

CORNELL UNIVERSITY STATION NEWS GENEVA NEW • YORK

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BRIEFS

NYS Health Insurance Extended for Graduating Dependents

Statutory faculty and staff with graduating dependents need to be aware of a recent change effective May 1, 2000, affecting their health and dental insurance benefits announced by the New York State Department of Civil Service. The very recent change was made by NYS Health Insurance Program after the May issue of "For Your Benefit" had been printed. In order for dependents to take advantage of health and dental benefits beyond their date of graduation, they **MUST** complete and return an application to Benefit Services, 130 Day Hall by June 30, 2000.

If you are a statutory employee, enrolled in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP), and you have an unmarried dependent student, 19 years of age or older, but under age 25 who is graduating from an accredited secondary or preparatory school, college, or other educational institution, you may continue coverage for this student on your health plan for three months following the end of the month in which course requirements for graduation are completed. This additional coverage period is at **NO ADDITIONAL COST** provided that you continue family coverage. You are able to cover your dependents as part of your

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*I've learned...
that you should never
say no to a gift from a child.*



Andy Rooney

What the 2000 State Budget Means for Geneva

In the New York State Budget just passed, the Experiment Station was more successful than ever in obtaining funds through the Agriculture and Markets budget. The Governor included \$350,000 for the Station in the executive budget, and the legislature added the following sums: "\$200,000 for additional services and expenses of the Cornell Geneva Experiment Station machinery for research farm and infrastructure improvements," "\$24,000 for the wine production and training laboratory," "\$200,000 for equipment, testing and training in relation to the state seed inspection programs," and "\$50,000 for the Seed Testing Laboratory." This is a total of \$824,000.

We are delighted to receive this increase in support this year. Our friends in agriculture and food processing have been very successful in telling Albany that the work of the faculty and staff at the Station is very important to their businesses. This is the reason key people like Governor Pataki, Senator Nozzolio, Senator Hoffmann and Assemblyman Magee have obtained extra funds for the Station.

The 2000 budget includes two additions for the New York State Seed Testing Laboratory, that is affiliated with the Department of Horticultural Science, and was the result of the following efforts. An external review of the Laboratory in 1999 prompted Larry Eckhardt, President of the New York Vegetable Growers' Association, to make a major effort to get the legislature to add funds to the budget to support the work of the Lab. Julie Suarez, from the New York State Farm Bureau, also helped convince legislators to support the Seed Lab. Efforts are already underway to get the Governor to include funds for the Seed Lab in next year's executive budget. This is important because by law the Station is required to conduct or have others test seeds for the Department of Agriculture and Markets, and increasingly growers rely on the services of the Lab to test their seeds before planting.

Insight to the State Budget Process

The funds allocated to the Station this year through the Ag and Markets budget are in addition to the approximately \$11 million received through the State University of New York (SUNY), which is approximately 50 percent of our budget. These funds are allocated

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(BRIEFS, continued from page 1)

family coverage, including dental plan participation. If you are a retiree, contact NYS Dept. of Civil Service at 1-800-833-4344.

However, this extension of benefits to your dependent is not automatic. Contact Human Resources, Jordan Hall, at X2203 or e-mail cmd4 to obtain an application (PS-465). You have until June 30, 2000 to return this application to Benefits Services, 130 Day Hall. Your graduating dependent student will be eligible for COBRA coverage following the three-month extension of benefits. If you do not submit the application by the deadline of June 30, 2000, your graduating dependent will lose eligibility as of the last day of the month in which he or she completes requirements for graduation.

High school graduates at or near age 19 may also elect this extension. If the graduate is 19 at the time of graduation and has not been accepted for fall admission at an accredited secondary or preparatory school, college, or other educational institution in a qualified course of study, you may request this three-month extension of coverage. If the graduate will turn 19 in the three-month period beyond the month in which they complete requirements for graduation, you may request this extension of coverage as well.

