sciences, environmental science, human ecology, natural resources, and nutritional science. Mann's agricultural collections are second in size only to the national agriculture library in Bethesda, Maryland. Adler, who is also former chair of the Mann Library Advisory Committee, cites the 1993 book he co-authored with Eri-mi Zhao, *Herpetology of China*. "The book has 2000 references," he says. "I checked my records and I only had to go off campus for eight, so 1,992 came from right here at Cornell, mostly from Mann."

New York State has realized the important mission of Mann Library and has committed nearly \$40 million dollars toward its expansion and renovation. One of the tallest cranes in the United States currently rises 390 feet behind the library, working on a 75,000-square-foot addition that will nearly double the size of the building. When the addition is completed in 1999, work will begin on renovating the current building. The result will be a modern library with the space, technology, and climate control needed to continue Mann's role as a world-class library.

"Mann's precious print collections have deteriorated at an alarming rate over the past decades because of the lack of proper humidity and temperature controls," says Janet McCue, acting director of Mann Library. Anyone who has studied in the stacks of Mann on a muggy summer day or with the steam heat at full tilt in winter can attest to that fact. Further, the cur-

rent stacks have no fire protection system and cannot accommodate the installation of one. The addition and renovation will provide the quality and variety of space traditionally found in excellent academic research libraries.

Space for technology is also part of the plans. Mann is a leader in the field of electronic libraries, despite the handicaps inherent in a physical plant built in 1952 from plans originally drawn in the 1930s. When it created the award-winning Mann Gateway in 1991, Mann Library opened itself to the world via the Internet and became one of the first university "libraries without walls" in the country. New space designed for technology will eliminate wires snaking across floors and around doorways, and open up new possibilities for Mann's leadership in library technology.

While New York State supports improvements to the library building, preserving the knowledge held within its

*Space for technology is also part of the new plans. Mann is a leader in the field of electronic libraries, despite the handicaps inherent in a physical plant built in 1952 from plans originally drawn in the 1930s.*

walls is a top priority of Cornell. In April 1998, the university and the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Human Ecology announced a two-year initiative to raise \$4 million in endowment funds for the library. Income from the endowment will support three fundamental functions at Mann: preservation, acquisition, and innovation. Preservation will rescue unique and rare books that are deteriorating daily. Acquisition will ensure that Mann Library's collection remains current and comprehensive. Finally, an endowment for innovation will enable Mann to continue its leadership in library computer technology and as an electronic provider of resources around the globe. At the time of the campaign's announcement, more than \$1.5 million had been raised toward the \$4 million goal.

Strengthening Mann through the current campaign is the highest development priority of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, according to Dean Daryl B. Lund. The campaign's success will help Cornell scholars and others continue developing life-saving ideas like those of David Pelletier, associate profes-

sor of nutrition. Pelletier's research established that even mild forms of malnutrition will kill children before starvation does. As a result of this research, health organizations today view curing malnutrition in the same light as vaccinations for polio and small pox. Like Adler and other faculty members, Pelletier finds it remarkable that his research required no additional data collection beyond access to the resources of Mann Library.

"All of us in the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Human Ecology realize that Mann Library is one of the great specialty libraries in the world," says Dean Lund, "Hard work and wise investment will keep it that way."

Ensuring this level of quality is expensive: Mann Library's ability to acquire books, journals, and other publications is being constrained by soaring prices. This price squeeze is compounded by the rapidly multiplying number of science journals that spring up as new technologies create new academic issues. In addition to inflationary pressures and a rapidly growing knowledge base, some of the priceless information stored in Mann Library is crumbling to dust. The acidic paper used in books printed between 1850 and 1950 becomes brittle over time. Today, 25 percent of the Mann collection is rapidly deteriorating. Acquisition, preservation, and the use of technology are costly, but they are a small price to pay for ensuring that future generations have the vast store of accumulated knowledge that we enjoy today.

For more information on the endowment campaign for Mann Library contact Kevin Mahaney, Assistant Dean for Public Affairs, 260 Roberts Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, (607) 255-7635, km70@cornell.edu.

Kevin Mahaney and Joseph Schwartz

Combining an endowment campaign for Mann Library with the state-financed renovation and addition to the building allows for the naming of spaces within the library in recognition of gifts. Below is a list of naming opportunities associated with the Mann Library Campaign. Gifts will support endowment for acquisition, preservation, and innovations.

## MANN LIBRARY CAMPAIGN Sample Naming Opportunities Based on Gift Levels

Gift:	Space to Be Named:
\$2,000,000	New Main Entrance Lobby
\$1,500,000	Stone Technology Education Center
\$1,000,000	Rare & Antique Collection Vault
\$500,000	Preservation Facility
\$250,000	Endowment in Support of Innovative Technology, "Front Door" to the Electronic Library
\$125,000	Technology Center Lobby
\$115,000	Library Seminar Room
\$75,000	Executive Board Room
\$50,000	Technology Center Seminar Room (current plans call for two or three)
\$25,000	Named Distinguished Collection for donor interest in any subject (Examples of already named collections are <i>Laces</i> , <i>Bees</i> , <i>Language of Flowers</i> )
\$20,000	Reading Room (current plans call for nine)
\$10,000	Named Essential Book Acquisition Endowment Fund (This will support acquisition in the donor's choice of one of four areas: agriculture, nutrition, human ecology, biology)
\$10,000	Named Essential Book Preservation Endowment Fund (This will support preservation in the donor's choice of one of four areas: agriculture, nutrition, human ecology, biology)
\$10,000	Faculty or Student Corral (current plans call for 27 to 74)
\$5,000	Named Endowment for General Acquisition (Donor's support will allow librarians to enrich the collections as needed; book pricing will honor the donor)
Any Amount	Jan Olsen Endowment (This will support acquisitions in honor of Jan Olsen, former director of Mann Library)



