

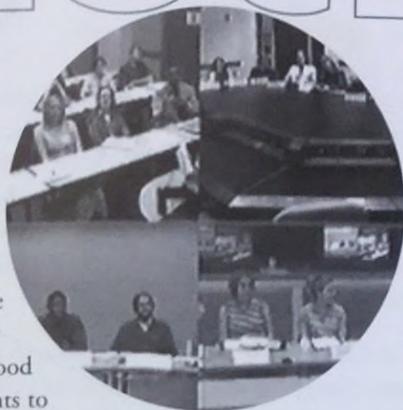
CALS connect

► Global Seminar Fosters International Learning Community

Cornell students are making friends with peers from nations around the globe, including Sweden, Costa Rica, and Australia. At the same time, these lucky Cornellians are learning about and discussing key global issues of sustainability pertaining to the environment and food systems. It is hoped that these experiences will prepare participants to

become future leaders and citizens of the global community and to articulate policy agendas that will lead to a sustainable environment and a stable food security and supply.

This unique, ever-expanding learning community, which connects students in seven countries across 16 time zones, came about thanks to the conception of the course titled ALS 480: Global Seminar, cross-listed in education and international agriculture.



From top right clockwise: Global Seminar students from Iowa State, North Carolina State, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Denmark, and University of Maryland discuss water quality and use, April 10, 2001.

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► Associate Director for CfE

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is pleased to announce the appointment of Max Pfeffer as associate director of the Center for the Environment (CfE). In this position, Pfeffer will work with Executive Director Walter Lynn to identify, initiate, and support linkages between the environmental research and outreach functions of the center. In addition to facilitating CfE communications across college lines, Pfeffer will also assume a major leadership role in CALS, working towards strengthening the connection of CfE to CALS in

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Dean's Message



Back to School

To those of you who are new to the CALS community—welcome to the college. To those of you who spent the summer away from campus—welcome back. And to those of you who were here all summer—welcome to a new semester and the start of a new academic year. I am looking forward to the year ahead and to working with all of you to uphold the level of excellence CALS is known for throughout the world.

In previous messages I outlined some of the personnel changes under way within the college administration, with some shifting of responsibilities between positions. The latest change to announce is the appointment of Helene Dillard as associate director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, succeeding Margaret Smith who will be returning full time to her faculty position in Plant Breeding. In light of all the transitions, we are developing a new organizational chart with descriptions of job responsibilities for CALS administrators and support staff so that faculty and staff will know who to contact for help with specific questions or concerns. I hope to have a final version ready soon to share with all of you.

In addition to the changes in Roberts Hall, there have been some recent shifts in leadership in several CALS departments. Martin Wells has come over from ILR to take on the role of interim chair of

the Department of Biometrics, helping to oversee its transition to the newly approved Department of Biological Statistics and Computational Biology. Nelson

Hairston is now chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. In Landscape Architecture, Kathryn Gleason has become the new chair. Tom Fox is now chair of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. In the Department of Plant Breeding, Ronnie Coffman is the new chair as well as director of International Programs. And at Geneva, Tom Burr will succeed Helene Dillard as chair of the Department of Plant Pathology.

With an eye to the future as always, we are also embarking on an effort to create a new mission and vision statement for the college. This is not a strategic plan but a statement of who and what we are as we strive to meet the needs of our various stakeholders. Bill Fry is putting together a faculty committee to develop this new mission and vision statement for the college. You can read more about the mission/vision effort in future issues of this newsletter.

My best wishes to all of you for a successful and productive year.

Susan A. Henry, Ph.D.
The Ronald P. Lynch Dean
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Editor's Note

Dear Readers and Contributors,

Welcome to the 2001-02 academic year. I hope your summer was productive, relaxing, invigorating—or all of the above and more.

We're pleased to begin the next cycle of newsletters with a new name and redesign. Many of the changes you see were made as a result of your input—through focus groups conducted by Jessica Li '01, under the direction of Shelly Campo, assistant professor in the Department of Communication, and other evaluation efforts made over the past year. You'll notice a few new features that we hope will more effectively connect the CALS community. For example, "Inside CALS" will profile a different department or program in each issue, and "FYI" is intended to focus attention on new and noteworthy events and projects that exemplify the college's diversity. "Ask the Dean" provides a forum for you to voice your concerns and questions about CALS-related issues and have Dean Henry respond publicly.

This first issue of *CALSconnect* is still a work in progress, so as always, your comments on both the design and content are welcome. Please respond to calsconnect@cornell.edu.

Clare Ulrich
Managing Editor

According to Dean Sutphin, course founder, project director, and instructor, each student in the Global Seminar brings a unique perspective from his or her country, region, and background, contributing various viewpoints to the ongoing course discussion about the environment and food safety.

Throughout the semester, Global Seminar students read case studies on such topics as water quality, global warming, and food security. Each case study is developed by members of one of the core university groups, who also decide the discussion format for that particular case. For instance, the Cornell class chose to hold a mock senate hearing in its discussion of global warming.

Seminar participants then prepare discussion points about the issues and communicate using Internet-, telephone-, and satellite-based video. Students work in international problem solving groups and meet with their global partners by way of Pic-Tel videoconferencing and web streaming for one-way live broadcasts.

