NEW • YORK • STATE • AGRICULTURAL • EXPERIMENT • STATION

CORNELL UNIVERSITY **STATION NEWS** GENEVA NEW • YORK

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AUGUST 20-27, 1999

BRIEFS

STATION NEWS

Items for *Station News* should be sent to Pat Blakeslee (pb64@nysaes.cornell.edu), interim *News* editor in Communications.

RETIREES ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Members of the NYSAES Retirees Association elected new officers at the spring meeting in May. They are:

President:	John Bourke
Vice-President	Mary Lou Dumbleton
Secretary:	Muriel Stobie
Treasurer:	Don Johnson

The Executive Board recently met to plan the year's activities. A full luncheon meeting will be forthcoming to discuss and approve the new by-laws. Future activities include the November Book Sale and Lunch and the Christmas luncheon.

EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Mary Slaght will be in Geneva on August 27 to give a presentation on the Early Retirement Incentive Program at 10:00 a.m. in the Staff Room, Jordan Hall. Before and after the presentation she will meet with individuals in the FST conference room. Please call 8-5-4455 to set up a time to meet with her.

(*(BRIEFS, continued on page 3)*

NEW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ENHANCES UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE EDUCATION

Hobart Cox Scholar, Kevin Phillips conducted greenhouse experiments with Harvey Reissig and Jan Nyrop. (Photo: Rebekka Foster)

While many of their peers were typing memos or flipping burgers, three students from Hobart and William Smith Colleges conducted research at the Experiment Station, under the auspices of the Jesse B. Cox Summer Environmental Scholar Program. The new program, funded by a three-year grant from the Jesse B. Cox Foundation, provides summer research internships for HWS students interested in investigating environmental topics. Because participation in the program was based on academic performance as well as the merits of project proposals, its inaugural class of eight included some of the Colleges' most promising scholars.

Under the terms of the grant, projects must have an environmental focus and they must include interaction with some kind of external research entity, environmental agency, or advocacy group that requires applied work extending beyond the HWS campus.

"The logic behind this is twofold," says Brooks McKinney, associate dean for academic affairs at the Colleges, "the first being that virtually all environmental questions are applied questions. The second grew out of the Colleges' success with outside internship programs in the past few years."

Participants worked full time for eight weeks and received a stipend plus room and board. Cox Scholars shared a large house on South Main Street with 13 other summer research scholars, an arrangement designed to foster development of a student research community. Summer scholars were encouraged to share their results through both formal and informal interactions. Many presented their findings at a poster session, still on display in the science complex.

(COX SCHOLARS, continued on page 2)

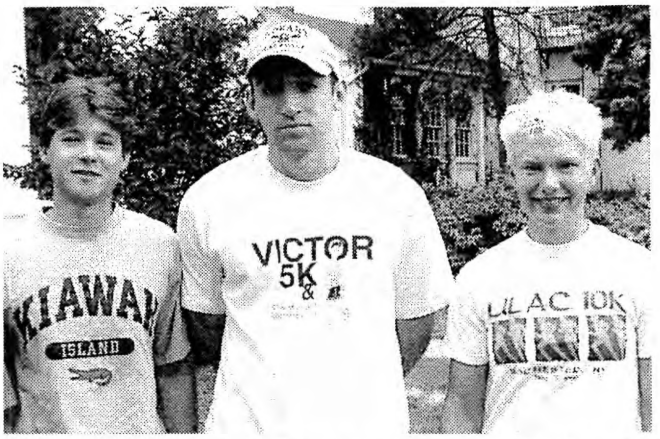
(COX SCHOLARS, cont.'d)

The proximity of the Station to campus and the willingness of Station scientists to mentor HWS students in the past made it a logical partner in this effort to give scientists-in-training a chance to engage in projects that had meaning in the real world. And finding projects with an environment focus proved no problem for four faculty members in the entomology department, who agreed to supervise three Cox scholars.

When Harvey Reissig approached Jan Nyrop about a project he thought would be good for a student to pursue, Nyrop willingly agreed to collaborate. "I had had good experiences working with Hobart and William Smith students in the past," Nyrop says.

Their intern, senior biochemistry major Kevin Phillips, divided his time between field and greenhouse, trying to determine whether newer, more selective chemicals are useful controls for obliquebanded leafroller (OBLR) larvae, a serious apple pest that has developed increasing resistance to non-selective chemical controls. In order to do this, he needed to assess whether surviving predators were responsible for observed declines in orchard larvae populations.

"Predation is considered the most likely reason that larvae vacate their feeding sites," says Phillips, "but there are several confounding factors, such as movement, that have made this difficult to assess."



HWS students (from left) Edward Belden, Kevin Phillips, and Amber Beutel interned at the Station this summer as part of the Jesse B. Cox Environmental Scholars program. (Photo: Alison Plansky)

Phillips devised a series of greenhouse experiments designed to distinguish losses due to predation from loss due to movement. He also compared the effectiveness of more selective chemicals to non-selective chemicals in the field. Although he was unable to draw any definitive conclusions about percentages of larval losses due to predation, his results indicate that selective controls were as effective as non-selective controls and, therefore, increase the potential for predation.

