



STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

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BRIEFS

Special Seminar Series Continues: Ideas, Funds and Relationships for the Future

The Special Seminar Series on the Station's Future, which began last fall, continues this semester. Four guests from on and off the Cornell campus who have been CALS and NYSAES friends, partners and stakeholders, will share their insights into the role applied research institutions like ours play in the economy of the world around us.

Nathan Rudgers, former New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and currently Senior Vice President for Business Development at Farm Credit of Western New York, will kick off the 2006 series. Nathan has been instrumental in securing state financial support for CALS and the Station over the past seven years. He keeps a keen eye on the connection between scientific research in food and agriculture and the economic evolution of the industries that have relied on work done at Geneva for over a century. Mr. Rudgers will challenge us by sharing his thoughts in a seminar entitled "Beyond Morrill, Hatch and Smith/Lever: Redefining the Land Grant Mission in the 21st Century."

The Seminar Series will continue in April. Steve Slack, Director of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) will talk about measuring the economic impacts of research centers like ours (April 4). Professor Susan Christopherson of the Cornell Department of City and Regional Planning and an expert on New York's up-state economy will help us define our role in that economy (April 12). Finally, Jerry White and Nelson Bills, faculty members in the Department of Applied Economics and Management will talk with us about

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Hort Society Executive Director George Lamont Retires

George Lamont, long time friend of, and advocate for the Station and CALS, officially retired as Executive Director of the New York State Horticultural Society effective December 31, 2005. Over the course of his 45-year career in the apple business, he earned the respect of his peers at both the state and national levels. He has become the recognized leader and voice of the NY apple industry and an ambassador for the fruit industry and NY agriculture with government leaders. He has served in numerous leadership positions at all levels of fruit industry organizations.

In the last 10 years, he has taken on the leadership role of representing the apple industry in the public policy arena, making him the chief champion/lobbyist for the apple industry with all public institutions. In his role with the NYS Hort. Society, George made extensive contacts within state and federal government allowing him to be very effective in moving apple industry issues forward at the state level. These ranged from registration of new pesticides, farm labor, environment, industry profitability, disaster assistance, crop insurance and support for Cornell by the state government.

His efforts in the public policy arena came at a critical juncture in the history of the NY apple industry. Severe global overproduction and competition threatened to undermine the state's apple industry in the late 1990's, and several devastating natural disasters befell the industry in 2000-2003. The industry was awash in red ink and was not sustainable. George helped educate government and college leaders about the plight of the NY apple growers. His efforts resulted in significant disaster relief, substantial effort by CALS with the formation of an apple industry task force, and significant assistance from NY State government officials to improve the marketing and promotion of NY apples.

George also worked masterfully with the apple industry to help itself. He first conceived of, and then led the NYS apple industry through a very successful strategic planning process from 2000-2003 that resulted in numerous initiatives to restore profitability to NY apple growers. The most important was the formation of a statewide apple marketing cooperative named Premier Apple that has stabilized pricing of NYS apples and has helped restore profitability to NY apple growers. Expanding the organization to include most of the major apple marketers east of the Mississippi, his efforts led to a stronger and more coordinated presence for the NY apple industry in the global apple market and improved quality of apples for the consumer.

George has been an unwavering supporter of Cornell. He attended Cornell as a student and

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George Lamont pictured here during trip to China this past summer with Steve Hoying and Dave Rosenberger.



(BRIEFS, continued)

Geneva's value to New York's agricultural sectors, such as the rapidly growing wine and grape industry (April 25).

Please look for more information on these unique and important seminars as the dates approach and join us on Wednesday, February 22 at 3:30PM in Jordan Hall Auditorium for the first event of 2006 with Nathan Rudgers.

Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park to host "Technology Farm Forums"

Are you curious about Cornell University offerings to entrepreneurs and existing companies that you too could leverage? Want to learn more about what's going on The Technology Farm next door?

Anyone seeking to learn how to tap into the expertise and knowledge of MBA students at Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Business will want to attend the next "Technology Farm Forum" being held at the Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park on Wednesday, February 22, 2006.