Michelle Upton, a CALS freshman taking the seminar, is enthusiastic about having met so many different people from around the world through this class. She describes the seminar experience as "a different kind of learning that is very interactive and not a typical lecture session."

Two-way interactive classrooms are made possible through CU-See-Me; the monitor is split four ways, and each site is rotated into the picture. Students also keep apprised of course events with the help of a course web site.

According to seminar instructor Phil A. Arneson, an associate professor of plant pathology, teleconferencing not only allows students to speak to one another in real time, but it also allows peers to interact by observing

each other's body language and facial expressions. Arneson also points out that some participants have never left the country, and this is their opportunity to do so "virtually."

Holding virtual meetings does pose some challenges. For example, speaking with Australian students at 8 a.m. in Ithaca means that the participants from Melbourne must be alert and ready to discuss at midnight Australian time.

Other challenges posed by the Global Seminar include accommodating the varying teaching styles of course leaders, adjusting to cultural differences, learning to instruct using the case study approach, and facilitating discussions between representatives of different disciplines.

However, all of these challenges can also be thought of as strengths of the program, which in Arneson's words fosters "sensitivity to other cultures and perspectives."

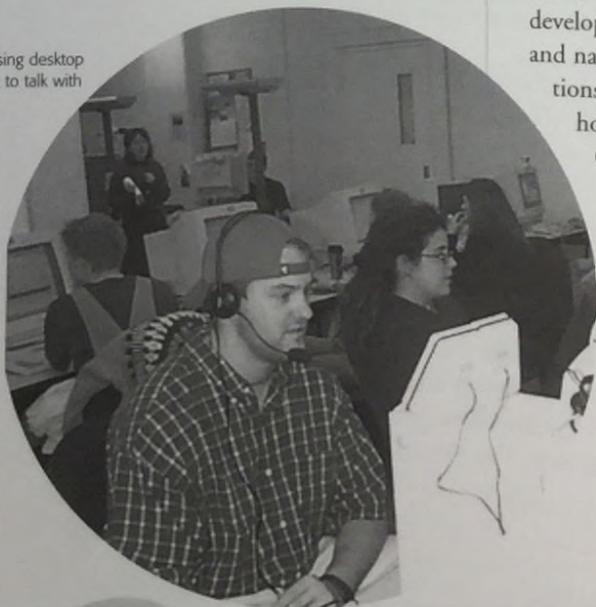
Ben Wolfe, a sophomore in the Department of Natural Resources who took the course last fall, comments that it "allowed me to apply the knowledge that I have assimilated while at Cornell into an interactive learning environment."

Sutphin says that the class exposes students to a new environment that addresses a need for global understanding and also encourages participants to express themselves in a very cogent way. Furthermore, it provides training in team building, communication, and international group problem solving.

The seminar consists of nine core partners: Cornell; EARTH University in Costa Rica; Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences; Open University of The Netherlands; Wageningen University and Research Center of The Netherlands; Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University in India; University of Melbourne; Uppsala University in Sweden; and Zamorano University in Honduras. Partners were selected with care so that student viewpoints from developing countries, prestigious agriculture schools, and nations with unique agriculture product contributions would be represented. In the future, Sutphin hopes to see involvement from representatives of China and Africa.

The Global Seminar has been recognized both nationally and internationally. It was featured in a Voice of America radio program as well as a newspaper in India. The seminar was also awarded the 2001 Excellence in Distance Education by the American Distance Education Consortium on March 5, 2001, in Washington, D.C., and featured in a congressional exhibit.

A CALS student using desktop videoconferencing to talk with Australia.





Dear Dean Henry,

I have a concern about the university's continued support of and research into agricultural biotechnology and am asking you about it in accordance with your "Ask the Dean" program.

The mission of land-grant universities is to take care of rural communities. We have seen that the decrease in the number of farms, particularly small family farms, has had devastating social and economic effects on rural communities in states like New York. Yet there is reason to believe that agricultural biotechnology is likely to drive even more farms out of business, particularly small farms.

For example, in the case of recombinant bovine somatotropin (rBST), one of the first biotechnologies to gain widespread use, research has shown, in both *ex ante* (Kinnucan et al.) and *ex post* (Stefanides and Tauer) analyses, that rBST use has a scale bias; that is, it is more likely to be adopted by large than small farms. Therefore, any benefit from rBST adoption is likely to be gained only by large farmers, driving even more small farmers out of business. Even without scale bias, little benefit of rBST use has accrued to producers. Stefanides and Tauer have found no significant increase in dairy farm profits arising from rBST adoption. In the case of genetically modified (GM) soybean and cotton seed, McBride and Brooks have found that any decrease in pesticide expenditure is offset in higher seed costs, again leaving farmers no better off for adopting this technology. Falck-Zepeda et al. have found that the greatest portion of the economic rents created by using GM cotton accrues to seed and pesticide companies like Monsanto, not to producers or consumers. Finally, in general, there is no evidence that the use of GM crops has translated into lower food prices for producers.