<p><b>Aggr Group</b> Catherine E. Hoyda '83 Tracy Marie Martin '90</p> <p><b>Fisheries</b> Kermit Simons '81</p> <p><b>Law</b> Jesse C. Gamble '85 Gary H. Harshbarger Theresa L. Williams '92</p> <p><b>Journalism</b> Chad R. Bailey '85</p> <p><b>Wine</b> Vernon A. Fogg '91</p> <p><b>Wine</b> James P. Carr '86 Richard L. Cary '85 Susan E. Geringer '91</p> <p><b>Wine</b> Larry F. Miller '87</p>	<p><b>Le Overseer</b> Amanda M. Bessie '95</p> <p><b>MAINE</b> Burger Curtis L. Berman '84</p> <p><b>Business</b> Deborah E. Light '77</p> <p><b>Chemical</b> Lori L. Thibault '85</p> <p><b>Deer</b> Kerith A. Hutter '86</p> <p><b>Finance</b> Amy E. Turpin '92</p> <p><b>Finance</b> David H. Day '84 Robert G. Taylor '77</p> <p><b>Honors</b> Jeffrey Wall '96</p> <p><b>Honors</b> Lynn P. Thompson</p> <p><b>North Vermont</b> Andy S. Sells '92</p> <p><b>North</b> Alicia E. Kravitz '92</p> <p><b>Oakland</b> Mark A. Jure '71</p> <p><b>Owens</b> Lew C. Clark '31</p> <p><b>Physics</b> Robert T. Lewis '80 David K. Peterson</p> <p><b>Political</b> Jeffrey D. Folsait '97</p> <p><b>Science</b> Robert L. Palmer '96</p> <p><b>South</b> James H. Lives '88</p> <p><b>Tampa</b> Robert L. Jones '81</p> <p><b>Teaching</b> Karyn I. Trempier '97</p> <p><b>Teaching</b> Elizabeth F. Briggs '96 Mary M. Briggs '82</p> <p><b>Wine</b> Donald H. Marler '88 John P. McKittrick '96</p> <p><b>Wine</b> Michael L. Vanover '97</p> <p><b>Wine</b> Michael J. Tutta '80</p>	<p><b>Architectural</b> Lance J. Trandell '82</p> <p><b>Business</b> John M. Overton, Jr. '92</p> <p><b>Business</b> Christopher W. Dick '78 Christie H. Mariner Christina A. Brown '92</p> <p><b>Business</b> Thomas K. Armstrong '86 Nicole Galt</p> <p><b>Business</b> Kathleen E. Bannister '95 Jeffrey A. Conant '82</p> <p><b>Business</b> Linda S. Butler '93 William E. Hines '93</p> <p><b>Business</b> Alan T. Merritt '89 Steven S. Lee '86 Michael D. Lofus '88 Alma Martini '92 Ruth Matravia '92 Jennifer L. Min '94 Gene Z. Green '92</p> <p><b>Business</b> Curtis A. Young</p> <p><b>Business</b> Antonetta R. Carraro '95</p> <p><b>Business</b> Mark R. Whaley '87</p> <p><b>Business</b> Brighton Shari L. Akerman '93 Karen M. Kruse '93 Anne L. Liu '97 Douglas E. O'Leary '94 Christina L. O'Leary '94 Kathy M. Vanover '96</p> <p><b>Business</b> Patrick A. Allen '82</p> <p><b>Business</b> Kathleen E. Bannister '95 Robert B. Fogel '80 Nicole S. Finkel '96 Valerie A. Schneider '84</p> <p><b>Business</b> William M. Hain '85 Karen M. Kruse '93 Anne L. Liu '97 Douglas E. O'Leary '94 Christina L. O'Leary '94 Kathy M. Vanover '96</p> <p><b>Business</b> Kathleen E. Bannister '95 Robert B. Fogel '80 Nicole S. Finkel '96 Valerie A. Schneider '84</p> <p><b>Business</b> William M. Hain '85 Karen M. Kruse '93 Anne L. Liu '97 Douglas E. O'Leary '94 Christina L. O'Leary '94 Kathy M. Vanover '96</p>	<p><b>Business</b> David R. King '84 Emily C. Collier '94 Scott F. Kelson</p> <p><b>Business</b> Glenis L. Anderson '96</p> <p><b>Business</b> Beth Hillard '93</p> <p><b>Business</b> Scott Galt Daniel E. Fosse '96</p> <p><b>Business</b> Joseph R. Mahony '97</p> <p><b>Business</b> Linda S. Butler '93 David J. Palmer '54</p> <p><b>Business</b> David M. Becker '89</p> <p><b>Business</b> David A. Adams '77</p> <p><b>Business</b> Catherine L. Orzechak '84</p> <p><b>Business</b> George Dickstein '85</p> <p><b>Business</b> Robert S. Cohen '97 G. Michael Hestage '54</p> <p><b>Business</b> Wendy Richard S. Cohen '97 G. Michael Hestage '54</p>	<p><b>Business</b> James R. Beyer '89 Gary R. King '84 Emily C. Collier '94 Scott F. Kelson</p> <p><b>Business</b> Glenis L. Anderson '96</p> <p><b>Business</b> Beth Hillard '93</p> <p><b>Business</b> Scott Galt Daniel E. Fosse '96</p> <p><b>Business</b> Joseph R. Mahony '97</p> <p><b>Business</b> Linda S. Butler '93 David J. Palmer '54</p> <p><b>Business</b> David M. Becker '89</p> <p><b>Business</b> David A. Adams '77</p> <p><b>Business</b> Catherine L. Orzechak '84</p> <p><b>Business</b> George Dickstein '85</p> <p><b>Business</b> Robert S. Cohen '97 G. Michael Hestage '54</p> <p><b>Business</b> Wendy Richard S. Cohen '97 G. Michael Hestage '54</p>	<p><b>Business</b> James R. Beyer '89 Gary R. King '84 Emily C. Collier '94 Scott F. Kelson</p> <p><b>Business</b> Glenis L. Anderson '96</p> <p><b>Business</b> Beth Hillard '93</p> <p><b>Business</b> Scott Galt Daniel E. Fosse '96</p> <p><b>Business</b> Joseph R. Mahony '97</p> <p><b>Business</b> Linda S. Butler '93 David J. Palmer '54</p> <p><b>Business</b> David M. Becker '89</p> <p><b>Business</b> David A. Adams '77</p> <p><b>Business</b> Catherine L. Orzechak '84</p> <p><b>Business</b> George Dickstein '85</p> <p><b>Business</b> Robert S. Cohen '97 G. Michael Hestage '54</p> <p><b>Business</b> Wendy Richard S. Cohen '97 G. Michael Hestage '54</p>	<p><b>Business</b> James R. Beyer '89 Gary R. King '84 Emily C. Collier '94 Scott F. Kelson</p> <p><b>Business</b> Glenis L. Anderson '96</p> <p><b>Business</b> Beth Hillard '93</p> <p><b>Business</b> Scott Galt Daniel E. Fosse '96</p> <p><b>Business</b> Joseph R. Mahony '97</p> <p><b>Business</b> Linda S. Butler '93 David J. Palmer '54</p> <p><b>Business</b> David M. Becker '89</p> <p><b>Business</b> David A. Adams '77</p> <p><b>Business</b> Catherine L. Orzechak '84</p> <p><b>Business</b> George Dickstein '85</p> <p><b>Business</b> Robert S. Cohen '97 G. Michael Hestage '54</p> <p><b>Business</b> Wendy Richard S. Cohen '97 G. Michael Hestage '54</p>
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**Senior/Grad BBQ**

