

CALS connect

► Standards for Research with Human Subjects

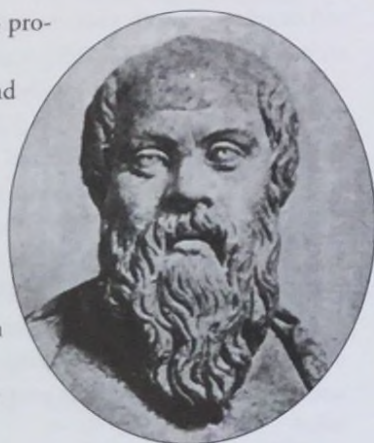
The University Committee on Human Subjects (UCHS) exists as a safeguard to promote ethical and responsible treatment of human subjects or participants in research. As Cornell's official institutional review board, UCHS must review and approve all research projects that use human subjects before the investigator may commence the study, regardless of the source of funding.

The ultimate responsibility for treatment of human research subjects, however, rests with the researcher. The informed participation of researchers in this process helps to ensure a positive, ethical, and responsible climate for scholarly research at Cornell University. The UCHS website at www.osp.cornell.edu/Compliance/UCHS/homepageUCHS.htm provides comprehensive, up-to-date guidance on the policies and procedures for working with human subjects and for interacting with the committee.

The policies assure that human subjects research at Cornell is conducted

according to the highest ethical standards required by federal, state, and local regulations and guidance; policies are applicable to all faculty, staff, extension personnel, and students associated with the university who are involved in such research. The broad coverage extends to experimental, survey, questionnaire, observational, evaluation, ethnographic, participatory action, genetic, biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, human factors research, and pilot and pretest studies of restricted-use secondary data.

"University faculty, staff, extension personnel, and students involved in research with human subjects or identifiable data on living humans should consult the UCHS website frequently for updates on policies, guidance, and application procedures," says Elaine Wethington, chair of UCHS and associate professor of human develop-



Socrates, one of the first ethicists

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A New Semester

The pace has picked up again throughout CALS with the start of fall classes and work on new and ongoing research projects and outreach efforts. I am excited about the 2002–2003 academic year. We have a super freshman class and excellent transfer students beginning their studies in CALS this fall. Our CALS faculty and staff are exceptional and dedicated, and I thank all of you for your contributions to the College.

CALS will continue to face challenges in the coming year. The budget picture has not improved from last year. We are still assessing staffing at all levels and considering how many position reductions might be necessary in the near future. However, the College could use the recently announced early-retirement program for some budget relief.

The state has authorized the early-retirement incentive program for 2002 for members of the New York State Employees Retirement System (NYSERS) and the SUNY Optional Retirement Plan (ORP). The program offers individuals a financial incentive to retire earlier than the norm. Those eligible for the early-retirement program are employees who are members of NYSERS, are at least 50 years old, and have ten or more years of state service credit (or are at least 55 years old and have five years or more of state service credit) and employees who are members of ORP, are at least 50 years old, and have ten or more years of state service credit.

The incentive offered through this program can be substantial, especially for long-term employees enrolled in NYSERS, according to John Finamore, associate dean for financial affairs. He points out that members of NYSERS can receive up to three years of additional retirement credit. The offer also lifts the pension cap from 75 percent to 85 percent for employees with more than 37.5 years of service. As for SUNY ORP, the program is offering an annuity payment incentive, with an increased employer contribution calculated based on years of service. For details see www.ohr.cornell.edu/ohr/benefits/ben11ERI.html.

Given the current financial climate, and given that the College is not expected to see improvements in the budget in the foreseeable future, I encourage eligible employees to consider this option.