Given the lack of the benefits of agricultural biotechnology to New York producers or consumers and the clear benefit to corporations like Monsanto (specifically mentioned in Falck-Zepeda et al.), it is difficult for me to reconcile the promotion of this technology with the land-grant mission of Cornell and CALS. My concern is particularly acute given the potential for devastating ecological effects of GM crops. The usefulness of ecologically benign measures such as Bt¹ will erode as pests develop resistance when the proteins are produced in every cell of the plant. Even environmental benefits such as reduced herbicide use are unlikely to endure as weeds adapt to new treatment regimes.

I believe that we must ask ourselves if there are not less risky and less biased technologies to be researched and promoted, ones that offer greater hope of benefit to small farms and consumers. I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on the issues I have raised.

Sincerely,
David Conner
Department of Applied Economics and Management

Dear David,

Thanks for taking the time to write about your concerns.

To answer your letter carefully, I received input from others, including Tony Shelton, associate director of research and the co-chair of the GMO Advisory Group in CALS. Tony indicated that he had met you since he and Anu Rangarajan are coordinating an IFAFS proposal on organic agriculture and are working with Ralph Christie, you, and others both inside and outside Cornell. Tony is also authoring a book chapter on genetically engineered plants for insect protection, so he is quite current on the literature. There are several points in your letter that I would like to address.

First, you state that "the mission of land-grant universities is to take care of rural communities." Actually, land-grant universities have a mission to address the concerns of the breadth of all citizens in the state, and this includes not only the rural sector but also those in the urban and suburban sectors. One of many examples of this is our effort in food safety and nutrition, without regard to the location of the people in the state. Land-grant universities also have strong obligations to work in urban areas to enhance their quality of life through our environmental efforts such as urban horticulture. While the rural community is an important stakeholder, it is certainly not the only one we have, and our continuing challenge as a land-grant university is to address the changing needs of our changing rural and urban populations.

Second, the number of small farms is decreasing nationwide for a variety of reasons, and I urge you to read the USDA report referenced below to understand this more fully. Advanced technology and niche marketing will help to slow the decline in family farms, but there are many social and economic factors that are influencing people's decisions to leave farming. One must be careful in assigning either blame or praise to biotechnology's influence on small farming. Remember during the November 15-16 Cornell Conference on Agricultural Biotechnology, which you attended, that Mary Howell-Martens said she thought organic farming and biotechnological methods should be compatible and that she wished she was able to use biotechnology for management of soil borne diseases on her farm. Also, it must be noted that research is taking place in CALS at the direct

¹ *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a naturally occurring, soil-borne bacteria developed as a non-chemical pest control because of its ability to kill certain insects.

request of small farmers in New York. For example, apple growers at risk of losing their entire orchards to fire blight are looking to CALS researchers to find potential methods for controlling this devastating disease using biotechnology, as conventional techniques have not proven to be effective on their farms.

Third, in response to your comment about researching and promoting other technologies to help small farmers, that is already taking place within CALS. We have a rich portfolio of programs beneficial to small farmers, from the Farming Alternatives Program and the Small Farms Working Group to research, teaching, and extension efforts in organic and traditional agriculture. A significantly larger percentage of activities in CALS are focused on efforts such as these than on biotechnology. Research is also taking place within CALS that looks at the potential risks of agricultural biotechnology.

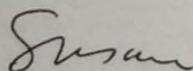
Developing and testing new technologies is part of Cornell's mission to serve the agricultural industry of the state of New York. It is critical for the leadership of CALS and other land-grant universities to be clear in their commitment to a diverse research portfolio, including agricultural biotechnology. We have a responsibility to look at the potential of all available technologies—biotechnology as well as traditional agricultural technologies—to solve problems in agricultural production and to feed the planet. We also must weigh the risks and benefits of each approach. Agricultural biotechnology will have an increasingly important impact on agriculture and markets in New York and the rest of the world, whether the technology is developed at Cornell or elsewhere. However, if biotechnology is developed elsewhere, it will not be adapted specifically to the needs of New York State farmers.

Fourth, Tony mentioned his concern about some of the statistics you use. For example, you state, "Falck-Zepeda et al. have found that the greatest portion of the economic rents created by using GM cotton accrues to seed and pesticide companies like Monsanto, not to producers or consumers." The statement you make is apparently from a conference report, but if you look at the original reference (listed below), you will see a very different story. In the abstract of the actual journal article Falck et al. state, "We calculate a total increase in world surplus of \$240.3 million [for Bt cotton] for 1996 [and of this total] the largest share (59 percent) went to U.S. farmers. The gene developer, Monsanto, received the next largest share (21 percent), followed by U.S. consumers (9 percent), the rest of the world (6 percent), and the germ plasm supplier (5 percent)."

In addition, you state that "the usefulness of ecologically benign measures as Bt will erode as pests develop resistance when the proteins are produced in every cell of the plant." As you remember, Bt resistance was one of the talks at the agricultural biotechnology conference. Dr. George Kennedy from North Carolina State, an expert in resistance management, stated that resistance management for Bt crops is a serious concern and that management strategies to ensure the long term durability of Bt crops are in place and are being evaluated. Will resistance occur? After five years of fairly widespread use of Bt crops, there are no cases of resistance to date. As Tony informed me, the only resistance to a Bt protein known to date is with the diamondback moth, a pest on which he is considered the world's expert, which developed resistance specifically to foliar sprays of Bt. This was the result of intensive spraying by organic and nonorganic farmers who did not follow a resistance management strategy. The resistance to foliar sprays of Bt is due to either CryIA or CryIC proteins, but insects are still susceptible to dozens of the other Cry proteins that occur in Bt species in nature. Many entomologists believe that we are able to manage resistance to a particular Cry protein better in Bt crops than when Bt is applied as a foliar spray and that the benefits of long-term management of insects through the use of Bt plants will have positive ecological consequences, both for organic and nonorganic farmers. So, while your statement about insects becoming resistant to Bt crops is an important one, it is also perhaps more complicated than what you might have believed.

