

CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY

## STATION NEWS

GENEVA  
NEW • YORKVOLUME LXXIX • NO. 43  
OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 6, 1998

## BRIEFS

## HOME ADDRESS UPDATES

All employees are asked to update their home address as soon as possible through Employee Essentials on the Bear Access menu. W-2 forms will be sent to the address listed in Employee Essentials. If you are not able to use Employee Essentials to update your address, please notify your Department/Unit HR representative or call Human Resources, Jordan Hall, at x203.

For Your Information: Employee Essentials, on the Bear Access menu, will no longer exist as of December 18, 1998. Employee Essentials currently provides us with personal information regarding insurance, retirement, addresses, emergency contacts, etc. You may make a hard copy of each Employee Essentials' screen for your personal use. Please keep in mind that the information currently presented on each screen is dependent upon your appointment, salary, age, etc., or displays information that you may have entered.

1999 SELECT BENEFITS  
ENROLLMENT

This is to announce that Cornell's annual open enrollment period for statutory Select Benefits Plan is November 1 through December 4, 1998. *Benefit Services* cannot accept open enrollment changes before or after these dates. Open enrollment packets that contain complete information on the choices available to faculty and staff will be mailed to home addresses during the week of October 26, 1998.

This message is addressing **Select Benefits only**, not the statutory health insurance open enrollment period.

Charie Hibbard

## EVERYTHING WAS "ROSIE"



*Rosie and Margaret Provvidenti share many years of association with Suzie and Jim Hunter.*

Henry Munger, Professor Emeritus of Fruit and Vegetable Sciences at Cornell and the first speaker at last week's symposium honoring Rosie Provvidenti, pointed out that he had been told that there was no particular theme for the program.

As the afternoon progressed, however, it became evident that words beginning with the letter "I" were the common thread... words like "inspiration," "impact," "influence," "interaction," "ideas," "important," "[first] identified," and "inexhaustible." The symposium, chaired by Dennis Gonsalves, featured speakers from both academia and industry—from as near as Geneva and Ithaca and as far away as Georgia and California.

They spoke of Rosie's accessibility, knowledge, scholarship, boundless energy and enthusiasm, his willingness to share information, and his friendship. Dr. Gerry Uyemoto, formerly a faculty member in plant pathology at the Station who is now with the USDA in Davis, California, recalled that "Rosie talked, talked, talked and I listened, listened, listened" Dr. Ted Superak of Harris Seed Company, also based in Davis, said, "Rosie, you're a great friend. Thank you for all you have done." Professor Molly Kyle-Jahn from the Ithaca campus called Rosie "a man whose own career has spawned many other careers" and conveyed her "heartfelt thanks on behalf of all the students," adding that "my students don't get their degree unless they spend at least a few days with Rosie."

Donald Wertman, of Seedway in Hall, called Rosie a "regional, national and international resource and treasure," adding, "I hope that future generations have their own Dr. Provvidentis to learn from and honor." Wertman went on to praise the Station in general, saying, "Geneva and the surrounding area have benefited not only from the scientific contributions of the Station but from contributions to the community, as well, by Station employees and their families."

(Continued on page 2)

(ROSIE, cont.)

While the program's emphasis was on Rosie's scientific accomplishments, the afternoon was not without its lighter moments. Dr. Dave Groff, of Seminis Vegetable Seeds, Inc. in Tifton, Georgia, said, "Whenever I came to visit Rosie, I always brought someone else along because he talked so fast that I could only comprehend about half of what he said. I was always hopeful that my companion would get the rest."

Dick Robinson talked about a trip to China that he and Rosie took in 1991. "There were many speakers of international fame there," he said, "but Rosie seemed to get the most attention. They hung on every word he spoke, and, let me tell you, it wasn't an easy thing to do. I think part of the reason they keep inviting him back is to catch what they may have missed before." Dick went on to note that, "while Rosie's fame and reputation in the scientific community comes from his work as a virologist, he is both an outstanding and accomplished botanist and taxonomist as well."

