



BRIEFS

Technology Farm Named Intelligent Facility of the Year

The Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park was selected as the Intelligent Community Forum's Intelligent Facility of the Year. The other finalists included 7 World Trade Center and Mount Hope Housing, both New York facilities – a first for ICF, which has in the past three years named buildings or developments from Canada, Mauritius and Hong Kong.

The Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park allows food and agricultural companies to leverage the knowledge of Cornell University, known for its leadership in the study and research of agriculture, as well as a robust R&D infrastructure including state-of-the-art broadband communications. The Park opened in 2005 to support the commercialization of new technologies in the food and agriculture business. It is the first of an expanding group of facilities intended to make upstate New York more economically viable.

The facility identified by ICF is a 20,000 square-foot 'flex tech' incubator that provides offices to 10 agri-tech tenants from around the world and offers 'wet labs' and pilot production facilities. The Park is owned by Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park Corporation, a non-profit organization, with strategic partners including the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, and Key Bank.

"This is a great example of how a local culture need not try to become a Silicon Valley, but can use its historic and geographic strengths, together with the intellectual capital from great universities, and harness them to broadband for good results," said John G. Jung, ICF's co-founder and Chairman. New

(Continued on page 2)

Two Plant Path Grad Students Receive 2007 Gilmer Award

Maryann Borsick Herman and Megan Dewdney, both graduate students in the department of plant pathology, were recently named co-recipients of the Robert M. Gilmer award for 2007. The Gilmer Award is presented annually in recognition for excellence in research, academics, and service to the department of plant pathology at Geneva.

Dr. Robert M.

Gilmer was a faculty member in the department of plant pathology at Geneva from 1950 to 1975 and served as Department Chair from 1967 to 1972. He is fondly remembered for his intelligence, his great breadth of knowledge of plant diseases, and for being a free thinker who challenged conventional views. Dr. Gilmer was known internationally for his research on virus diseases of deciduous tree fruits and grapes.

The award, named in Dr. Gilmer's honor, is funded through an endowment bequeathed by him to the department of plant pathology. Recipients receive up to \$1,000 to support presentation of their work at a scientific meeting or to support research at a collaborating institution. The remainder of the money is used to support the student's research. The total dollar amount of the award is \$5,000.

"I could not be more pleased with the progress that Maryann has made during the time she has been in my program," said Chris Smart, in her introductory remarks. "She has done an excellent job gaining insight into how plant activators work." Smart explained that plant activators are compounds that induce a plant's own resistance against pests, and that while several of these products are commercially available, they are not widely used by growers in New York. "Maryann is utilizing molecular tools to understand when plant defenses are turned on in tomatoes in the field, and the results will enable us to understand when it might be appropriate to utilize these plant activators. This project nicely bridges the gap between basic and applied science," Smart said. Smart also pointed out that Maryann had no background in plant pathology prior to beginning her studies at Cornell. "She has really learned a great deal in a short period of time, has a lot of enthusiasm, and particularly enjoys visiting and interacting with growers," Smart added. "She has also been a leader in



(left to right) Megan Dewdney, Francis Trail, and Maryann Borsick Herman.

(Continued on page 2)



(BRIEFS, continued)

York State is ranked 28th in total cash receipts for all agricultural commodities, with the vast majority coming from the upstate New York region.

Susan and Les Nobel represented the facility and accepted the award. Their remarks are available on ICF's News Blog at www.intelligentcommunity.org.

The Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) www.intelligentcommunity.org is a nonprofit think tank that focuses on job creation and economic development in the broadband economy. Additional news about the conference, as well as profiles on the communities and recipients, can be found on ICF's website as well as its Broadband Economy Conference News Blog.

NYFVI Accepting Proposals for Ag Innovation Grant Program

Innovative attempts to promote business planning, marketing, value-added product development and other opportunities to help New York farmers increase profits are the target of the New York Farm Viability Institute's Agricultural Innovation Center grant program.

The Institute is accepting requests for funding through July 1. Award decisions will be announced after Sept. 19.

The New York Farm Viability Institute is a nonprofit, farmer-led organization dedicated to directing research projects that result in increased profits on New York farms. The Institute supports projects that focus on business management, marketing, production issues, technology adoption, outreach education and more across the diverse agricultural sectors, farm sizes and production practices in the state.