Further, you state that there is potential for "devastating ecological effects of Bt crops." Any production system, including organic agriculture, has its risks and benefits, and it is important to evaluate critically each system. A recent report by a nonprofit organization has indicated that Bt crops are annually saving 7.7 million acres from being sprayed with broad spectrum insecticides. In one's assessment of ecological risks, this also needs to be factored in. Rigorous scientific studies are needed to assess the risks and benefits of GM crops and organic production methods, and land-grant universities have an obligation to help develop these data. That is the major role that land-grant universities should play—being neither an advocate nor an opponent of genetically engineered organisms. Rather, our scientists need to search for ways to enhance the quality of our food production systems that are environmentally and socially responsible, and to do this through rigorous scientific research.

The role that biotechnology should and shouldn't play in agriculture is a major topic for our faculty and me as we move forward in this new millennium. I appreciate your interest in writing and hope these remarks will provide a broader perspective of our role as a land-grant university and how our scientists must appreciate and work within our increasingly complex world.



Susan A. Henry, Ph.D.
The Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

34 Program Work Teams Enhance Research, Outreach

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station (CUAES) have established 34 new extension and applied research program work teams (PWTs).

"The program work teams will provide an unprecedented and much desired opportunity for stakeholder and extension educator input to the direction of the applied research program supported by the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station. It is our desire to use federal formula funds administered by CUAES for the greatest positive impact on New York citizens. PWTs should help us meet that goal," said Dan Decker, director, CUAES.

As core units of the new enhanced program development structure and process adopted by CCE and CUAES, PWTs will help identify statewide program needs and opportunities. "The program work teams provide the mechanism through which faculty and extension educators connect with stakeholders in identifying issues, studying needs, creating educational materials, and designing learning experiences that address these issues and needs," said D. Merrill Ewert, director, CCE. "These PWT's reflect a shared commitment, providing a point of connection at which citizens, researchers, and educators collaborate in helping people and communities learn together in ways that solve local problems."

The PWT's will plan and coordinate many of the multidisciplinary extension and applied research programs that will address needs over the next two to three years. PWTs will report annually to one or more of five new program councils—the second piece of the new program development structure, as described in Cornell Cooperative Extension's Committed to Excellence strategic plan.

The program councils—representing agriculture, youth, community vitality, quality of life, and environment—will advise the directors of CCE and CUAES on program directions, gaps, strengths, and investments. Councils will receive reports from PWT's and other existing applied research and extension programs and will counsel the directors on how resources might be better focused to improve the accessibility, responsiveness, accountability, and excellence of extension and experiment station efforts.

Questions regarding program work teams may be referred to Michael P. Voiland, assistant director for research and extension for CUAES/CCE, at 607-255-2552 or mpv1@cornell.edu.

► Associate Director for CfE continued from page 1

outreach, extension, and research. As this is a half-time position, Pfeffer will also continue his teaching and research activities in the Department of Rural Sociology.

The newly-created position of associate director replaces the deputy director position previously held by Charlie Fay, who is now vice provost for research administration. As part of his new responsibilities, Pfeffer has also been appointed to the CALS Executive Committee to represent environmental programs, and to the CfE Steering Committee, where he will play a major role in determining the function, position, and structure of CfE relative to university and college programs.

Pfeffer has been a professor in the Department of Rural Sociology since 1993. During his time at Cornell, he has published numerous articles and book chapters

and has recently been awarded competitive grant awards from the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Agriculture's National Research Initiative. In addition, he has ongoing research projects exploring the conflicts of values and interests in environmental management at sites in the United States (the New York City and Susquehanna River watersheds) and in Central America (protected areas in Honduras and Costa Rica).



Inside CALS: Department of Natural Resources

The CALS Department of Natural Resources (DNR) launched its new undergraduate curriculum this fall, an undertaking that has been in the works for over a year, coordinated by Barbara Bedford, chair of the department's teaching and curriculum committee.

According to DNR Chair Jim Lassoie, "the signature of a department is what you teach." With that in mind, Lassoie and his colleagues decided to revamp DNR's curriculum to meet the eclectic mix of student interests and at the same time address the changing nature of problems and methods in the field of natural resources.

The goal of the new curriculum is to provide undergraduate students with the concepts and tools needed to understand the Earth's environmental resources and ecological systems and to participate with intelligence and foresight in their conservation and management.

DNR requirements for the new curriculum will be more rigorous in that a higher level of competency will be expected in the areas of math, chemistry, and statistics. The curriculum also stresses the importance of acquiring quantitative skills in computer science, geographic information systems, and the social sciences, for example. DNR majors are now required to take at least 23 credits in the department, compared to 19 previously required, but this still allows them a great deal of flexibility to take courses outside the department.