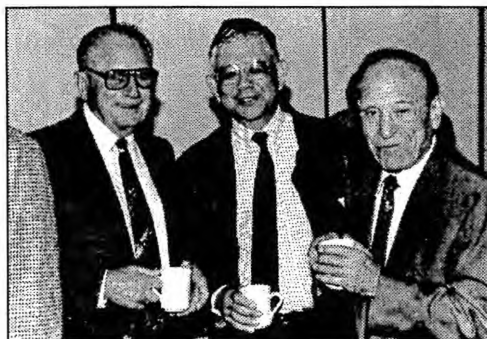
That evening, a dinner attended by more than a hundred guests was held in Rosie's honor. During the post-dinner program, chaired by Helene Dillard, Herb Aldwinckle gave his impressions of the guest of honor from the standpoint of a colleague and department chairman while Dennis Gonsalves related some more humorous anecdotes about his travel experiences with Rosie. Director Jim Hunter gave an oftentimes-moving talk about Rosie's career. He talked about his superior work ethic, his long hours of hard work, and how he had to battle physical ailments, even as a child, to become the preeminent scientist he is today.

Rosie was presented with a book of letters written to him by colleagues and friends. Other gifts included the traditional Cornell mug, presented by Steve Slack, a representative of the Department of Plant Pathology in Ithaca; a large framed cucurbit poster from Dave Groff of Seminis Vegetable Seeds, Inc.; and "funding" for a subscription for a good number of years to the *New York Times*, Rosie's favorite newspaper.

The highlight of the evening, though, was when Rosie got up to speak and was greeted with a standing ovation as he made his way to the podium. He remarked that he felt very fortunate to have spent more than forty years focusing his efforts on the identification of so many sources of plant resistance to viruses (the value of this work was highlighted many times over during the symposium). He again received a standing ovation after finishing his remarks, but it wasn't the final standing ovation of the night. The crowd stood and applauded once again when Helene introduced Rosie's wife Margaret as "the driving force behind the great man."

A few days later, Rosie remarked that it had been a wonderful day and evening, but, being a man who is as famous for his humility as he is for his science, he had something to add: "You know," he said "they tricked me. They knew I would not want any part of all this, so they just asked me if I was going to be here on the 20th. I thought that maybe someone was coming to visit or something like that, so I said that I would be here that day. When they told me about the symposium and the dinner, all the plans had been made, invitations accepted, etc.—so what could I do?"

J. Ogrodnick



Don Barton, Gerry Uyemoto, and Rosie catch up on news during coffee break at the symposium.



Victor and Helene Dillard congratulate Rosie at the banquet.

## WINTERIZATION

This is a reminder that all vehicles in your department should be prepared for winter use or storage soon. Since antifreeze is expensive, it is suggested that any leaks or cooling system malfunctions be called to our attention.

It is advisable to have the above done before the middle of November. Please schedule your vehicles with the Fleet Garage as soon as possible, to allow us sufficient time to perform the work required.

Please be advised that the installation of snow tires on vehicles that need them can be accommodated at this time.

Al Fairbrother

## PLANT PATH AT CAREER DAY

Diana Parker and Lisa Emele represented the Department of Plant Pathology and wowed students at the Waterloo High School career day last week with their interactive display of plant pathology. The display was broken into sections that showed pathogens, pathogen biology, resistance development and a survey of diseases, and ran the gamut of aspects of plant pathology.

Parker was pleased with the response from the students. "There were students interested in general science, students who planned to become farmers, and students who wanted careers in molecular biology. The interest was from a broad spectrum of students, and we were very busy," she said. And although having a spot next to the State Trooper was helpful, Parker and Emele made plant pathology real for the students by displaying and talking about apple scab, corn smut, and the tar spot that has infected area maple trees this year. "Initially, students were not interested and would say, 'I don't know what plant pathology is,'" said Parker. "But when we showed them some of the diseases, they became very interested and would say, 'Oh, yeah! Our tree has those spots,' or 'Eeew! I wouldn't eat *that* apple!' There were about fifty very serious students at our display during the day."

In addition to talking about plant disease, Parker and Emele assisted students in looking at diseases and nematodes under the microscope.



## PEOPLE

## • Farewell

**Timur Momol** has joined the staff at the University of Florida, and is Assistant Professor at the North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy, FL, where he will concentrate on diseases of tomato. His family will join him in December.

**Barbara DeLue**, who has been invaluable in the library for the past six months, will be leaving on Wednesday, November 4. She will be missed.