For example, suppose your dependent is age 18, completes course work in June and receives a diploma at a graduation ceremony in June. Suppose that dependent's 19th birthday is in August. This dependent may apply for the three-month extended coverage period, which will continue until the end of September. The coverage will extend for three months after the requirements for graduation were met, not after the 19th birthday.

If you have questions concerning this extended student coverage, please contact Human Resources at X2203 or X2210 or Benefits Services at 8-5-3936 (607/255-3936).

DRIVING HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

University Policy 3.4, Use of Cornell Vehicles, applies to the use of university vehicles controlled by departments and units within the university community. Within this policy, there are conditions that apply to the drivers of university vehicles. Drivers should read the obligations carefully before operating a university vehicle. Three of the driver's obligations

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York (SUNY), which is approximately 50 percent of our budget. These funds are allocated to the Statutory Colleges at Cornell University, then allocated further to the Experiment Station for salaries, general expenses, and utilities. The Experiment Station's portion is allocated independently of that for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The percentage of SUNY funds to the Station has remained relatively constant over the last several years. In addition to the regular SUNY allocation, funds are received from the State University Construction Fund for special projects to repair and improve physical facilities.

Several years ago the Experiment Station developed what is called The Geneva Plan. This Plan seeks an increase in the SUNY budget on a recurring basis to hire personnel and provide operating funds to carry out programs, in addition to special appropriations each year to upgrade equipment and improve research and extension facilities. We have made a major effort to inform people in the executive and legislative branches of state government of the importance of Station programs and the need for more resources as part of the Geneva Plan. No progress has been made in convincing state government officials to increase the SUNY budget for the Experiment Station. However, since 1997, Geneva has been very successful in getting special appropriations, through the budget of the Department of Agriculture and Markets. These funds have enabled the Station to replace outdated and worn-out equipment in labs, in the food processing pilot plant, and in the Field Research Unit, as well as help build the Vinification and Brewing Technology Laboratory, and improve other laboratory facilities.

The competition for state dollars is severe so the Station must continue the annual struggle to secure funds beyond what is in the SUNY budget. New York is keenly interested in economic development and jobs, and we must be aware of this in arguing for support for the Station. This means strengthening agriculture and food processing in New York, but it also means contributing to the development of new technologies and businesses based on these technologies. Biotechnology and genomics are two areas the governor and others in Albany are increasingly aware have potential to benefit New York State's economy. The Station is well positioned to gain support to help grow these types of businesses and is actively pursuing the location of an Agriculture and Food Technology Park here on campus to help in that effort. We will continue to seek ways to secure additional funds for traditional and innovative programs. And, as you plan changes and carry out programs, keep in mind what is important to the people of New York.

Jim Hunter

STATION CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

July 14, 2000

Big Oak Country Club

\$12/ Person Includes

Golf & Food

(hots, hams & salads)

Golf carts are extra



Research Grants Awarded by NYS Vegetable Growers

The New York State Vegetable Growers Association has awarded the following grants from its Fresh Market Vegetable Research Funds for summer 2000 research projects.

This Fund, started in early 1996 and supported by voluntary contributions from the Association's members, is designed to assist vegetable crop research targeted by growers as needing attention and research but that is not fully supported by other funding sources,



such as processing commodity organizations or crop research/marketing orders. The Association was founded in 1911. Its nearly 600 members are fresh market and processing vegetable growers.

Funds available for 2000 research projects totaled \$4,200. The four proposals funded in whole or in part were:

John Curtis, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Dr. A. M. Shelton, Dept. of Entomology, NYS Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, NY, for: "Monitoring Onion Thrips for Scheduling Pesticide Spraying in Cabbages in 1999." [Continued from 1999.]