Projects are selected for funding through a competitive application process. Proposals are reviewed and ranked by active producers representing a cross section of the state's agricultural sectors, commodities and regions. The volunteer board of directors makes funding decisions for all grants.

All funded projects must include farmer participation in identifying needs, developing the project, implementing the research or evaluating the success of the project.

Past-funded Agricultural Innovation Center

(Continued on page 3)

(GRAD STUDENTS, continued)

community service efforts here at the Station."

In addition to her research accomplishments, Maryann received an APS Student Travel Grant, a Cornell Student Conference Grant, a grant from the Class of 1939 Research Fund, was named Outstanding Teaching Assistant for Plant Pathology 2004-2005, and was President of the Cornell Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association for 2004-2005. She is the author or co-author of a number of research and extension publications.

"Maryann is well deserving of the Gilmer Award, and I am truly fortunate to have her as a graduate student in my program," said Smart. "I am confident that she will make outstanding contributions to the field for years to come."

Introducing Megan Dewdney, Herb Aldwinckle pointed out that she has a strong academic and research record at Cornell. He then went on to explain that her research for the Ph.D. has been in two phases: statistical - and then biological studies related to the epidemiology of the bacterial disease, fire blight, of apple trees. "She already has a *Phytopathology* paper in press on her statistical comparison of the accuracy of two systems for forecasting fire blight, MARYBLYT and Cougarblight," Aldwinckle said. "Her biological work is directed toward improved understanding of temperature, flower age, and varietal effects on the growth of *Erwinia amylovora* bacterial cells on the stigmas of apple blossoms, and she is also looking at how well MARYBLYT really predicts the growth of *E. amylovora* on the stigmas." He added that her results are already providing new insight into these phenomena, which have been assumed but not studied experimentally, despite the long history of fire blight research. "As such her work is likely to cause significant changes in the tools we use to manage fire blight," Aldwinckle said.

Megan has been recognized by Cornell, and the American Phytopathological Society (APS), with three Cornell Graduate School Conference Awards, an APS Student Travel Grant, and two Arthur Boller Endowment (Cornell) awards for tree fruit research. She also received a Graduate Student Research Award of the Potomac Division of APS in 2004. Aldwinckle characterized Megan as a real 'go-getter' going after whatever grants are available. "In addition to her two Boller research awards, she wrote a proposal to the New York Apple Research and Development Program, which is administered by a board of apple growers, and received a grant to support her research," Aldwinckle said. "She is indeed a very worthy recipient of the Robert Gilmer Award."

As part of the day's events, a seminar was presented by Dr. Francis Trail, a former Geneva graduate student who is currently at Michigan State University.

Both Borsick Herman and Dewdney were presented with framed certificates commemorating the event, and their names were inscribed on a plaque on permanent display in the plant pathology seminar room.

ST. JUDE CHILDRENS RESEARCH HOSPITAL

CHARITY POKER RUN

Saturday, June 23, 2007

Sign up: 12:30 PM

Ride leaves at 1:30 PM

North Seneca Sportsmans Club

Route 318, Phelps N.Y.

(1 mile past or West of the Waterloo-Outlet-Mall)

\$15 PER PERSON

LOTS OF FUN • 50/50 DRAWINGS • CASH PRIZES

• DOOR PRIZES •

FOOD AT END OF RIDE WHEN HANDS ARE DRAWN

Call 315-246-9366 for more information



John Diaz-Montano Receives 2007 Villani Award

The 2007 Villani Award was presented to John Diaz-Montano, a Ph.D student working with Tony Shelton's group in the department of entomology.

"The Villani Award is a stipend given annually to a graduate student in the department and is named in honor of Dr. Mike Villani who passed away on May 15, 2001," Charlie Linn said, in introducing the award. "Mike set up the award to provide funds for graduate students to help them with their research



Charlie Linn (left) and John Diaz-Montano (right).

efforts. There was, however, a unique aspect to the selection process that was stipulated by Mike when he set up this award – the recipient was to be chosen by the permanent technical staff and academics (not including faculty) rather than the faculty which is ordinarily the case in an award of this nature."

