



WEEK of AUGUST 28, 1994

# STATION NOTES

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

**Monday, August 29, 12:10 pm**  
Sawdust Cafe  
*Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees*

**Wednesday, August 31, 12:10 pm**  
Sawdust Cafe  
*Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees*

**Thursday, September 1, 3:00 pm**  
Lounge, Jordan Hall  
*Safety Committee Meeting*

**Friday, September 2, 12:10 pm**  
Sawdust Cafe  
*Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees*

## SEMINARS

### PLANT PATHOLOGY

**Date:** Tuesday, August 30  
**Time:** 3:00 pm (coffee at 2.45 pm)  
**Place:** Room A133, Barton Lab  
**Speaker:** Ron Laby  
Department of Plant  
Pathology, Ithaca  
**Topic:** Structural and functional  
studies on *Erwinia*  
*amylovora* - harpin

## DEADLINES

### SUBMISSION OF GRANT PROPOSALS

#### • August 31

USDA Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center

#### • September 1

NSF International Opportunities for Scientists and Engineers

#### • September 1

BARD

#### • September 15

Alfred Sloan Foundation Research Fellowships

#### • Open Date

NSF *Arabidopsis* Genome Research Project

See the July 11 issue of *Sponsored Programs Newsletter* for details on the above programs. Application forms are available by calling x212.

## "AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER EXPERIENCE"

Lauren Thomson spent last summer in Massapequa selling kitchenwares at Lechters. She spent this summer at the Experiment Station extracting nerve ganglia from European corn borers under a high-powered microscope and running electrophoresis gels with Peter Ma. For her and the other 14 Hobart & William Smith (HWS) students who had spent previous summers as babysitters, waitresses, clerks, and lifeguards, performing feeding studies with Japanese beetles, testing soil cores for the presence of nematodes, and amplifying deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) were lab experiences none of them is liable to forget.

"I really didn't know what to expect," said 18-year-old Amy Mahar, an incoming freshman from Olean, N.Y., who worked in Mike Villani's lab stressing populations of Japanese beetles and European chafer larvae with Amanda Fantauzzo from Rochester. "What we learned is that a lot of research doesn't go the way you expect it to go. There are a lot of variables in nature that affect field research," she said. "In high school biology, lab results were pretty easy to predict."



Amy Mahar (right) and Amanda Fantauzzo take core samples to test for nematodes.

Amy, Amanda, and Lauren were part of a three-year, \$550,000 summer research grant received by the Biology Department at HWS from the Undergraduate Biological Sciences Education Program of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. "The project involves close collaboration with the Experiment Station," said Tom Glover, HWS professor of biology and adjunct professor of entomology at the Experiment Station. "Everybody has been extremely supportive of the students."

The students received free room and board at HWS, and a \$2,000 stipend for eight weeks of laboratory work performed at either HWS or the Station. Five days a week, a bus brought nine of them to the Station labs of Wendell Roelofs, David Soderland, Mike Villani, Harvey Reissig, Doug Knipple, and Art Agnello. In addition to working on an original research project, students had the opportunity to do field work and explore local resources. Those students already matriculated at HWS were designated Hughes Scholars. The few who are incoming freshmen were called Elizabeth Blackwell Scholars.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute is a nonprofit medical research organization in Bethesda, Maryland. Their principal objectives are the advancement of fundamental knowledge in biomedical science and the application of new scientific knowledge for the alleviation of disease and the promotion of health.

(Continued on pages 2)

*(Unforgettable, cont.)*

"In 1987, the Institute launched a grants program to help strengthen education in biological sciences and the fields of chemistry, physics, and mathematics as they relate to biology," said Glover. The purpose of the program was to enhance science education from the undergraduate level on. "Qualified students usually aren't exposed to advanced laboratory settings until graduate school and beyond," said Glover. This grant seeks to help alleviate that problem.

Two days before Lauren Thomson is due to finish her stint in Roelofs' lab, words like "suboesophageal ganglion," "neuropeptides," and "PBAN" slide from her tongue without hesitation. "Eight weeks ago I barely knew what they meant," she said. The 19-year-old HWS junior has performed at least 200 dissections on corn borers since June. Her steadiness with \$400 stainless steel forceps and \$230 scissors, and her hand-and-eye coordination at tolerances of 1 mm and less has brought praise from both Roelofs and Ma. "Once I start a gel, it takes at least two full days before I see any results," said Thomson, who has a new appreciation for the word patience.