Edward Belden, a junior environmental science major, worked with Greg English-Loeb and Andrew Norton, studying the relationship between domatia, tiny non-glandular hairs found on the vein axils of wild grape leaves, and the survival rate of beneficial mites in vineyards. A better understanding of this relationship could help scientists and growers develop planting schemes that utilize wild grapes to provide natural protection for grape cultivars, most of which have no domatia.

"It is hypothesized that mites use domatia for protection from predation," Belden says. Through a series of laboratory experiments, using two different mites and three different predators, he found evidence to support this theory.

English-Loeb decribes participation in the program as a "win-win situation." In exchange for the time spent mentoring, "we received valuable help accomplishing our overall goal of developing new tools for managing arthropod pests, and Edward got hands-on experience with many facets of entomological research," he explains. "In addition to contributing to our research effort, the Cox program afforded me the opportunity to be directly involved in undergraduate education, something that I enjoy."

"The program is a good vehicle for undergraduates to pursue more advanced field and laboratory research at earlier stages in their career," says Art Agnello, who worked with sophomore environmental science major Amber Beutel. "They get exposed to practical aspects of applied research that they normally wouldn't encounter until graduate school."

Beutel studied the effectiveness of pheromones as a control for obliquebanded leafroller larvae.

"Pesticides have not had much of an effect on controlling them," Beutel observes, "so we're testing whether pheromones can be used to disrupt reproduction." The objective is to make it more difficult for male OBLRs to find their mates by broadly dispersing the female pheromone.

Beutel examined the extent of apple and leaf damage within blocks of trees treated with pheromones alone, pheromones plus insecticide, and insecticide alone at three different sites. Although her results did not conclusively demonstrate that pheromones were a viable alternative to insecticides, they did provide some evidence that pheromones used in conjunction with insecticides may be more effective than either alone.

Defining a project that can be accomplished within the constraints of the eight-week timeframe can be a real challenge, Agnello observes, especially at the Station, where research schedules tend to be more in phase with the seasons than with academic calendars. "You have to sculpt out a piece of your research that allows interns to take away something meaningful from the experience."

Even if the conditions are less than ideal, interns funded by programs such as this, which expect a bit more from the faculty mentor, gain a great deal from the experience.

"I try to educate my interns on what it's really like to do science," says Nyrop.

"Kevin learned how to formulate a hypothesis, collect data, differentiate confounding factors, and present his results," Nyrop explains.

"It's a great opportunity for the students involved," Nyrop adds, "but the Station benefits as well," As result of their participation, he and Reissig got some research done that would otherwise still be pending.

"Kevin was an incredible ball of energy, and he got a lot done," says Nyrop.

P. Blakeslee

Communications Services intern Alison Plansky contributed to this story.

(BRIEFS, cont.'d)

STATION HOSTS VINIFERA TOUR

A Geneva Vinifera clone and variety grape tour was held on August 16 by Bob Pool, Steven Lerch, and Thomas Henick-Kling. The tour started at 9:00 a.m. at Research South within select vineyards. Approximately 25 people were present, some representing local wineries. The walking tour was led by Bob Pool, who explained a little about each of the Pinot Noir clones in the red wine varieties and the Chardonnay clones in the white wine varieties along with some other select red and white wine varieties. He discussed the history of each variety and how each one grows in this geographic area.

Questions about each variety were fielded during the tour by Pool, Lerch, and Tim Martinson, Yates County Cooperative Extension agent. Others on the tour who had more specific information added to the discussions.

The tour ended at the Food Science & Technology building with a wine tasting designed and hosted by Thomas Henick-Kling. Fourteen select wines were served that represented the varieties discussed on the tour. Wines were served in flight numbers according to their types. Each person tasted the wines and judged them on color, fruit derived and/or varietal flavors along with overall balance and/or structure. Thomas then explained what variety the wines were made from and his professional opinion on the descriptions of each wine. At the end of each flight number he took a poll to determine which wines were the favorites.

The grape tour and wine tasting was very sucessful and informative! A hearty thanks goes out to all those behind the scene who helped make it a success!

D. Chicoine

DONORS NEEDED FOR STATION BLOOD DRIVE

Don't miss your chance to be a hero! The Station Club is sponsoring a blood drive at the Sawdust Café, on August 23 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Currently only five percent of the eligible population is sustaining the needs of local hospital patients and that is not enough to meet increased patient needs.

To donate blood you must be 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds, and be in general good health. You are eligible to donate if you have not donated since June 28, 1999, (56 days prior to the blood drive). Many people do not think that they can donate blood because they are on medication; however, not all medications will defer a person from donating blood. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility to donate, ask the nurse at the blood drive or call the Red Cross collections office at 1-800-272-4543.

Donors are scheduled one every 15 minutes. To assure minimal waiting, donors are asked to make an appointment time by calling or e-mailing Terry Spittler (x282 or tds2@nysaes.cornell.edu) or Gemma Osborne (x228 or gro2@nysaes. cornell.edu). Walk-ins will be welcome, but may take slightly longer.