Nearly 600 seniors, grad students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered on the Ag Quad for the 8th Annual Senior/Grad Barbecue on May 19. A brief, light rain turned to sunshine as the crowd mixed fun with the seriousness of a fond farewell. The ALS Alumni Association Student Leadership Committee organized the event. Student committee members pictured here include (l-r) Kerry Smith '99, Hallett Pirm '99, Jared Halpin '00, Craig Gleiler '98, Caleb Torrice '98, and Darlene Porter '95 (not pictured: Laura Knights '99, Amy Van Bloercom '99, and Maria De Joseph '99). The event was cosponsored by the ALS Alumni Association and the Office of Academic Programs.



**Commencement '98**

Seniors (H), Liam Brody of Greenville, N.Y., and Shaka Davis of Louisville, Ky., are shown here with trustee John S. Dyson '65 of Millbrook, N.Y., whose daughter Elizabeth was also an ALS graduating senior.





- Shirley L. Wong '97  
Jan C. Yau '97
- INDIA**  
Upper Krishnamoorthy  
Sandeep Singh '96
- ISRAEL**  
Arthur S. Lieberman '52  
Adrian W. Lougan '47  
Connie T. Stralsberg
- JAMAICA**  
Arthur C. Rawle '70
- JAPAN**  
Kazuko Ake '98  
Yoshiko Kawamura  
Kiyoko '98  
Hideo Taji '97  
Hiroshi Takahashi '97  
Naoto Toyoda '96  
Ken Ueda '97  
Akinu Watanabe '95
- KENYA**  
Janda H. Archer '88  
Carole A. Zuberli  
Loret C. Zuberli
- KOREA**  
K. Han
- MEXICO**  
Roberto Z. Gonzalez  
Joaquín Bala-Lopez  
Felipe Patricia
- NIGERIA**  
Prince Bright L. Akire '88
- NORWAY**  
Richard H. Meadlow '82
- PAKISTAN**  
Sami Majid '95  
Aamir K. Sattar '97
- PERU**  
Walter Conza  
María M. Scervino
- PHILIPPINES**  
Sylvador C. Carino '84  
Edsardo C. Santos
- PUERTO RICO**  
Luz R. Diaz '95  
Juan F. Frutos '96  
Luis L. Lewis '97  
Luis R. Padilla Jaque '96  
Ada N. Pagan '96  
Alicia A. Ramos '96  
Luis L. Soler '95  
Jose A. Valdes '92  
Manuel J. Valdes '96
- SENEGAL**  
Justin B. Hilson '95
- SINGAPORE**  
Edward K. Ho  
Cheryl Ann G. Ng '95
- SPAIN**  
Judit Saura-Badillo '96
- ST. CROIX**  
Lynn S. Glasgow '64
- SWEDEN**  
Karin E. Linsburg
- SWITZERLAND**  
David M. Simon '67
- TAIWAN**  
Benjamin M. Schwab '90
- THAILAND**  
Chonchai Chongwong  
Thanyarat Vajrabhaya '95
- ZIMBABWE**  
Robert E. Armstrong '57  
Sandra S. Armstrong '57
- INCORRECT ADDRESSES**  
Barry Battistoli '67  
Andrés V. Caba  
Rick L. Carl  
Gerald G. Frost '35  
Gustavo Kuri  
Yoshiaki Kuroki  
Nancy J. Kulkarni  
David A. Kivitz '73  
Kathy W. Kutney '88  
Carole L. Lacourse  
Lee M. Lee '95  
Jean L. Lutz  
Thomas L. Matthews '92  
Martin M. McDaniel '93  
Robert C. Mitchell '79  
Joseph N. Oakman '95  
Sanjaya Partha  
Stephen A. Pirovack  
Vinita Srinivasan '96  
Justin Tupperman '95  
Fred VanDusen '88  
Tara A. Warner '31
- DECEASED**  
William E. Bean '32  
Frederick O. Bradley '34  
Laurie J. Burnett '55  
Loren H. Clark '37  
Gene W. Clow '41  
David P. Curry '95  
Robert L. Falicki '37  
H. Bruce Gandy '52  
Donald E. Josty '58  
Franklin J. Kane '58  
Donald E. Koney '58  
William A. Jewett '39  
Katherine H. Meehan '33  
Gary L. Nelson '58  
John S. Otter '41  
John S. Puffer  
Frederic B. Sandoz '42  
Douglas D. Sargent '46  
Merlynn Sautter '26  
Charles Thomas '43  
John C. Wagner '37