Representatives of Cornell's Big Red Incubator program will offer a free informational session from Noon – 1:00 PM to explain the services and opportunities available to budding entrepreneurs and start-up businesses.

The Big Red Incubator was established to stimulate entrepreneurial activity through the creation and growth of early-stage businesses. BRI provides individualized services to clients by matching the talents and skills of its pool of Johnson School MBA candidates with the varied and diverse needs of their businesses.

The Technology Farm Forum is a series of business outreach sessions sponsored by the Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park and the Cornell Center for Life Science Enterprise. They are free and open to everyone, including budding entrepreneurs, business owners or those curious about what Cornell has to offer. Sessions are held once or twice per month at the Park, located at 500 Technology Farm Drive (off Pre-Emption Road).

Seating is limited. Those interested in attending the sessions, held from Noon to 1:00 PM, should make reservations by calling The Technology Farm office at 315-781-0070 or via email to connier@thetechnologyfarm.com. Beverages will be available and attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch. You

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(LAMONT, continued)

graduated with a Masters Degree in Agricultural Economics. He has been a strong voice in encouraging state government officials to continue supporting CALS and the Experiment Station. On numerous occasions he has answered the call by College leaders to use his influence with state government leaders to improve funding for the College. The best examples were in 2003-2005 when he played an important and effective role in convincing legislators to reverse severe budget cuts proposed for the College.

Other significant accomplishments that relate to Cornell are:

1. He served for 20 plus years on the Extension Advisory Committee of the Lake Ontario Fruit Team.
2. In 1990, George worked with a small group of the apple growers, University Faculty, and state government officials to organize a research funding organization and implement a research market order, which collected a levy on all apple growers for production research in 1991. This Apple Research and Development Program has been essential for continuing Cornell's research efforts on apple.
3. For the past 10 years George has served as the co-chair of the Cornell Fruit Program Work Team and its predecessor the Statewide Program Committee for Fruit. These committees of Faculty, Extension field staff and stakeholders serve as an important vehicle for the Fruit Program of the College to receive guidance and input from stakeholders
4. George worked with all levels of the college administration to champion fruit industry concerns.
5. In his role as NYS Hort. Society president in 1997, George was instrumental in the development of a plan to bring new state dollars to Cornell to strengthen fruit extension and research.

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On February 9 Geneva employees took part in a "Chili Chat" forum sponsored by the Employee Assembly. The one-hour forum featured, in addition to a free lunch, invited guest Mary George Opperman, Vice President for human resources, who along with members of the Employee Assembly provided staff members with an opportunity to share ideas on balancing work and leisure. In the photo above, Bill Bryant, a member of the Employee Assembly, leads a group of employees brainstorming ideas about the topic of the day.



Once again employees beat the winter blues with the annual Chili Cook-off in Barton Lab. The winners of this year's chili contest were: Best Chili with Meat: Beth Gugino with "We Don't Need No Stinkin' Beans Chili" Best Vegetarian Chili: Lance and Molly Cadle-Davidson with "Chili Sunrise" and Doug Knipple with "Smokin' Aztec Chili Funghi."



Supervisor Training Held in Geneva

Twenty-Five employees from Geneva, and Fredonia attended a four-day Supervisor's Development Certificate Program (SDCP) last month at Club 86. The training is mandatory for supervisors at Cornell. Laurie DeNardo and Jennifer Harris, both members of the CALS-HR Team, and Sue Haslett, Executive Assistant to the Dean, facilitated the program, with assistance by Pat Mahoney.

The program is designed to clarify the expectations established for supervisors across the University in the following areas: how to set expectations for staff, HR law and compliance, Cornell HR policies, and performance management and feedback. The SDCP provides the participants with concrete tools and opportunities for practice and discussion with colleagues that are designed to enhance their supervisory skills. There are also required on-line courses taken outside the classroom, which deal with the critical legal areas of sexual and workplace harassment.