The annual SAGES Halloween party will take place in the Sawdust Café on Saturday, October 31. The schedule for this exciting event is as follows:

**5:00 pm:** Decorating of the Sawdust café; help for anyone who does not have a costume

**6:00 pm:** Pumpkin carving to make Jack o' lanterns

**7:00 pm:** Potluck dinner (drinks, desserts, plates and utensils will be provided; bring a dish to pass); we will begin eating at 7:00 pm sharp, so arrive on time if you plan to eat.

**7:45 pm:** Games and dancing

Everyone is encouraged to bring favorite tapes or CDs. If you don't have an idea for a costume (even a simple mask will do), come at 5:00 pm and we will supply one or create a costume for you! There will be prizes for best costumes and best carved pumpkin (you can bring a precarved pumpkin if you want).

I hope to see all of you there. I guarantee there will be lots of food and lots of fun.

*Daniel Waldstein*



## TV CREW VISITS STATION

Border Television, award-winning British producer of science programs, came to the Station this week to visit with Terry Acree and Malcolm Bourne. Producer/Director Ian Fisher and two crew members are on a four week production tour of the United States, and they looked at the Gas Chromatography/Olfactometry Charm room and at the Retronasal Aroma Simulator ("Artificial Mouth") in Acree's lab, and asked about current and future trends of GCO analysis. Malcolm Bourne, whose recent research has been on improving firmness and texture of canned vegetables, demonstrated low temperature blanching of vegetables. A spring airing of the resulting program is planned. "We had one of the most productive days of our trip," said Fisher. "Both Terry and Malcolm were excellent."

STATION CLUB  
BANQUET

*Friday, November 6, 1998 ~ Club 86*

Social Hour 6:00 pm ~ Dinner 7:00pm Music by E'Co

Dancing following dinner and presentations

<i>Broiled Fish</i>	<i>\$17 Members</i>	<i>\$20 Non-Members</i>
<i>Prime Rib</i>	<i>\$21 Members</i>	<i>\$24 Non-Members</i>
<i>Baked Chicken</i>	<i>\$15 Members</i>	<i>\$18 Non-Members</i>
<i>Vegetable Lasagna</i>	<i>\$15 Members</i>	<i>\$18 Non-Members</i>



*See your Station Club Representative  
for Tickets.*

*Deadline to purchase tickets:*

*Friday October 30.*

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 6, 1998

## EVENTS/MEETINGS

**Friday, October 30, 1:00-3:00 pm**

Staff Room, Jordan Hall.

*Meeting to discuss Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) with Dr. George Good. Open to all Geneva faculty.*

## LTC

**CLASS:** Intermediate HTML**DATE:** Friday, November 6, 1998**TIME:** 9:30-11:30 am**PLACE:** LTC, Jordan Hall

## DEADLINES

• **Monday, November 2:** Snap bean proposals, progress reports, half-page summaries due to Director's Office

• **Monday, November 9:** Sweet corn proposals, progress reports due to Director's Office

## SAVE the DATES

**Saturday, October 31, 1998, 6:00 pm**

Sawdust Cafe

SAGES Halloween Party

**Friday, November 6, 1998**

Club 86

Station Club Banquet

**Saturday, November 14, 1998**

Jordan Hall Auditorium

Station Book Sale and Craft Fair

## CLASSIFIED

**FOR SALE:** 1990 Toyota Corolla, 97,000 miles, automatic transmission, power steering and brakes, air conditioning. Call Al Fairbrother (x304).

**FOR SALE:** 1989 Honda Prelude Si, 2 door, 5 speed, 73,000 miles, power windows, sunroof, excellent condition. \$4,995. Call Donna (x325).

**FUNDRAISER:** Boy Scout Troop 58 is selling Dine-A-Mate books for \$20. You get 2-for-1 or 50% savings on fine, casual and informal dining, movies, museums, sports events, merchandise, local services, vacations, air fares and more, from now through 12/1/1999. Local establishments are Mario's, Pier House, Wine Garden, Lakeview, Pizza Hut, Denny's, Wing Tai, Alice's Kitchen, Geneva Cinema, Smith Opera House, Hobart Statesman, Seneca Lake Country Club, PK Putters, etc. Use it twice and you have recouped your investment plus supported a good cause. It also makes a great Christmas gift. For purchase or info. contact Jim at jpe6 (x378 or jpe6). Make checks payable to Troop 58.

**FOR SALE:** Super capacity washer and dryer. Bought new and used about one year. Mint condition. Asking \$690/both. Contact Esen (x328, eam17).