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(800)565-2225 O

**Texas**  
vacant

## New Alumni

# A Student Makes A Difference



Katarina (middle) and her mother, Manel (second from right), share a cup of tea and conversation with a family in Raleigh Siddhi. At the end of Katarina's internship, Manel got to visit India and Raleigh Siddhi.

Cornell University is made up of many unique, ambitious students, one of which is Katarina Tuovinen '98. She is a natural resources student from Arlington, Ohio.

As a child, Katarina developed a keen interest in international affairs because of her family heritage. Her mother is from the war-torn country of Sri Lanka, and her father hails from the beautiful country of Finland. Growing up, Katarina was introduced to two very different cultures, both of which shaped her perspective on life. Both her parents are also instilled in her the need for community involvement, as well as the desire to help others.

In high school, Katarina was active in the Key Club, the International Science Fair, and the Ohio Wildlife Center; played field hockey and lacrosse; and graduated as valedictorian of her class.

Influenced by her mother to attend Cornell, Katarina set foot on campus, looking for ways to get involved. The Cornell Greens and United Progressives were the two groups she chose to participate in. This all could sound pretty ordinary for a Cornell student, right? The thing that sets Katarina apart from most other Cornell students is her ambitious drive and desire to make a difference in the small village of Raleigh Siddhi in Maharashtra, India.

Katarina spent six months in India during her junior year. While there, she lived and worked with the people of the village. She worked alongside the women in the fields and participated in their discussions. During her stay in Raleigh Siddhi, Katarina formed a women's group in the village as a forum to discuss ideas with one another. She organized workshops based on suggestions from the women. Katarina has made a difference in the lives of many of the women of Raleigh Siddhi. She has given them a chance to develop their ideas, and she has created

a forum for them to make changes in their community.

Katarina plans to return to Raleigh Siddhi fall to further help the people. She wants to work with the women as well as the men regarding gender issues to bring their ideas together. Katarina says, "Improving the lives of the women will ultimately improve the family life as a whole."

Katarina would not have been able to accomplish what she did without the support of her family. They were behind her throughout her academic career and when she traveled to India. In addition, they are responsible for Katarina's diverse cultural values. There is another person that has been influential in Katarina's life, too. That person is her advisor and chairman of the Department of Natural Resources, Jim Lassio. "He has always gone out of his way to help and has given me good suggestions for direction in the future," she says.

Katarina is making a difference. In a mere six months, Katarina changed the lives of the people of Raleigh Siddhi forever. She is just one of the many interesting students at Cornell.



Harriet Pimm '99  
Student Director, ALS Alumni Association

## Dean's Award Convocation

Dean Daryl B. Lund and H. Dean Sutphin, associate dean and director of academic programs, present the Professor of Merit Award, which is given by the senior class, to Brian O. Earle '68, MPS '71, Department of Communication, and the Donald C. Burgett Distinguished Advisor Award to Gene German, MS '59, PhD '78, Department of Agricultural, Resource, and Managerial Economics, at the Dean's Award Convocation on April 30, 1998.

### Other faculty/staff awards:

- James Shanahan, Communication, Young Faculty Teaching Excellence Award
- Susan Pileri, Education, Innovative Teacher Award
- Gene German, National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Excellence in Teaching Award
- Douglas Haith, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, and Edward McLaughlin, Agricultural Resource, and Managerial Economics, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching
- Michael Duttweiler, Cornell Cooperative Extension, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service
- Susan Barnes, Mann Library, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship



**The Wendell Earle Legacy:** The two award winners shown above, have a special connection with former Professor Wendell G. Earle, MS '48, PhD '50. Brian Earle is Wendell's son and Gene German began his Cornell career with Wendell in the leading Food Industry Management Program and Home Study Programs, both of which now rank top nationwide.

Photos by ©Cecilia Horvath

# Reunion Breakfast

Photos by Robert Barker, University Photography



**Retiring Faculty Honored:** Retiring faculty recognized at the ALS Alumni Association's Reunion Breakfast and Annual Meeting on June 6 are (left to right in above photos) David K. Bandler '55, MPS '71, Department of Food Science; R. Kenneth Horst, Plant Pathology; and Robert J. Lambert, Jr., Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture. In each photo, Dean Daryl Lund (left) and Michael R. Barrett '71, 1997-98 ALS Alumni Association president, present the retirees with plaques. Also honored but not present were Martin Alexander, Soil, Crop, and Atmospheric Sciences; Emil J. Haller, Education; and Darrell R. VanCampen, Animal Science and Nutritional Sciences.



(Left) During Reunion Breakfast, incoming 1998-99 ALS Alumni Association president, Nathan Herendeen '64, presents a plaque to Michael Barrett '71, outgoing president, in appreciation of Barrett's service to the Alumni Association.