Linn went on to say that Mike Villani had a deep affection and great concern for all the people in the department. "It was Mike's wish that the vote was cast by the people who did the work," Linn said. "He believed that mentoring between the faculty and the student is important, but it is also important that a bond is formed between the technical staff and the student."

"The more that one is around John Diaz-Montano the more one learns about how interesting his life has been and the bright future he will have," said Tony Shelton. "After fleeing Columbia he enrolled in an MS entomology program at Kansas State, the alma mater of R.H. Painter, who is considered the 'father of studying host plant resistance' and the author of the still widely regarded book, *Insect Resistance in Crop Plants*." Shelton added that while at KSU John worked on identifying soybean germplasm resistant to aphids and did very detailed studies on their probing and feeding behavior. He completed his MS degree in 2006 and enrolled at Cornell in the fall of 2006. At the 2006 Entomological Society of America (ESA) National Meeting, he was awarded the best student poster for his KSU work on host plant resistance to aphids in soybeans.

"When John came to Cornell, I offered him several options and he decided to work on onion thrips on onions," Shelton said. "Onion thrips have become more problematic because not only have they become resistant to some of the major insecticides, but they have recently been documented to transmit Iris Yellow Spot Virus to onions in NY." Shelton went on to say that John's work will encompass host plant resistance studies to both the thrips and the virus and involve considerable field work as well as detailed behavioral assays. "He will work in a team with Nault, Fuchs, Griffiths, Larentzaki, Hsu, cooperators from other states and some of our NY county agents and we look forward to his contributions."

(BRIEFS, continued)

projects include efforts by the New York State Ag Experiment Station at Geneva to assist producers in developing safe, shelf-stable fruit and vegetable value-added products, including jelly, ketchup, grape seed oil and more. Cornell University's Agriculture Economics and Management department worked with farmers to establish appropriate legal structures for businesses. New York Farm Net worked with landowners in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island to keep farmland in a trust to protect the land from going into suburban development until a farm-buyer is located.

Producer groups, researchers, university faculty, educators, government agencies, non-profit organizations and others actively engaged in agricultural service are encouraged to apply for funds.

Grants may not exceed \$300,000 over two years.

Funded projects must include outreach education components and opportunities to provide templates for successful farm practices for producers across the state.

Funding is from a legislative appropriation to the Institute through the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

For more information, contact the New York Farm Viability Institute at (315) 453-3823 or www.nyfarmviability.org. Apply for grants online at db.nyfarmviability.org/.

NYFVI Offers Grant Writing Workshops

A series of workshops planned this spring will discuss opportunities for funding farm-level research projects through the New York Farm Viability Institute.

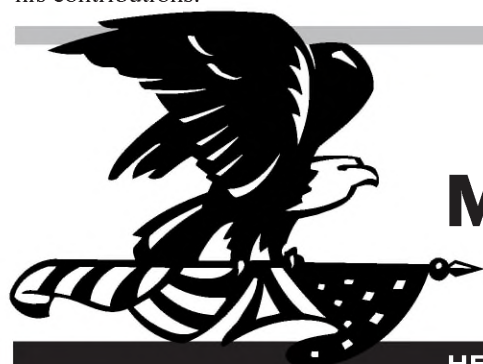
The Institute is a nonprofit organization that directs research projects that result in profit increases for farmers. Past-funded projects have created business plans, developed value-added products and explored manure management, reduced fertilizer and pesticide applications, an on-line farmers market, livestock-meat marketing and others.

Workshops are geared for persons interested in applying for grant funding as a project leader.

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. June 5, Pioneer Center Lounge, SUNY Alfred

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. June 7, Room 107 Spader Greenhouse, Morrisville State College, Morrisville

New York Farm Viability Institute Outreach
(Continued on page 4)



Have a Safe Memorial Day Celebration



CALENDAR of EVENTS MAY 25 JUNE 8, 2007

MEETINGS

CHAIRS' MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 29, 2007
Time: 8:30 AM
Place: Director's office

CALS FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 6, 2007
Time: 4 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab

TAEKARDIO

Date: May 7, 9, 14 and 16
Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Note: Sawdust Cafe, classes will resume in Jordan Hall on May 21.

Thank you aerobics group for sharing your space.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Classes are free and include conversational English, writing skills and real-life communications.