Next fall, students pursuing degrees in natural resources will have the option of eventually concentrating their junior and senior year studies in one of three areas: (1) *applied ecology*, for those who wish to pursue careers or advanced study in science-based conservation or management; (2) *resource policy and management*, which provides a foundation for students who wish to pursue careers or advanced study in the human dimensions or policy aspects of resource conservation and management; or (3) *environmental studies*, intended for those who wish to obtain the broadest possible grounding in the wide range of subjects needed to understand human interactions with the environment.

As a result of these efforts, students now will have a more contemporary view of issues in the environment and natural resources, one in which the department's former themes, such as fisheries and wildlife, are embedded in problems of a wider geographic and intellectual scope. All majors will be asked to consider the ecological, ethical, and social dimensions of environmental problems. Bedford calls

this modern approach a "more sophisticated, integrative view of

environmental problems" that does not separate the many factors that comprise all environmental problems.

Natural Resources 110, a new introductory course, has been created to introduce students to the field. Another new course intended for second semester sophomores is an introduction to the resource policy and management aspect of the major. This class will serve as the foundation for higher level courses and will provide instruction in environmental history.

All DNR majors will leave Cornell having completed a required Senior Experience, which Lassoie calls an "integrating synthesis experience." This requirement may be fulfilled by taking a senior field practicum that brings together the range of undergraduate Natural Resources course work taken, interning for credit, or completing a senior honors thesis.

Lassoie thinks that the new changes to DNR's curriculum will attract more prospective students and help them narrow the path toward the future, including how to choose the most appropriate concentration for graduate school.

Ruth Sherman and Jody Enck, research associates, examine the motivations, attitudes, and concerns of private woodland owners with students in NTRES 110.



PHOTO COURTESY OF J. LASSOIE



Assistant Professor Paul Curtis discusses landscape management for wildlife with NTRES 110 students.

Strategic Marketing Workshop

The Department of Applied Economics and Management and Cornell Cooperative Extension are hosting a "Strategic Marketing—Breaking out of the Box!" workshop on September 25–26, 2001, for agricultural extension educators, farm management specialists, and agriservice professionals in the Northeast. Participants will learn hands-on, practical tools for conducting marketing research and market analysis and how to advise farmers and other extension clients on marketing issues.

The workshop will take place in Warren Hall on the Cornell campus. The registration fee is \$55 (\$75 after September 11), which covers lunches, breaks, materials, and the winery tour and dinner.

For more information, contact Wen-fei Uva, senior extension associate, at 607-255-3688 or wf32@cornell.edu, or visit the Horticultural Business Management and Marketing Program web site at http://aem.cornell.edu/special_programs/hortmgmt

New Homepage for Mann Library

The website—www.mannlib.cornell.edu—features easy and direct access to a variety of library information, from reference and instruction to computing and collections. Looking for an endnote tutorial? Need to reserve the Stone Microcomputing Center? Put material on reserve? All are available directly from the front page, thanks to an ingenious bit of java-scripting that allows you to mouse over a major category like Access Services and immediately see all the associated sub-menus such as Course Reserves and Document Delivery. The site is also fully searchable via a search box on the front page.

Lake Ontario Biocomplexity Study Under Way

A group of researchers from Cornell, Syracuse University, and SUNY Environmental College of Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) has been awarded \$3 million in funding from the National Science Foundation's Biocomplexity Program to investigate the physical, biological, and human interactions shaping the ecosystems of Lake Ontario bays. The team, led by Mark Bain of the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit at Cornell, includes Nelson Hairston Jr. and Stephen Ellner (Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell), Todd Cowen and Pete Loucks in (Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell), Rolf Pendall (City and Regional Planning, Cornell), Charley Driscoll (Civil and Environmental Engineering, Syracuse University), and Don Leopold (Environmental and Forest Biology, SUNY-ESF).

The group's work addresses a key idea of biocomplexity science: what are the circumstances under which ecosystems are self-organized versus driven by external processes? To test this idea, they are investigating both external and internal characteristics and processes in eight enclosed bays and lagoons along the Lake Ontario

coast that sustain a range of human settlements at various times.

The first six months of the project have seen the addition of two full time staff members, as well as several graduate students, undergraduate interns, and technicians. Andrea Parmenter joined the project staff and developed the initial web site for the project, which includes the results of a spatial analysis of the study sites and their watersheds. Gail Steinhart took on the responsibilities of research and field work coordination for the group.

While the study is designed to answer basic questions about ecosystem organization, the research also has practical applications for Great Lakes management. An advisory board consisting of representatives from state, federal, and international agencies oversees the project. The involvement of the advisory board will enhance the exchange of information between scientists and resource managers and allow for managers to utilize the results of the group's research in making decisions on Great Lakes management.

For more information, visit <http://ontario.cfe.cornell.edu>

Homecoming Offers Career Networking

The CALS Career Development Office and Alumni Affairs Office have teamed up to sponsor CALS Homecoming Alumni Career Link...Live! Scheduled for Saturday, October 13, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Biotechnology Building, CALS alumni from the Alumni Career Link program will discuss their careers with students and other alumni.

For more information call 255-2215.