## SEMINARS

## ENTOMOLOGY SEMINAR

**Date:** Tuesday, November 3, 1998**Time:** 10:30 am**Place:** Room 310, Barton Laboratory**Speaker:** Susanna Remold

Graduate Research Assistant  
Section of Ecology & Systematics

Cornell University, Ithaca

**Title:** Evolutionary Ecology of Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus Host Use

*There will be a period of social interaction with the speaker at 10:00. Coffee and cookies will be available.*

## PLANT PATHOLOGY

**Date:** Tuesday, November 3, 1998**Time:** 3:00 pm**Place:** Room A133, Barton Laboratory**Speaker:** Tim Widmer

Department of Plant Pathology

Cornell University, Geneva

**Title:** Effect and Mechanism of Suppressing *Meloidogyne hapla* on Vegetables with Sudan Grass Green Manures

## GENOMIC TECHNOLOGIES SERIES

**Date:** Wednesday, November 4, 1998**Time:** 12:15 pm**Place:** Jordan Hall Staff Room**Speaker:** Ted Thannhauser

Director, Biotechnology

Resource Center

NYS Center for Advanced

Technology

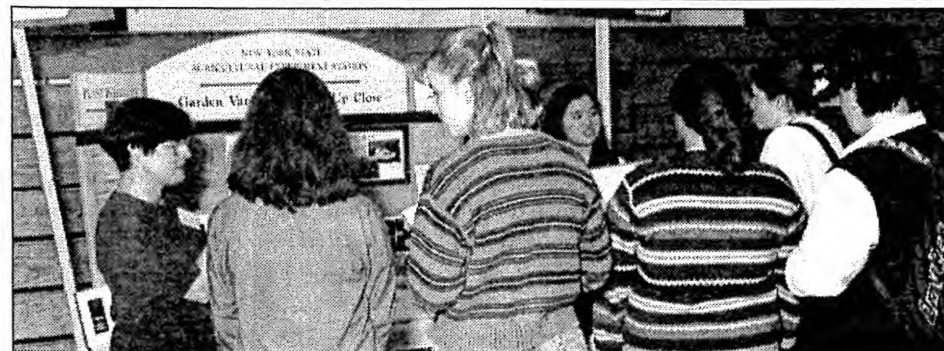
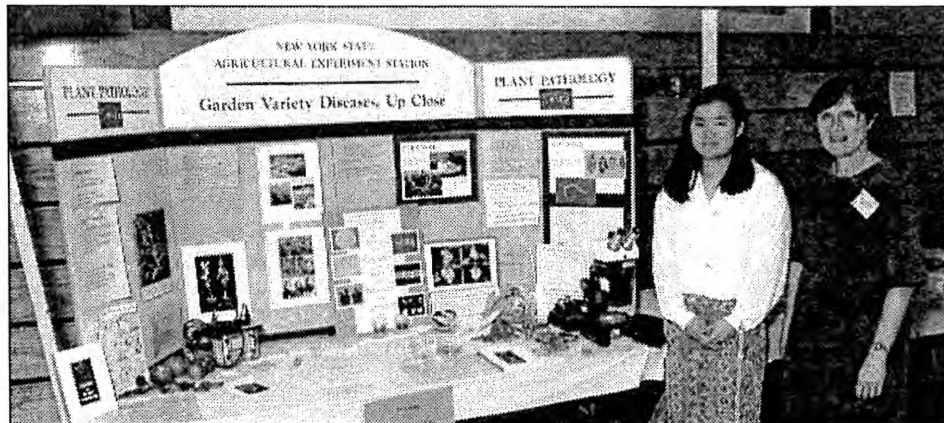
Biotechnology Program

**Topic:** Dr. Thannhauser will speak on biochip arrays and the prospects for the development of services relating to their use at Cornell

*This is the first of what we hope will be a series of well attended seminars, presentations, and discussions on genomic technologies and their role in agricultural research.*

*All Experiment Station faculty, staff, postdocs, and students are encouraged to attend. Anyone interested in meeting individually with Dr. Thannhauser should contact*

*Dr. Douglas Knipple  
(x363, dck2).*



*Lisa Emele and Diana Parker set up a "hands on" Plant Pathology exhibit that captivated the senior class during Career Day at Waterloo High School. (related story, p.2)*