Instructor: Mary Spittler
When: Every Tuesday from 5-8 PM, & every Thursday from 3-6 PM.
Where: The Food Science and Technology Building Lunch Room.

New students are welcome to join at any time. Just show up for any session. Classes are flexible so that students may attend either or both sessions each week.

NEW TAI CHI

Beginning next week, Nancy Caronia will be offering tai chi classes at the Sawdust Cafe for both beginners and intermediate-advanced students. Contact her at caronia8461@gmail.com for further information.

TAI CHI IS FOR EVERYONE!

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT: Large Cottage: S. Bristol, SW shore on Canandaigua Lake. Very nice location. Suitable 8-10 (max). Serious inquiries only: \$2,250/wk + sec. Openings remain July and August. 585-374-9585 or elg2

FOR RENT: Small Cottage: S. Bristol, SW shore on Canandaigua Lake. Very nice location. Suitable 2 couples/small family. Serious inquiries only: \$1,200/wk + sec. Openings remain July, August and September. 585-374-9585 or elg2

FOR RENT: Updated 2 bedroom apartment for rent with wonderful view of Seneca Lake. Coin washer and dryer. Parking space available. Rent \$700/mo. Available July 1. Contact Kitty at eln6@cornell.edu

FOR SALE: 1997 Nissan Pathfinder 129,000, 5 speed, 4 wheel drive, 2 new tires, runs and looks great. Rear hitch. \$3800. Contact Holly at hlw7@cornell.edu

(BRIEFS, continued)

Coordinator David Grusenmeyer will facilitate the grant writing workshops, which will include a review of the Institute's grant opportunities, funding priorities and 2007 grant cycle timeline. Descriptions of past-funded projects will be provided.

The workshops will include explanation of the Institute's commitment to outcome-based funding. General terms and concepts of the Rensselaerville Institute's Outcome Funding Framework model will be described. Variations of the Rensselaerville Institute's Outcome Funding Framework model are currently used by the Farm Viability Institute, as well as Northeast Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education, and USDA Risk Management.

Tips on writing successful proposals, an overview of the proposal evaluation and fund ranking processes, and reporting responsibilities for funded projects will be described.

The Farm Viability Institute provides funds for projects that include farmer participation and address barriers and opportunities identified as high-priority issues by producers. Projects explore business and production models and technology with a focus on increasing profits for participating farmers and providing templates for other producers.

Projects are selected for funding by the Institute's farmer-member volunteer board of directors.

The Institute will accept grant applications

from May-Aug. Funding decisions will be made before year-end. For more information, visit www.nyfarmviability.org.

All workshops are free and include lunch and handouts. Online registration is required at <http://db.nyfarmviability.org>.

New York Farm Viability Institute is an independent, farmer-led nonprofit organization that directs and funds farm-level research to increase profits, reduce costs and other barriers, create jobs and encourage practical innovation on the farm. The Institute is funded by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Visit www.nyfarmviability.org.

Cornell Hosts Better Processing School

Cornell University hosted a Better Process Control School (BPCS) May 8-11 at the Experiment Station. BPCS helps food processors comply with FDA and USDA regulations.

"This school is designed for companies who manufacture shelf-stable foods in sealed containers such as cans, jars, cups, bowls, and flexible pouches," said Olga Padilla-Zakour, associate professor of food processing in the Department of Food Science and Technology at the Experiment Station. "The regulations specify that any processing of low-acid foods (such as vegetables, meats, and dairy products) or acidified (pickled) foods must be supervised by a person who has attended and successfully completed the BPCS."

In order to better tailor the instruction, the school is divided into two parts. The first part is a two-day program for processors who manufacture pickled foods, which include most small processors and a few large companies. The second part is a course for manufacturers of canned and aseptically produced foods. The latter tend to be larger processors with high-volume production because of the size and complexity of the equipment needed.

"The school is quite intensive because we cover 16 chapters of material along with the corresponding examinations in just four days," Padilla-Zakour said. "The lecturers are knowledgeable and experienced individuals who do a great job of teaching a wide variety of topics—from microbiology to container closure evaluation. An FDA representative, Cornell professors, and industry experts taught the material to a group of 99 students."