Upcoming USDA Grant Workshop

Cornell University will host the Northeastern Regional Workshop for the USDA National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (NRICGP) on Thursday, October 18, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hotel Syracuse in Syracuse, NY. The workshop is designed for an audience of researchers and research administrators. Discussion of new developments and special issues that affect NRICGP as well as other competitive grants program funding will be offered to provide an up-to-date view of various CSREES-sponsored competitive grants programs. Effective grantsmanship and preparation of proposals will be emphasized. Break-out sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to interact with key program staff and to discuss issues of immediate interest. Each registrant will have the opportunity to participate in two of the afternoon break-out sessions.

Information on the workshop agenda and a registration form can be found at the Cornell University/AES web site at www.cals.cornell.edu/ofr/news.cfm (Go to Topics on This Page and click on "Upcoming Agricultural Events and Meetings"). Make reservations with the Hotel Syracuse at 315-422-5121 or www.hotelsyracuse.com. If you have questions, contact Lisa Miller at lsm4@cornell.edu or 607-255-8057.

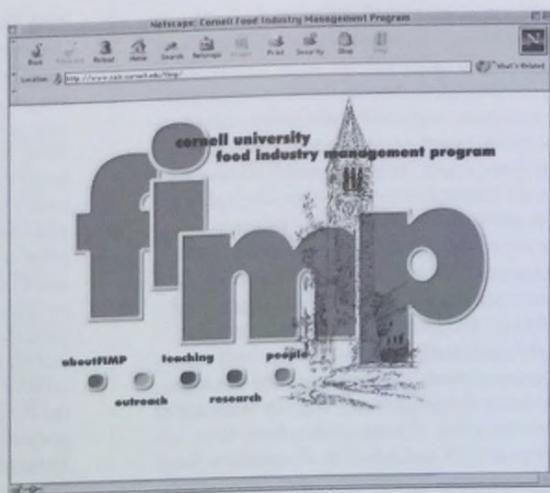
A circular graphic with the letters "FYI" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered on a dark green background.

In-Touch Science: Bridging Departmental and College Divides

What do horticulture, civil engineering, environmental science, chemistry, animal science, and fiber science have in common? All are topics covered by In-Touch Science, a curriculum development project funded by the National Science Foundation that provides engaging science experiences for 8- to 11-year-old children in settings such as summer camps, youth groups, and day care programs. For the faculty and staff involved in developing the In-Touch curricula, one of the most rewarding aspects has been the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues in a wide array of departments and programs across the university. Led by Charlotte Coffman in the Department of Textiles and Apparel, College of Human Ecology, the In-Touch team includes faculty and staff from the departments of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Animal Science, Chemistry, and Horticulture, as well as the American Indian Program, Center for the Environment, and Cornell Plantations.

The goal of In-Touch Science is to get children thinking about science in their everyday lives as they participate in paired activities that link two seemingly disparate scientific fields. For example, as children test the strength of bridges they have built using spaghetti and marshmallows, they discover that similar shape and strength criteria determine which plant stems will bend and which will be rigid. As they experiment with the chemistry of animal digestion, children learn that humans use similar processes to obtain textile fibers such as deriving linen from flax. As they make conceptual connections such as these, children begin to see the many ways in which science is relevant to their lives.

A series of four In-Touch Science curricula has been published on the following pairs of topics: chemistry and environment, food and fabrics, plants and engineering, and fibers and animals. All are available for sale through Cornell's Media and Technology Services Resource Center (255-2080; resctr@cornell.edu). Piloting and assessment of the program continues, especially with groups representing disabled children, Native Americans, and girls because these audiences tend to be underrepresented in science. For more information, contact Charlotte Coffman, 255-2009; cwc4@cornell.edu, or visit www.human.cornell.edu/txa/extension/intouch/index.html

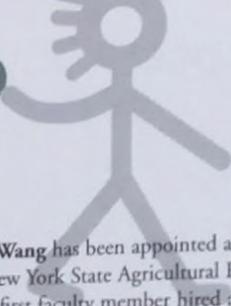


New Food Industry Management Web Site

fimp.aem.cornell.edu

The Food Industry Management Program (FIMP) in the Department of Applied Economics and Management is one of the oldest and most highly regarded food research and education programs in the United States. Its new web site provides its many stakeholders with up-to-the-minute information on FIMP's research, teaching, and executive education activities. Visitors will be able to download research publications, explore FIMP's undergraduate and graduate programs, apply for FIMP's summer Food Executive Program, and learn more about its annual International Food Executive Programs sponsored by the USDA's Cochran Fellowship Program.

Who's New, Who's Who



Appointments

Susan K. Brown, associate professor of horticulture at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, NY, has been promoted to professor. Brown develops superior apple varieties in a breeding program that utilizes both traditional breeding techniques and biotechnology. The program emphasizes fruit quality such as firmness, crispness, and flavor; genetic resistance to diseases; and genetic control of plant forms. Using molecular markers Brown is learning how to genetically control plant architecture. She is also researching antioxidants and ascorbic acid in breeding lines to improve the health benefits of apples, working with Cy Lee in the department of food science and technology at Geneva. At Geneva, Brown has also worked on genome mapping and gene tagging with Norman Weeden and Minou Hemmat in horticulture, cooperated with Herb Aldwinke and Jay Norelli in plant pathology on transgenics and the development of disease resistant advanced selections, and collaborated with Harvey Reissig in entomology on resistance to apple maggot. Brown earned a B.S. in plant sciences from the University of Connecticut in 1978 and a M.S. in Horticulture from Rutgers University two years later. She came to Geneva as assistant professor of pomology in 1985, after earning her Ph.D. in genetics from UC-Davis the year before. She became an associate professor in 1991.