Wen-fei L. Uva, Dept. of Agricultural Resource & Managerial Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, for: "An Economic Assessment of Farmers' Direct Marketing and Their Value-Added Activities in New York State." Collaborators: Monika Roth, CCE/Tompkins County; Brian Caldwell, CCE/Tioga County; Diane Eggert, NYS Farmers Direct Marketing Association; and Robert Lewis, NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets.

Phillip D. Griffiths, Dept. of Horticultural Science, NYS Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, NY, for: "Breeding for Black Rot Resistance in Cabbage."

R. W. Robinson, Dept. of Horticultural Science, NYS Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, NY, for: "Breeding Squash and Pumpkin for Disease and Insect Resistance."

Results of these projects will be published and distributed to the members of the NYS Vegetable Growers Association and others in early 2001. Proposals from public and private sector researchers in New York State will be solicited in November 2000 for 2001 projects.

The published reports for the projects funded and conducted in 1997 and 1998 are available at no charge upon request.

For more information, contact the NYSVGA at P.O. Box 4256, Ithaca, NY 14852-4256 (tel 607-539-7648, fax 607-539-3150).

J. Warholick

Early Season Bike Maintenance



Has your bike been sitting in the garage or basement all winter? Now's the time to dust it off and get it road ready. The rain will subside eventually, and the Station's Bike Week is coming soon (June 12-16). The following maintenance routine is a good idea for bicycles that were in good operating condition last year.

1. Wipe the bike down. Check for cracks or bends in the frame, rims or spokes. Are any cables frayed? Be sure that the seat, handle bars, racks and wheels are all secure. Tighten any loose nuts or bolts.

2. Pump up the tires to the pressure indicated on the sidewall. Use a pump with a gauge if possible. Check the tires for cracks, slashes, bulges and signs of excessive tread wear. Spin the wheels and make sure that brakes do not rub on the rim or tire.

3. Lubricate the chain with a teflon-based or synthetic bicycle lubricant. (A drip application technique is better than sprays which can be messy and reduce braking power by greasing rims).

Take your bicycle to a reputable shop if:

- 1) it has been stored for a long period;
- 2) you find irregularities during your check-up; or
- 3) you feel unqualified to perform the check-up.

Most shops are happy to give a free safety check as well as tune-up and repair estimates while you wait. Safe and enjoyable bicycle riding starts with a smooth running machine.

Enjoy!



J. Grant

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FITNESS

Time: 12:10 - 1 p.m.
Place: Sawdust Cafe

TAEKARDIO

Date: May 31, 2000
Time: Noon
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: Computer desk with paper shelves, pull out for printer, keyboard tray, file drawer. Almost new condition. \$100 firm. Contact: Judy at 2273, 315-946-4953 or jla2

WANTED TO RENT: One bedroom furnished apartment for male graduate student. Needed August 20, 2000 for one year. Close proximity to NYSAES. Contact Sami El-Rakshy, sme22@cornell.edu

FOR SALE: Dog cage for large dog, like new. \$20. Call Dave x2496.

FOR SALE: 1990 Plymouth Acclaim, good condition, 3.0L V6, new trans & radiator. \$1500/BO. E-mail Pat at pgw2 or call x2221 before 2:30, 331-3941 evenings.

FOR SALE: Scuba equipment: oceanic ocean sport BC, size M, near mint, black with blue trim, comes with blue carry bag. \$300 or best offer. Contact Mike Fordon at x2214 or mpf8.

WANTED TO RENT: Post-Doc and PhD Student need a house to rent near the Station. Dawn and Torey will be moving here in July and anticipate living in Geneva or the surrounding area for 2 or 3 years. They have 2 large dogs and are looking for a nice, quiet home to rent. If you have any ideas, please call 607-539-3293.

FOR SALE: Lovebirds: breeding pair of lovebirds with cage \$200.00. Hand raised tame baby lovebird \$75.00. Call Kim after 5PM at 607-869-3844.

FOR SALE: Jet Ski, '97 Yamaha Waverunner GP760, new in '98, excellent condition, with trailer and cover. \$4900 or best offer. Days: 315-787-2220 or evenings, 315-781-1217.