WHALE WATCH
AUGUST 20, 21, 22

Be sure to check out the Station tent at this year's sixth annual Seneca Lake Whale Watch, made possible by an awesome crew of Station volunteers.

Thanks in advance to all who made this year's exhibits happen!

ONLINE PROTECTION AGAINST SCAMS, HOAXES, AND LEGENDS

The Internet is rapidly becoming a catch-all for numerous scams, hoaxes, and annoying dead chain letters that keep resurfacing. There are a number of sites you can turn to, to avoid becoming a victim.

Internet Scam Busters
(http://www.scambusters.org/):
This is a nice site that keeps up-to-date information on all the latest scams out on the Internet, and there are a *lot* of them. Many old phone or mail scams, such as the 809 number scan and the Nigerian fee scam, have gained new life through modern technology. This site also contains helpful hints on what you can do to avoid such scams.

Current Internet Hoaxes and Legends
http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/blhoax.htm

This site contains a very extensive list of the numerous hoaxes and such that are floating around cyberspace. This might be a good place to check before you go forward that Old Navy email to a friend so you can get the bogus 25 dollar gift certificate.

PEOPLE

New Baby: Buildings & Properties announces a new addition to the Griner Family—Donald J. Griner was born August 15, weighing in at 8 lbs, 7.5 oz and 22" long. Congratulations Ann (B&P) and Peter (FRU).

LTC

Tuesday, August 24, 2 - 4 p.m.
FileMaker Pro 4.0 Advanced

Wednesday, August 25, 2 - 4 p.m.
HTML Advanced

CALENDAR of EVENTS

AUGUST 20-27, 1999

MEETINGS

Wednesday, August 25, 3:00 pm
Department Chairs' Meeting
Director's Office, Jordan Hall

SEMINARS

Monday, August 23, 1999, 10:30 a.m.
Food Science and Technology Conference Room, Food Research Lab, Second Floor

Jonathan Licker, Ph.D., Food Science and Technology-Geneva will speak on "Wine Aroma with Brett Character."

Thursday, August 26, 1999, 10:30 AM
Dissertation
The Paul J. Chapman Conference Room, 310 Barton Laboratory
Coffee and cookies will be provided at 10 a.m.

Entomology candidate Alfredo Rueda will speak on "Developing the Research and Education Components for an IPM Program for Sweet Onions in Honduras."

Monday, August 30, 10:30 a.m.
Room 310 Barton Lab
Coffee and cookies will be provided at 10 a.m.

Carmenza Gongora will speak on "Chitinolytic Transgenes from Streptomyces albidoflavus as Phytochemical Defenses Against Herbivorous Insects: use in Transgenic Plants and Effects on Plant Development."

FIELD DAY

Fifth Annual Buckwheat Field Day
Tuesday, August 24, 1-3 p.m.
Vegetable Research Farm

The main displays are the field trials for the NYSAES buckwheat breeding program. If you are interested in attending, contact Lisa Blanchard at x436 or Thomas Björkman at x218.

CLASSIFIED

FOR RENT: Studio Apartment: Bright, clean and convenient location to Experiment Station and HWS Colleges. On site: parking, laundry facilities and storage space. No pets please. Call 789-8920

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT 1999!!!

Last Saturday, August 14, several fearless teams met behind Jordan Hall to compete in the 1999 Volleyball Tournament. Student teams clearly dominated the event and thrust themselves forward to the semifinals (mostly due to lack of participating teams from staff and faculty). SAGES proudly announces the winners:

4-on-4 Competition

First Place: Three Babies *and a Lady (*Dora Santos, Miguel Carvalho, Cruz Avila-Adame, Han-Bin Chen)
Second Place: Our Team (Roger Magarey, Dan Waldstein, Joy Bolar, Lisa Hoffman)
Third Place: Happy Spikers (Mandy Esch, Baozhong Meng, Poki, Muhammet Tonguc)

2-on-2 Competition

First Place: Roger Magarey, Dan Waldstein
Second Place: Cruz Avila-Adame and Han-Bin Chen (Dora Santos)
Third Place: Joy Bolar and Ken Bell

Other Winners

Best Losers: The Food Science Lions (Pervin Basaran, Neisha Basaran, Li Tang and Lei Tang)
Best Team Name: Happy Spikers (Mandy Esch, Poki, Baozhong Meng and Muhammet Tonguc)

There were no losers at the tournament, as all teams had excellent players, great team spirit, and terrific games. Just sitting and watching was very interesting, especially, when the ball left the field and the spectators became involved.

SAGES would like to thank Communication Services, who designed the certificates and helped with the prizes. A big "Thank you" to everybody involved!!!

SAGES

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

The following surplus equipment is available as one package for $500 or best offer. B & P reserves the right to refuse any offer. Send bid to Tom DeYulio, Buildings and Properties. Bids accepted until noon Aug. 27, 1999. Bid should include name and phone #. Questions about equipment should be made to Mark Casasanta at x200.

7200/75 Power PC
500 MB Hardrive
24 MB Ram
Ethernet
System 8.5
Keyboard & Mouse
Original System CD
Standard Software
High Resolution 13" RGB Monitor