Daniel J. Decker has been named associate dean and director of the Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station in Ithaca. As station director, he succeeds **W. Ronnie Coffman**, who is stepping down as associate dean for research to become chair of the Department of Plant Breeding. Coffman also has been named CALS director of international programs, overseeing the college's international research, extension, and education activities. **William E. Fry**, the college's newly named senior associate dean, succeeds Coffman as associate dean for research.

Rebecca Nelson started August 1 as an associate professor in the Department of Plant Pathology in the international agriculture program at Cornell University. Nelson is one of six professors with this title who are responsible for leading or coordinating international programs. She also has a joint appointment as program director for the McKnight Foundation's Collaborative Crop Research Program, which consists of 16 projects, each involving a partnership between a research group in a developing country with one or more "advanced labs." From 1996-2001, Nelson worked as a molecular pathologist at the International Potato Center (CIP) in Lima, Peru, where she served as leader of CIP's project on integrated management of late blight. From 1988-1996, she worked as a molecular pathologist at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. She obtained her Ph.D. in zoology at the University of Washington in Seattle and her B.A. in biology at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. Nelson is currently a MacArthur Fellow.

Pedro Perez has joined the Department of Applied Economics and Management as an assistant professor. He will teach AEM 220: Introduction to Business Management and conduct research on the use of technology in the food industry. Perez holds a Ph.D. from the School of Management at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, an M.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a degree in chemical engineering from the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas, Venezuela.

Ping Wang has been appointed assistant professor of entomology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva. He is the first faculty member hired at Geneva to work in genomics. His position is 100 percent research. An entomologist with experience in insect physiology, biochemistry, and molecular biology, Wang has done extensive work with insect digestive systems. He hopes to focus his research on the mechanisms that allow insects to resist the pathogens and pesticides that they consume along with plant material. Understanding the mechanisms of insect digestion helps in the development of more effective pesticides. The research could help scientists understand and combat the development of pesticide resistance in insects, which often leads to more or stronger pesticide use. Wang did his undergraduate and master's work in the biology department at Fudan University, in Shanghai, China. He came to the United States in 1989 to take a research position with the Boyce Thompson Institute (BTI). In 1991, he joined Cornell's graduate school, receiving his Ph.D. from the Department of Entomology in 1996. He did a short post-doc with the National Institutes of Health in 1997, coming back to BTI in 1998 as a post-doctoral fellow where he gained hands-on experience in genomics.

Honors

Richard A. Church '64 and **George Trimmerger** were recognized by the ALS Alumni Association with the Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award. The award is given to two individuals for "outstanding contribution to the college in one or more of the following areas: teaching, research, extension, or administration." Church retired as director of alumni affairs after 32 years. Trimmerger was a professor in the Department of Animal Science from 1944 until his retirement in 1975.

Laurie E. Drinkwater, associate professor of horticulture, was awarded a 2001 Affinito-Stewart Grant by the President's Council of Cornell Women (PCCW) to pursue research on the role of carbon abundance in determining soil organic matter composition and microbial community function.

Dennis Gonsalves, Jan Nyrop, Wendell Roelofs, and Tony Shelton—all faculty members at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva—served as managers for various USDA grant panels. Through the National Research Initiative (NRI) and various other programs, the USDA turns to panels of experts in the appropriate field to decide which research projects can be funded. Panel managers select panel members and find experts in the field of each proposal to serve as ad hoc reviewers, adhering to a strict set of guidelines for both. Panel members rank proposals for funding and ensure that each proposal gets a fair and honest review. Roelofs manages the NRI's two entomology and nematology panels this year, which together reviewed 173 proposals; approximately 20 percent were funded for a total exceeding \$5 million. Nyrop manages another NRI panel, Biologically Based Pest Management, funding about 20 percent of its 68 proposals with \$2.2 million. Dennis Gonsalves manages this year's Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants program, run by the USDA. The panel has \$1.5 million at its disposal for the fiscal year 2001 and received 35 proposals. Shelton manages two biotechnology programs in the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS) and had



13 proposals submitted and approximately \$3 million in available funding. IFAFS is a new USDA program, now in its second year, which is designed for large multidisciplinary and multi-institutional grants.

Russell Hahn, professor of weed science in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, has been elected a Fellow of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA). Dr. Hahn was recognized for his outstanding work in weed science extension, specializing in field crops, and for his service to the discipline of weed science. Since 1974, he has served as extension weed management specialist in the department and currently serves as department extension leader. He has been active in both the Northeast Weed Science Society and WSSA, serving as regional officer and committee chair on numerous occasions. A native of western Nebraska, Hahn received his B.S. degree in agronomy and M.S. degree in weed science from the University of Nebraska, and his Ph.D. in weed science from Texas A&M.

Quirine M. Ketterings, assistant professor of crop and soil sciences, received a 2001 Affinito-Stewart Grant from PCCW for her research investigating the phosphorus storage capacity of honeoye soils in New York State.