"She is very, very good," said Ma, who admitted he was initially hesitant about working with someone with no previous experience in small-scale dissection. "She doesn't shake. When you have a kid who comes in with no lab experience and you start to train them and see them progress—that is very exciting."

"Peter is a good teacher. A very patient man," said Thomson, who, like many of the students, plans to major in biology or bio-chem and go on to medical or grad school.

Reauelle King and Nasrene Yadegari worked in Doug Knipple and David Soderland's labs under the immediate supervision of post-doc Stuart Miller. Both women are 21-year-old seniors. "We are working on genes in fruit flies," said King. "The genes are suspected to code for the proteins that are GABA receptors and may be important sites of action for insecticides." The two spent many hours setting up polymerase chain reactions to make the proteins which can be used to generate monoclonal antibodies. They started working at the Station in the spring on an Independent Study and will continue their lab work in the fall as their *Honors Project*.

"Basically we've been geeks since birth," laughed Yadegari. "I've always been interested in biology. Just last week, I read an article in *Science* magazine, and for the first time in my life I realized I understood the entire article. That wouldn't have happened before this summer."

"Reauelle and Nasrene are learning very basic molecular biology techniques," said Glover. "They are doing similar



*Reauelle King amplifies DNA using the polymerase chain reaction.*

work to that being used to decode DNA in the O.J. Simpson case."

Amy Mahar and Amanda Fantauzzo worked on several research projects in Mike Villani's lab under the supervision of Carol Ferguson and Nancy Consolie.

"It is very good for them to have the opportunity to do hands-on research and be involved in lab situations with people who are at different stages of their professional careers," said Ferguson, visiting assistant professor of biology at HWS who worked with the students daily. Ferguson was one of five HWS faculty mentors on the project, along with Joel Kerlan, Steven Kolmes, James Ryan and Tom Glover. "They're learning that science is not cut and dry and that research is not always straightforward. They are finding out that there are a lot of glitches that have to be worked out as their projects progress," Ferguson said she was particularly glad of the opportunity to act as a mentor for so many young women. "I found it very fulfilling," she said.

Although the program was not specifically targeted at women or minorities, 13 of the 15 students were women. There were 31 applicants. The other five involved at the Station were Kristen Schaeffer, Maria Young, Julie Throop, and Julie Zelazny.



*Nasrene Yadegari spent the summer cloning GABA receptor genes.*

## STATION SOFTBALL B&P Wins Third Consecutive Title



**The Winners**— Front, L to R: Jeff Rios, Brian Lasher, Tony Laquitara, Richard Evangelista, Ralph D'Amato. Back, L to R: Chris Olmstead, Robert Evangelista, Jim Abbott, Jason Legott, Ed Bailey, Ken Bell, Captain Dave Lasher, Al Fairbrother.



Above: Ralph D'Amato takes a winning swig from the Director's Cup. Below: Xtra's.

With a scrappy, tenacious defense, the Xtras nearly pulled off the upset of the year. But the August 18 championship softball outing between B&P and the Xtras resulted in B&P walking away with the Director's Cup for the third year in a row. As 20-some enthusiastic fans cheered them on, the Xtras and B&P played an action-packed game that ended with a final score of 16 runs for B&P and 9 for the Xtras.

In the first inning, the Xtras came on strong, scoring 4 runs and looking like the team to beat. But, in the same aggressive style of play that has made them the undefeated team to beat for two straight years, the veteran B&P team retaliated with 10 runs of their own.

"It was an exciting game," said Ed Bailey, this year's commissioner and B&P team member. "It hadn't been for that first inning, the Xtra's might have won."



**The Xtras**—It was a victory for the Xtras just to be in the final game. Struggling with low attendance throughout the season, they were in last place prior to the playoffs.

### SENECA LAKE



### STATION AT THE WHALE WATCH

No one's quite sure where the Seneca whale has been all these years, but he/she is slated to make an appearance on the lakefront this Saturday, from 11 am-8 pm, or Sunday, from 11 am to 6 pm. Stop by for a variety of family entertainment, including music, arts & crafts, sports, wine sampling, and demonstrations, including the Station's very own interactive Science Booth, featuring Fresh Roasted Supersweet

Corn Taste Testing (Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 pm; thank you Jim Ballerstein and Vinnie Volland); the Station's it-almost-killed-us, new, miraculous Bubble Machine (we hope!); Bugs on Pins, and more. Fireworks are Saturday night. See you there!

### OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM CHANGES

The Optional Retirement Program (ORP) is available to employees who have been appointed to Cornell positions with eligible titles. Currently TIAA-CREF is the only option. This is changing; employees will have three additional options to choose from. Mary Slaght, from the State Finance & Business Office, Ithaca, and representatives from four companies, TIAA-CREF, Aetna, Metropolitan, and Valic, will be in Geneva, Thursday afternoon, September 22, 1994 to discuss their retirement programs. Save the date. More specific information will follow.





## "MAC" ATTACK

### AVOID EYESTRAIN

Time flies when you use your Mac. It's important to take a break every hour or so, to rest your eyes, your hands, your back, and, yes, even your brain. Get up and stretch. Take a walk. Go disturb your co-workers. You'll be glad you did.

### ROTATE COLUMN HEADS

When using Excel, you may want to conserve space in a column by rotating column heads. For example, you may have a column with a long title, such as "Gross Sales Nov." and a small item in that column, such as "98." To resolve this problem, you can rotate the header text. Select the cells containing items you want to rotate. Press and hold the **Command** and **Option** keys as you click the selected cells. Click **Alignment** from the shortcut menu. In the **Alignment** dialog box, select your desired format from the **Orientation** section of the window. Click **OK** when finished.

### INSTALL FONTS

To install new fonts on your system, simply drag the font files from the floppy disk onto the **System Folder** icon on your hard disk. When your font menus become too cluttered, simply drag the font files out of the **System Folder** to the desktop or to a different folder.

## PRESTIGIOUS STATION WEAR FOR SALE

Stop by the Bulletin Room, Jordan Hall, to purchase your official Station T-shirt, sweatshirt, or hat—and don't forget we have aprons for that weekend barbecue, and mugs for coffee break.

### SWEATSHIRTS

Adult	XXL	\$15.00
Adult	M,L,XL	\$13.00
Children	M(10-12), L(14-16)	\$11.00

### T-SHIRTS

Adult	S,M,L,XL,XXL	\$7.00
Children	M(12-14), L(14-16)	\$6.00

**HATS** Adjustable Sizing \$6.00

**COFFEE MUGS** \$7.00

**APRONS** \$10.00

## CLASSIFIEDS

**LOST/STRAYED:** Desperately seeking pair of women's white Walking Sneakers with pair of yellow socks tucked inside. Last seen Wednesday afternoon in fleet parking lot. Call Elaine at x253.

**FOR RENT:** Furnished apartment on South Main Street. Three rooms—includes all utilities. Available September 1. Call Joyce at 781-0438. Leave message.

**FOR RENT:** Two-bedroom upstairs apartment centrally located to Station and Plaza. Stove, refrigerator, and all utilities included. \$375/month Call 789-7083.

**YOGA CLASSES:** Wednesday nights September 21 to November 9. 7-9 pm. Hobart and William Smith Sport and Recreation Center. Call Anna Gilman at 789-7223 to register.

## POLICIES, PROCEDURES, and PEOPLE

### • *Library's Summer Employee Receives Award:*

Nigel Phillip, who has worked in the Station's Library for the last few weeks, has received an award for his outstanding performance. Nigel was employed through the Summer Youth Employment Program. This program has been very successful over the years in providing young people with the opportunity to find themselves within a real work environment. The award was presented to 10 students out of 160 from the entire Ontario County. Nigel has been a very bright, diligent and conscientious employee, and has been able, over the period of a few weeks to become an invaluable asset to our Library. Nigel was also awarded with a gift certificate for two large pizzas, which he will have no trouble consuming.

### • *New Employee:*

Leonard Graves began work as a custodian in Food Science on August 18. Welcome Leonard.

### • *Thank You:*

I wish to thank friends and colleagues for their considerable cooperation and comradery during the time I worked with Dr. Bruce Reisch and the Grape Breeding Program. I will be assuming a new position with Cornell Cooperative Extension in the Champlain and upper Hudson valleys beginning September 1. My new residence will be 44 Grove Avenue, Glens Falls, NY 12801. Phone: (518) 761-7069. I will be based at the Saratoga County Cooperative Extension Association office at 50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY. Phone: (518) 885-7885. I hope to see many of you in the future as I return to the Station from time to time, cooperate in programming and research, or at professional meetings. Thanks for everything.

*Kevin Iungerman*