(Right) Professor Leonard Topoleski of the Department of Fruit and Vegetable Science is presented the 1998 Edgerton Career Teaching Award by Dean Daryl Lund and Michael Barrett '71, 1997-98 ALS Alumni Association president. This award is given each year to someone who has had an exemplary teaching career.

## Homecoming Events—October 17

During Homecoming Weekend, ALS alumni and friends are invited to catch up with each other at the annual ALS Alumni Association's tailgate party on **Saturday, October 17**. Enjoy Cornell cider and apples from the orchards, hot dogs, the Big Red Band, and much more! Sunshine and a football victory are on order for the weekend. Kickoff for the Cornell vs. Bucknell football game is at 1 p.m. Tailgate festivities begin at noon before the game. Look for the ALS Alumni Association tailgate and banner, which will be located right behind Schoellkopf Stadium. *Don't forget to wear your Big Red colors!*

To receive reduced ticket prices and a special ALS corsage, alumni are encouraged to order tickets with the form below before the October 9 deadline. Tickets will be held at the ALS Alumni Association tailgate and can be picked up prior to kickoff.\*

Cost includes football ticket and tailgate party \*

ALS Alumni Association members and guests: \$14 in advance; \$10 for youth (12 and under) and seniors (60 and over)

Nonmembers and guests: \$16 in advance; \$12 for youth (12 and under) and seniors (60 and over).

For those who already have football tickets, you are welcome to come and enjoy the tailgate party at a cost of \$4 per person.

Clip here and mail to the ALS Alumni Affairs Office, Cornell University, 265 Roberts Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-4203, or fax to (607)-255-3803, by the October 9 deadline!

Name _____	Class _____
Spouse/Guest Name _____	Class _____
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____	
Please reserve _____ tickets for the Homecoming football game @ a cost of \$ _____ each.	
Please reserve _____ tickets for the Homecoming football game @ a cost of \$ _____ each.	
No. attending _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____	
<b>Please make checks payable to the ALS Alumni Association</b>	
Discover/Mastercard/Visa # _____	Exp. date _____
Signature (for credit card processing) _____	

## ALS News, Alumni Forum, Web Page Win Awards



ALS News received a judges' citation (second place) in the alumni magazines/newsletter category of the competition held by SUNY's Council for University Affairs and Development for the three issues produced in 1997. The judges said, "Reading the wonderful articles in this newsletter would probably be as instructional as any institution's classes. Great photography and graphics."

ALS News also took second prize in the alumni and donor publications category of the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association's (NAADA) annual competition. The Alumni Forum held on campus on April 18, 1998, won second place in the alumni projects category of NAADA's competition. During the Forum, alumni returned to the college and attended special courses designed for the day.

The ALS Career Development Office's Web page placed third in the student/professional Web page category of the NAADA competition.

# ALS Planned Giving Luncheon Honors Alumni and Friends

At the sixth annual ALS Planned Giving Luncheon held on April 24, Daryl Lund, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean, recognized nearly 100 alumni and friends of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences who have made or are considering making planned gifts. As he expressed appreciation on behalf of the college, Dean Lund explained that planned gifts and other forms of private support are instrumental for the college to maintain its margin of excellence. Master of Ceremonies and ALS Planned Giving Committee chair Elwyn Voss '64 talked about considering the difference between success and significance and creating a personal legacy.

Committee member David Nolan '49 highlighted planned gifts made by Helen E. Krebs '32 and Robert '34 and Olive GR Boehlecke and explained how everyone involved benefits from a planned gift. Craig Geller '98 noted how much he had learned about "life as a whole" while attending Cornell and said that the scholarship assistance he received had allowed him to go to Cornell. He thanked the group for "taking a chance on a country boy and many others like him." Jean Rowley '54 and the Donor Relations Sub-committee planned the luncheon.



Richard Reynolds '36 and granddaughter Kate Reynolds '90 are greeted by Dean Lund



Dawn and Daryl Lund share a moment with Henry "Hank" '59 and Ruth Ann Parker



Herbert '36 and Mildred Kling of Fonda, N.Y.



William Fuerst Jr. '39 and Craig Geller '98

Photos by Charles Harrington,  
University Photography

## The ALS Alumni Association Presents this

Limited Time Offer...



We are proud to announce that nationally known artist Robin Lauersdorf has been commissioned to create an extraordinary pencil drawing of Cornell University. Carefully researched and meticulously drawn, this highly detailed work of art captures the historic significance and the unique beauty of our campus. It depicts Goldwin Smith Hall, Bailey Auditorium, Willard Straight Hall, McGraw Tower, Urs Library, Beebe Lake Falls, Sage Chapel, and the Ezra Cornell Statue.

Only 500 signed and numbered limited edition prints are available. Each print, framed to approximately 25 by 31 inches, is museum-mounted and triple-matted with the finest quality rag mat boards and a hand-wrapped bevel fillet. Acid-free, 100 percent rag museum-quality paper ensures a lifetime of enjoyment. Frames are available in traditional mahogany or contemporary black. Each drawing has been thoroughly inspected, and your satisfaction is unconditionally guaranteed.

The ALS Alumni Association is proud to offer you this unique piece of art for a donation of \$345. Approximately one third is tax deductible for which you will receive gift credit and a Cornell Gift receipt. Proceeds will provide endowment funds for scholarship aid for ALS students and support for other alumni projects.

This drawing truly captures the spirit of Cornell. Not only will this striking piece evoke cherished memories and display your pride in your alma mater, but you'll be helping future students receive an outstanding education for years to come. We hope you will take advantage of this special opportunity.

### Cornell University Limited Edition Artwork Order Form

Mail order form to  
ALS Alumni Association  
Cornell University  
265 Roberts Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853-4203

Please reserve limited edition framed prints at \$345.00 each plus \*\$25.00 shipping, handling, and insurance.