VACATION OR GETAWAY RENTAL: Heated beach house on Canandaigua Lake. Living area features a kitchen/dining area, full bathrm., master bedrm. and carpeted living rm. Includes, fold-out futon (sleeps two), phone, color TV. Kitchen equipped with "frige", stove, microwave, and utensils. Linens and towels in-

(CLASSIFIED, continued)

cluded. Off season rates available for June, September and off-off season rates in October. Autumn is magnificent on the lake. By the week or by the night. Interested? Contact elg2

FOUND: Key in Barton Lab Lobby area. The key is mid size and silver. Written on one side is "Fuel" and the other is "ST556". Key can be claimed down in the Buildings & Properties office.

FOR RENT: Sublet, 2 bedroom apartment, heat included, off street parking, air conditioning available, small deck, pool access, 1 mile from the Station, small pets ok. Available August until October 31, 2000. New lease, your option after October 31. Contact Michele at: mmc15@cornell.edu or call x2282.

FOR SALE: 1991 Volkswagen Jetta; 5 speed, 4 door, white exterior, grey interior, A/C, radio with cassette deck, 130K miles, free snow tires, good condition, some rust. \$2500/or best offer. Contact Frank at x2406 or fpw1@cornell.edu.

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are: 1) have a valid driver's license; 2) register as a university driver by filling out a Driving History Questionnaire for insurance purposes; 3) notify supervisor of any change in license status. The complete policy is on the web at the following address:

<http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/UCV.for.html>

It is time to update the database containing the names of all potential drivers. Please complete the Driving History Questionnaire form and return it to Human Resources, Jordan Hall, by Friday, June 2, 2000. If you have completed a Questionnaire since January 1, 2000 it is unnecessary to complete a new form unless there has been a change in the information. If you didn't receive a Questionnaire, contact Human Resources - x2203.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your cooperation.

Charie Hibbard

(BRIEFS, continued)

Horticulture Now a \$10 Billion Industry

According to the 1998 Census of Horticultural Specialties, producers of horticultural products in the US accounted for \$10.6 billion in sales. The Horticultural Specialties census is the only source of detailed production and sales data at the national level. It provides detailed statistics to government agencies, academic, nursery and floriculture industries, and others on the size and structure of the horticulture industry for planning, policymaking, research and market analysis.

Some highlights:

- The value of horticultural specialty crops increased dramatically from the previous horticultural census, from \$4.8 billion in 1988 to \$10.6 billion in 1998. This nearly \$6 billion growth represents a 221% increase.

- Floriculture (bedding and garden plants, potted flowering plants, foliage plants, cut flowers, and cut cultivated greens) accounted for 42% of the horticultural specialty sales.

For a catalog of NASS products and services, visit the NASS web site at www.usda.gov/nass. For a slide show presenting quick facts on the Census, click "Census of Agriculture."

Vegetable Growers News

WRITE A BEST-SELLER

Send your classified for Station News to Donna Boyce at dmb62@nysaes.cornell.edu. Ads will be run for members of the Station family only. Renewal after three weeks available upon request.

FIELD RESEARCH UNIT
PESTICIDE
REMINDERS

The spray season has begun. Please remember to check the electronic posting board (EPOST), WPS Central Posting, or the on-site posting before entering any research blocks. The EPOST instructions "Read Me First" are in the "sprays" folder on the CC fileservers.

Please remember applicators cannot always see people in or around the blocks being sprayed. If you are exposed to drift, vacate the area immediately and check the proper central posting location for specific information about the application or contact Mart Van Kirk at 781-5307 or mwv1@cornell.edu. Thank you for your cooperation.

SAVE THE DATE

June 8, 2000

Station Club Lunch & Sale

Noon at the Sawdust Cafe

Hots, Mac Salad, Chips and Soda \$3.50