Barbara Knuth, professor of natural resource policy and management, has been elected second vice president of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), a position which ascends to president in three years. Founded in 1870, AFS is the oldest and largest professional society representing fisheries scientists and has an international membership. Its mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. Knuth has held several leadership positions in AFS as president of other AFS units, including the Water Quality Section, the Northeastern Division, the New York Chapter, and the Virginia Tech Chapter.

David R. Lee, professor of applied economics and management, received the Distinguished Member Award from the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association at NAREA's annual conference in Bar Harbor, Maine, in June. Lee has been on the Cornell faculty since 1982 and served as NAREA president in 1997-1998.

Rui-Hai Liu, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of food science, will receive \$102,500 in grants from the New York Science, Technology, and Academic Research (NYSTAR) program. NYSTAR's Technology Transfer Incentive Program is designed to promote, encourage, and facilitate economic development in New York through university-based or corporate-sponsored research. Liu will work with Marmotech Inc. of Ithaca to develop and commercialize a novel plant-based anti-viral compound. This compound could ultimately battle such pathogens as the human hepatitis C virus (HCV) and the West Nile encephalitis virus. Liu and Marmotech will use this money to develop an antiviral medicine and identify potential commercial partners. More than 150 million people worldwide are chronic carriers of HCV, including 4 million in the United States. HCV infection causes chronic hepatitis that can progress to cirrhosis of the liver and is a major cause of liver cancer. While the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the use of interferon-alpha (IFN-alpha) and ribavirin for the treatment of chronic HCV infections, there are frequent and severe complications associated with the use of both drugs. Current therapy also has limited efficacy, and only approximately 30 percent of patients respond adequately. Liu has been trying to identify natural chemicals in fruits, vegetables, and herbs that have anticancer and antiviral activity. Currently, there is no vaccine available for prevention of HCV infection. "For all these reasons, a safe and effective method to treat chronic HCV infection is recognized as an urgent, unmet medical need," says Liu.

Ken Mudge, associate professor of horticulture, and graduate student Kelly Hennigan received an American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC) Education Program Award at the annual ADEC meeting in Tampa, Florida.

The Northeast 183 (NE-183) program was recognized by the USDA for its research and development activities on June 4. NE-183 is a research program that evaluates apple varieties throughout the Northeast and the country. The program's activities are centered at Cornell. **Susan Brown** and **Cy Lee** work with one of New York's three NE-183 test plots at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva. **David Rosenberger**, **James Schupp**, and **Richard Straub** manage another plot at the Hudson Valley Laboratory, in Highland, NY. **Ian Merwin** manages the third on Cornell's Ithaca campus. The award recognizes efforts to expand economic and trade opportunities for United States agricultural producers. NE-183 was commended "for providing timely information to apple growers nationally about the likely success of establishing new cultivars in different regions while meeting consumers' desire for diverse and tasty apples."



Global Development Symposium

A symposium, "Global Developments in the 21st Century," will be hosted by the new Robert A. and Ruth E. Polson Institute for Global Development on September 21–22. It will include a keynote address by Frances Moore Lappé, author of *Diet for a Small Planet*, titled "Food and Hunger: Learning to See the Unexpected," at 3:30 P.M., Friday, September 21, in the Memorial Room at Willard Straight Hall. A public address, "Dealing with Globalization: Counter-movements for Care and Community in a Market-Driven World," by Peter Evans, professor of sociology, University of California, Berkeley, will precede Lappé's talk at 2 P.M. The symposium continues September 22 in 401 Warren Hall with the following presentations:

9:15–10:45 A.M., Food and Natural Resources

Jan L. Flora (sociology, Iowa State University), *Advocacy Coalitions and Natural Resource Management at the Local Levels: Examples from the Andes*

Saba Mebrahtu (nutrition project officer, UNICEF-Pakistan), *The Economic Rationale for Investing in Nutrition: The Case of Vitamin A Deficiency Control in Pakistan*

Jack Kloppenburg Jr. (rural sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison), *Of Food Systems and Foodsheds: A Pilgrim's Progress, or There and Back Again*

10:45–11:15 A.M., Morning Tea

11:15–12:45 P.M., Governance and Globalization

Louise Fortmann (environmental science and policy management, UC–Berkeley), *If You're Living on the Zambezi, Globalization Looks Like a Wall of Oncoming Water*

Nancy Peluso (environmental science and policy management, UC–Berkeley), *Political Forests, Environmental Security, and other Legacies of 20th-Century Global Politics*

Cornelia Flora (sociology, Iowa State University), *Globalization and Changing Relations Between Market, State, and Civil Society*

1:00–3:00 P.M., Lunch Break

3:15–4:45 P.M., Class, Culture, and Resistances

Martijn van Beek (ethnography & social anthropology, Aarhus University, Denmark), *Making a Difference? Reflections on Recognition and Empowerment*

Filomeno Aguilar (humanities, James Cook University, Queensland, Australia), *Transborder Class Relations and the Paradoxes of National Culture: A Southeast Asian View*

Amita Baviskar (sociology, University of Delhi, India), *Red in Tooth and Claw?: Looking for Class in Struggles over Nature*

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