I PREFER TO PAY AS FOLLOWS:

- Check: Enclosed please find my check for the full amount due, made payable to "Cornell University"
- Credit Card: Please charge my account below:
- Visa  Mastercard  Discover

Account #

Exp. date

Signature

FRAMING CHOICE: Please check one

- Frame Style A:** Traditional look. Framed to a size of approx. 25"x31". Triple matted with a burgundy inner mat, a granite stone beveled fillet, and a mist gray outer mat surrounded by a two-inch mahogany frame.
- Frame Style B:** Contemporary look. Framed to a size of approx. 25"x31". Triple matted with a red inner mat, a granite stone beveled fillet, and mist gray outer mat surrounded by a two-inch ribbed, black wood frame.

Purchaser's Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Daytime Phone

Items will be shipped to this name and address unless a different "ship to" is attached to the order form.

\* Shipping charge of \$25 per package, maximum of two framed prints per package.

\* Shipping via UPS in Continental U.S. only

# Outstanding Alumni Award Recipients for 1998



**Stephen B. Ashley '62, MBA '64** is chairman and chief executive officer of the Ashley Group in Rochester, N.Y. The Group includes S. B. Ashley Management Corporation, S. B. Ashley Brokerage Corporation, and S. B. Ashley & Associates Venture Company, LLC. The Group specializes in commercial and multifamily real estate management, investment, sales, leasing, and financing. Prior to 1995, Ashley was chairman and chief executive officer of the Sibley Mortgage Corporation, a mortgage banking firm that he built and owned. He is also director of Hahn Automotive Warehouse, Inc.; Essex Fund, Inc.; Manning & Napier Insurance Fund, Inc.; the Genesee Corporation; and Fannie

Mae, all publicly traded companies. Ashley is former president of the Mortgage Bankers Association of America. He has served on boards of various local organizations including the George Eastman House—International Museum of Photography, the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Rochester Health System.

Ashley has been a member of the Cornell Council since 1971. He has served on the Annual Planning Committee in 1996, and chaired the Annual Meeting Planning Committees in 1997 and 1998. He currently is chair of the Mann Library Development Campaign Committee, as well as a member of his class's 35th Reunion Major Gifts Committee. He has served as co-chair of the College's Campaign Special Gifts Committee as well as chair of the 25th Reunion Major Gifts Committee. He is also a member of the Real Estate Council. Ashley has had extensive involvement with the Johnson Graduate School of Management, serving on various committees, including serving as chair of the Annual Fund Tower Club. He is one of Cornell's outstanding volunteers who has worked with a broad range of alumni, faculty and staff.

Ashley and his wife, Janice, are among Cornell's foremost benefactors, having established in 1991 the Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley Graduate Fellowship in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The Ashley's also own a 1,000-acre cash crop farm in Livonia, N.Y., and have three children, including Jillian, who was in the ALS class of 1996.



**Carole Friedman Bitter PhD '81** is president and CEO of Friedman's Supermarkets, a 97-year-old, privately held family business with stores in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. After a year of graduate work at Cornell, Bitter joined Stop & Shop as a management trainee in 1968. Rising quickly through the ranks, Bitter became the first woman, as well as the youngest, supermarket manager in the 160-store chain. Leaving in 1973, she earned an MBA from Northwestern and completed her Ph.D. at Cornell in 1981. In 1985 she was named Outstanding Woman in the Pennsylvania Food Industry, and in 1988, 1990, 1991, and 1992 she accepted the Grocer's Care Award for Friedman Supermarket's dedication to the community. In 1988 she was named "Retailer

of the Year" by the Peter J. Schmitt Company.

Bitter has made the trip back to Cornell often. For years, she has returned each spring to be a guest lecturer in the food marketing classes taught by Gene German and the late Wendell Earle. She currently serves on the Cornell Council, the Cornell Advisory Committee on Personal Enterprise and Small Business Management Program, as well as the Cornell Food Industry Management Advisory Board, for which she directs a subcommittee that led the effort for the first-ever "Food Industry Management Alumni Symposium," held on campus in summer 1998.

This year, Bitter also learned that she has been chosen as one of Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business for 1998 by the Business Journals of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, an honor based on professional and personal accomplishments affecting the business community, particularly those on behalf of women. She and her husband, Frederick, live in Butler, Pa.

**Alfred H. Hicks '62, MBA '63** has been president of Hicks Nurseries since 1967. His new state-of-the-art nursery and greenhouses in Nassau County have created a gardening fever among the residents while assuring a place for horticulture into the 21st century. Hicks has been an outstanding member of the American Nursery and Landscape Association (formerly known as the American Association of Nurserymen) since 1963. During his recent tenure as president, he helped to move the industry in new directions as well as update their corporate name. His other service in this field includes serving as director of the Horticultural Research Institute, Florist Mutual, New York State Nurserymen's Association, and



the Long Island Nurserymen's Association. Hicks has been honored with numerous awards, including being named man of the year in 1990 by the Long Island Nurserymen's Association.

Hicks's energy and enthusiasm have benefited the college. From 1990 to 1994 he served on Dean Call's Advisory Committee. He is a member of the Tower Club, has conducted interviews with prospective high school seniors, and generously supported Alumni Auditorium. Hicks's gifts have been well employed in service to Cooperative Extension and its efforts to meet the needs of local consumers and "green industry" professionals. His skills benefit the community beyond Cornell; he serves as chairman of the board of Winthrop University Hospital, as well as chairman

of the Environmental Commission for the Village of Westbury, where he lives with his wife, Marilyn. They have three children, including Stephen '94.