In addition to the classroom experience, participants did some role playing that covered various scenarios they might encounter as supervisors. These included: how to deal with an employee who is not meeting the expectations of his/her position, how to deal with rumors about an employee, and how to deal with an angry or unhappy employee.

The program received high marks from participants. "It was overall a positive experience," said Tom Gibson. "Not only did the workshop achieve it's primary purpose of educating us about what's involved in being a supervisor, but also gave us an opportunity to get to know both the Geneva and Ithaca human resource teams better and to better appreciate the ways in which they can be a resource to us."

"I was dubious about spending four days in a training but the time flew by and the trainers were great at mixing things up so it was interesting and informative," said Holly Lange. "I would recommend it for everyone who is a supervisor!"

"The program content was extremely useful and the presentation from CALS HR (Laurie and Jennifer) was awesome," said Kim Moyer. "It was also a great opportunity to network with your co-workers who share similar experiences."

"I appreciate both the CALS HR staff and the employees for taking the time to participate in this training," Tom Burr told the group on the final day of the program. "The time spent here will ultimately prove to be of great value for both the Station and the College."

"I was quite pleased with the turnout," Pat Mahoney said. "I believe the program provided a new perspective and a great deal of important information for current and new supervisors. The facilitators did an excellent job engaging the participants. Overall, the program was well-received and was an enjoyable experience for all who participated."

(BRIEFS, continued)

may also request appointments for morning or afternoon one-on-one consultation with BRI or the Center for Life Science Enterprise representatives to learn more about specific ways they can assist your business.

For more information about BRI, their website is <http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/bri/>

The Center for Life Science Enterprise website is <http://www.biotech.cornell.edu/>

(LAMONT, continued)

This plan eventually became a college wide effort and was renamed the Agricultural Systems Initiative. Although state funding was never realized due to a downturn in the state economy, he made considerable effort to secure funding for the Experiment Station.

6. George has been a leader within the College's Council of Ag. Organizations that develop common priorities for lobbying state government.

Over the years, Lamont has received numerous awards and accolades including: The Century Farm Award by the New York Agricultural Society, serving as the Chairman of the national US Apple Association, being named Apple Grower of the Year (US) by American Grower Magazine, Distinguished Service Citation from the New York State Agricultural Society, and most recently the Excellence in IPM Award from the New York State Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program. In addition, there is the Lamont Leadership Award, appropriately named in recognition of George's more than 40 years of leadership with the New York State Apple Association. The award consists of an annual stipend to a student interested in the apple industry.

Lastly, George is a very successful fruit farmer. Over the past 45 years he has built the six-generation Lamont Fruit Farm Inc. of Albion, NY into a major fresh apple operation with over 700 acres of apples. It is now one of the top 10 fruit farms in the state.

Paul Baker, a former president of the Western New York Apple Grower's Association and Chairman of the U.S. Apple Association has been hired by the Hort Society to replace Lamont. Baker, who will wear two hats, has also been hired by Ag Affiliates to replace outgoing executive director of that organization Gary Fitch.



Cornell Vice-Provost for Land Grant Affairs Ron Seeber and Assistant to the Provost on State-Related Issues, Nathan Fawcett visited Geneva on February 2. The two learned about everything from landfill gas to new businesses and breeding new varieties of fruits and vegetables. Marc Smith noted that Seeber will be a strong advocate for CALS and the Station in our relationship with the State University of New York. Pictured above, the two visitors hear about the V&B Lab (left to right) Cy Lee, Thomas Henick-Kling, Ron Seeber, Nathan Fawcett and Tom Burr.



CALENDAR of EVENTS
FEB 3 - MARCH 3, 2006

MEETINGS

CHAIRS MEETING
CANCELLED

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2006
Time: 9 AM
Place: Director's office

CALS FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2006
Time: 4 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium

SEMINARS

ENTOMOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2006
Time: 10:30 AM, Coffee at 10:15 AM
Place: 310 Barton Lab
Speaker: Laura Harrington, Ithaca
Subject: New insights into the ecology and behavior of the dengue mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*.