**Elwyn G. Voss '64, MS '72** owns Elwyn Voss and Associates in Norwich, N.Y. This firm has been associated with New England Life Insurance Company in Boston, Mass., and with the Kessler Agency of Syracuse, N.Y., for over 22 years. Voss and staff members service over 600 businesses and 2,400 other clients, many of them closely held family businesses with an agricultural orientation. In this capacity Voss has earned numerous awards and honors, culminating in the President's Award from New England Life in 1996. This award recognizes exceptional performance throughout an entire life insurance sales career. Prior to starting his own business, Voss worked for Cooperative Extension, earning the Outstanding Young Agent

Award while working as an agent in Chenango County.

Voss has donated his exceptional skills to the college on many occasions. His master's degree focused on estate planning and he currently shares this expertise as the chair of the college's Planned Giving Committee. He is also a member of Cornell Council and has served on the ALS Advisory Council as well as the recent Cornell Campaign. His volunteer activities encompass 4-H, where he functions as a trustee of the New York State 4-H Foundation; as well as the unique Pathfinder Village, an Americana village dedicated to providing a home for patients with Downs Syndrome. He and his wife, Angelina (Angle), have five children; the oldest, Scott, has joined the business, and the youngest son, Brian, will attend ALS this fall.



**Thomas H. Wickham '62, MS '67, PhD '71** has been a leader in the fields of engineering and agriculture. As a recent college graduate, Wickham traveled to Cambodia, where he served as a volunteer and team leader with the American Friends Service Committee. There he carried out agricultural and engineering extension work. Later transferred to Vietnam, he often served as an interpreter for agricultural officers between the two countries. Upon completion of his graduate work in the Philippines in 1971, Wickham joined the International Rice Research Institute to carry out groundbreaking work on rice irrigation overseas. This ultimately led to his selection as the first director general of the Irrigation Management Institute based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

After returning to the United States, Wickham became partner and general manager of Wickham's Fruit Farm in Southold, N.Y. The Wickham Farm (established in 1968) was one of the early participants in Suffolk County's program of purchasing development rights to preserve the farming environment of the county. Now expanded to include a diversity of fruits and vegetables, Wickham's Fruit Farm is a leader in meeting the desires of local residents for fresh produce. Elected to the position of councilman and eventually supervisor, Wickham helped create a county recycling program and strategies for open-space preservation.

Wickham has served on the ALS Advisory Council and is often consulted for advice by those in the agricultural and biological engineering program at Cornell. Wickham is married to Gelcee and they have one child.

### Young Alumni Achievement Award 1998



**John M. Clark '80, MBA '86** has been dedicated to the field of agriculture since his graduation from the college. In his current occupation he works as the national accounts manager for Milk Products, Inc., a division of Land O' Lakes. Focusing on dried milk products used for baby animal feeds and animal health products, Clark was recognized for achieving the largest single sale of any account manager in the company's history. His previous work within agriculture includes positions with Merrick's, Inc., Empire Harvester Systems, and VH Annis Dairy, Inc., where he helped achieve a 26 percent increase in product line sales.

Clark is well known to those within the college, especially within the ALS Alumni Association. He served tirelessly as director for District 12 from 1986

through 1996, wherein he earned high praise from his colleagues for his enthusiasm and innovation. He went on to serve as treasurer, vice president, and then president in 1996-97. Clark's talents were enlisted as well for the Alumni Auditorium campaign and the most recent dean's search committee. His dedication to Cornell also includes the Johnson School, where he earned an MBA in 1986.

Clark's extracurricular activities are manifold. Dedicated to his family, he participates in local 4-H groups and projects, serves on committees for the Saint Frances deSales Regional Catholic School, and is an active member of the New York State Draft Horse Association. He and his wife, Patricia '80, DVM '85, live in Mohawk, N.Y., with their two daughters.

### Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award 1998



**David L. Call '54, MS '58, PhD '60** stepped down as the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences 45 years after taking his first undergraduate course at Cornell. In that time his impact on the Cornell community has been tremendous. Call began his career at Cornell as the H. E. Babcock Professor of Food Economics, followed by a five-year turn as director of Cooperative Extension. Call's tenure as dean began in 1978, and a partial list of accomplishments from the next 17 years includes fostering the founding of the American Indian Program, the Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise Program, the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture, and Development, the Center for the Environment, the Pro-Dairy

Program, and the Biotechnology Program, in addition to the building of the new Roberts and Kennedy Halls, David L. Call Alumni Auditorium, the new Comstock Hall, and many other facilities and improvements. He served on several national and international boards, including an appointment by President Bush as chairman of the National Nutritional Monitoring Systems Advisory Council in 1992.

Call may be best known for his dedication to the human component of all endeavors, and it is perhaps for this that he will be best remembered. As former Provost Keith Kennedy notes, "The respect and admiration Dave has from faculty, students, administrators, alumni, and state and national leaders is directly related to the way he puts people first." Call and his wife, Mary Gentry Call '54, live in Ithaca. They have three daughters and a son; two daughters attended Cornell.



**Henry Martin Munger '36, PhD '41** has been an integral part of the ALS community since 1942 when he accepted a position teaching in the Department of Plant Breeding. For the next 25 years he taught more than 800 students in the core course, Methods of Plant Breeding. His excellent work with graduate students earned him the (national) N. F. Childers award for distinguished graduate teaching in 1984.

Munger's research pursuits are also held in high regard. For over 40 years he worked in plant breeding, developing improved varieties of cucumbers, squash, melons, onions, and tomatoes. Remarkably, over 95 percent of the cucumbers and nearly all carrots grown in the United States trace germplasm back to his breeding

programs. His fight against diseases of vegetables has also left its mark, including the development of cucumbers, squash, and melons resistant to virus diseases,

powdery mildew, and Fusarium wilt disease respectively.

Munger's work has brought acclaim to the college and his personal list of awards and honors is long. Most significantly, he was the first United States recipient of the World Seed Prize in 1994, inducted into the Hall of Fame for the American Horticultural Sciences in 1995, and awarded the Luther Burbank Award (AHAS) in 1996. He continues to serve the college as a professor emeritus. Munger and his wife, Norma, live in Ithaca, and have two daughters.

You are invited!

## ALS Alumni Awards Banquet

Friday, October 2, 1998, 6 p.m.  
Stalter Ballroom, Stalter Inn  
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Return reservations by September 22, 1998 to ALS Alumni Association,  
265 Roberts Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-4203.

#### Lodging

A block of rooms at the Triphammer Lodge & Conference Center  
(800-257-6992) and Econolodge (800-55ECONO)  
will be held until September 4, 1998.

Please make reservations directly with the hotels.

Name	Class		
Spouse/guest			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Telephone ( )			
Meal choices	ALS Alumni Assoc. Member & Guest (no. of people)	Nonmember & Guest (no. of people)	
London Broil	\$23.00	\$26.00	
Broiled Salmon	\$28.00	\$31.00	
Tortellini Alfredo	\$23.00	\$26.00	
Total Enclosed \$	No. Attending		
Discover/MasterCard/VISA #	Exp. date		
Signature (for credit cards)			

### Moving or Just Heading South for the Winter?

Stay in touch with your alma mater through uninterrupted delivery of ALS News by returning the change-of-address form.

Mail to  
**Office of Alumni Affairs**  
265 Roberts Hall  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853-4203



Name	
Class Year	
I.D. #	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alum? <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty? <input type="checkbox"/> Friend?	
Former Address	
New Address	
Heading South? as of	
until	
Phone (Home)	
(Office)	
Occupation	
Personal News (Use separate sheet of paper if necessary)	

## ALS NEWS

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# ALS NEWS

Agriculture and Life Sciences

August 1998

# Techno Trek

## 1998-99 CALENDAR



### August 9

New Student and Transfer Student Send-off in District #9 (Saratoga, Warren, and Washington counties). For details, contact district director Mike Valla '76 at (518) 584-4215 or e-mail: toothhead@aol.com

### August 11-13

Empire Farm Days on the Rodman Lott & Sons Farm on Route #414, south of Seneca Falls, N.Y. For further information, contact the ALS Alumni Affairs Office at (607) 255-7651

### August 12

ALS Alumni Association Dean's Reception with Dean Daryl Lund and Merrill Ewert, director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, at Empire Farm Days, 2-4 p.m. in the Morton Building. For further details, contact Ted Mullen '55 at (315) 548-2544

### August 15-16

The Maine Event. Weekend Conference entitled "Natural Resources and the Environment—Our Living World" in Bar Harbor, Maine, at the College of the Atlantic campus. For details, contact district director Patricia Chatterton '56 at (781) 444-3822.

### August 22

Summer picnic for ALS alumni in District #27 (Broome and Tioga counties). For details, contact district director Ron Cooke '91 at (607) 849-3748 or e-mail: rcooke1001@aol.com

## CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Alumni Affairs and Development  
265 Roberts Hall  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14853-4203

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material  
August 1998

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### September 19

Northern California alumni event, Napa Valley Speaker, W. Ronnie Cuffman, PhD '71, ALS associate dean and director of research. For details, contact Ray Borton '53 at (530) 756-0632.

### September 26

Springfield Exposition ("Big E") alumni event, 4 p.m. with Dean Daryl Lund. For details, contact Patricia Chatterton '56, (781) 444-3822, or Richard Baldwin '71, (413) 568-4981.

### October 2

Outstanding Alumni Awards Banquet, Stalter Ballroom, Stalter Inn, on Cornell campus, 6 p.m. **See the reservation form on page 15.** Contact Linda Wyllie, ALS Alumni Affairs Office at (607) 255-7651 or e-mail: llw8@cornell.edu

### October 4

Lunch at the Ginny Lee Cafe and Tour of Wagner's Vineyards and Micro-Brewery, beginning at 2 p.m. Cost \$17 per person includes lunch, tour, tasting of wines and micro-

brews, and a special souvenir gift. For details, contact district director Ed Staehr '88 at (315) 889-7336 or e-mail: estahr@cce.cornell.edu

### October 16-18

Homecoming Weekend  
Cornell vs. Bucknell football game, 1 p.m.

### October 17

ALS Alumni Association Tailgate Party, Kite Hill parking lot directly behind the stadium before the Cornell vs. Bucknell football game. Noon to 1 p.m. For tickets to the game and tailgate party, **see reservation form on page 12.**

### October 17

Open House for prospective ALS students. Contact ALS Admissions Office, (607) 255-2036.

### October 29

Dear/Alumni Get-Together for Saratoga, Washington, and Warren counties. For details, contact district director Mike Valla '76 at (518) 581-4215 or e-mail: toothhead@aol.com

### November 6

Transfer Day for prospective ALS transfer students. Contact ALS Admissions Office, (607) 255-2036.

### January 23, 1999

Cornell vs. Colgate hockey game at Colgate, 7 p.m. Join fellow ALS alumni from Districts #12 and #13 for a pregame reception at the Colgate Inn before the game, 4:30 p.m. For further information, contact Bill Davidson '66, District #13 director at (607) 674-6211.



Visit the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Web site:  
[www.cals.cornell.edu](http://www.cals.cornell.edu)

Or go directly to the ALS Alumni Association: [www.cals.cornell.edu/alumni/alumni.htm](http://www.cals.cornell.edu/alumni/alumni.htm)