PLANT PATH

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2006
Time: 3:30 PM, Coffee at 3 PM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Cathy Heidenreich, Geneva
Subject: Small fruit diseases in New York

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2006
Time: 3:30 PM, Coffee at 3 PM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Leonardo De La Fuente
Subject: Ecological and physiological basis of superior rhizosphere colonization by beneficial fluorescent pseudomonads

SPECIAL SEMINAR

Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2006
Time: 3:30 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium
Speaker: Nathan Rudgers, Senior VP, Business Development at Farm Credit of Western New York
Subject: The Station's Future

TAEKARDIO

Mon/Wed
12:00 - 1:00 PM
Jordan Hall Lounge
6wks/ \$25

SAGES EVENTS

COMEDY NIGHT

Please join SAGES for dinner and a night of laughs on Thursday, February 23. SAGES will take care of dinner at the Red Brick Inn, at 5:30 PM. We will go onto the comedy playhouse between 7 - 7:30 PM. The show starts at 8 PM.

SKY SANDS—One of the very best! Sky's a Playhouse All-Time Favorite. He's been featured on National Television and is a regular headliner at clubs and colleges and corporate gigs across the Country. He's known for his hilarious improvisational comedy, magic and mayhem! Don't miss him! With **ALEX HOUSE**—Seen on Comedy Central! Featured on Comedy Central, "LAST COMIC STANDING", the Toyota Comedy Festival, Boston Comedy Festival and is featured at clubs across the U.S.

Please RSVP to Elizabeth Tomasino at TomasinoE@comcast.net to let her know how many to expect. Further details will be provided as the date approaches. Tickets are \$10.

These events are sponsored by the GPSAFC and is open to the Cornell Community.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1994 \$10 Blazer Tahoe LT, 4D, 4X4, two tone Blue /Gray, gray interior, 100,300 miles in excellent condition, one owner. 4 Door, auto trans, A/C, PS, PW, power seat, power mirrors, radio/cassette, alloys, wide tires, towing package, must see to appreciate. Asking \$4,975. Call 787-2285 if interested

FOR SALE: Aquarium 15 gal high, walnut trim, hood/light, heat pad, water dish, etc. \$50; Two End tables, cherry, solid wood w/ drawers, exceptional condition \$50; Sunbeam Toaster Oven and matching toaster (white color) \$20 set. Email hak3 or phone 539-8761

APT FOR RENT: Two-bedroom, furnished, ground-floor apartment on North Main Street is available for rent from February 3rd. Quiet surroundings. No pets and indoor smoking. No lease required. Call 789-7239 or e-mail kw22@cornell.edu

WANTED: Old office chairs (1 or 2) and a couple of labstools for my woodshop. I'll be happy to take them off your hands and pick them up. Please call Donna Boyce at x2492 or e-mail at dmb62

LTC

Subject: PhotoShop Series, Part 3
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2006
Time: 9 - 10 AM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Instructor: Jane Irwin

SPECIAL LTC SEMINAR

Subject: RSS Feeds and Social Bookmarking
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2006
Time: 1-3 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Instructor: Gail Steinhart, Nathan Rupp and Camille Andrews
Abstract: In this two hour hands-on session find out how to use simple and freely available web tools such as Bloglines (make this a link to their site) and del.icio.us (link) to have the latest online information brought right to your desktop automatically! RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds will turn your browser into your very own custom collage of internet activity!

Join The Station WalkAmerica Team!

Begun in 1970, WalkAmerica is the first and best-loved walking event in the nation. WalkAmerica supports research and programs to help babies in your community and across the country get a healthy start.

Premature birth is the leading cause of newborn death and many lifelong disabilities.

Walk in honor of your own baby, a relative's or a friend's. Every year, half a million babies are born too soon. Some die; others face serious health problems like cerebral palsy, blindness and mental retardation. Walk for these babies and for the babies you love.

Please contact Kathy DeRosa if you would like to join the Station WalkAmerica Team. The walk will be held on Sunday, May 7, at the State Park. Call x2236, or e-mail, kad2, if you are interested or would like more information