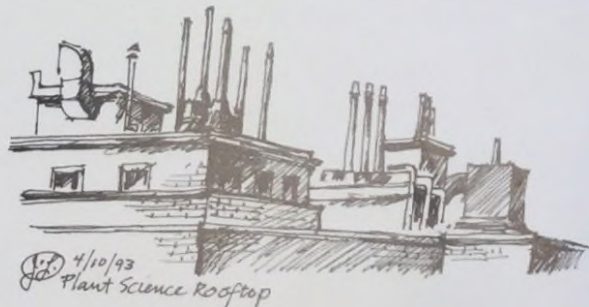
The CALS budget picture is not all bleak, however. Sponsored program activity at CALS continues to grow

and prosper. Total direct expenditures in sponsored programs exceeded \$53.2 million in fiscal year 2002, an increase of 15 percent over fiscal year 2001. Sponsored indirect cost recovery is growing just as fast. This is providing resources to CALS that are being used for much-needed facility renovations and other capital expenditures critical to the College's research and teaching efforts.

In other positive news, the College has several reasons to celebrate this fall. The Department of Food Science is celebrating its centennial October 13–15. This anniversary event includes a symposium entitled "Building on a Century of Excellence: Food Science at Cornell University," as well as poster sessions, facility tours, and a soccer game pitting alumni against faculty, students, and staff. (See "FYI" on page 8.) On November 16, the Department of Applied Economics and Management will hold its Undergraduate Business Program Celebration. The agenda includes panel discussions, a networking luncheon, breakout sessions, and a gala celebration where we'll toast the program's recent accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these celebrations and at other events this fall. My best wishes to all of you for a very successful and productive year.

Susan A. Henry, Ph.D.
The Ronald P. Lynch Dean of
Agriculture and Life Sciences



CALS at Empire Farm Days 2002



Visitors to the CALS tent view displays and talk with faculty, staff, and students.

Each August, farmers, farm equipment manufacturers, and other agriculture-related businesses congregate at Empire Farm Days, the largest agricultural show in the Northeast. This year's event, Aug. 6–8 in Seneca Falls, drew an estimated 75,000 visitors from throughout the United States and Canada and featured more than 600 exhibitors on a 300-plus-acre site.

CALS was featured in its own tent at the event for the fourth year in a row. With participation from 13 departments, programs, and projects, the CALS tent was a constant buzz of activity as visitors spoke with faculty, staff, and students to learn about the latest research, programs, and agricultural technologies, and viewed the exhibits on display. CALS exhibitors this year included CALS Admissions; ALS Alumni Association; Center for the Environment; LEAD NY; Cornell Cooperative Extension; Integrated Pest Management; NY FarmNet; NY FarmLink; Community, Food, & Agriculture Program; Good Agricultural Practices Program; Northeast Organic Network; Geneva Agricultural Experiment Station; and Public Seed Initiative.

On August 7, more than 200 alumni and friends attended the ALS Alumni Association reception in the CALS tent. Attendees were treated to Cornell ice cream and refreshments, and Assemblyman William Magee '61 (Democrat, 111th Assembly District), chair of the NYS Assembly Agriculture Committee, gave a keynote speech highlighting the latest state agricultural policies.



NYS Assemblyman Bill McGee delivers his keynote speech at the ALS Alumni Association Reception.



(left to right) Jim Hunter, director of the NYS Agricultural Experiment Station; Linda McCandless, communications director; and Helene Dillard, associate director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Kelvin Tan

What Would You Do If...

You receive a call at home on a Saturday morning. The caller tells you that a pipe has broken in the ceiling above your office, and the papers and computer on your desk are absolutely soaked with water. You go to your office and find that most of the papers are salvageable, but your computer hard drive is ruined. It is no longer a good weekend.

Destruction of your computer hard drive can be a personal and professional disaster. How can you avoid such a scenario? Invest in a backup system for the files on your hard drive, and then use that system on a regular basis.

If you do not have off-site backup, you are flirting with disaster. If your project or department does not have a backup system, consider a subscription to EZ-Backup through Cornell Information Technologies—www.ezbackup.cornell.edu. EZ-Backup is a fee-based,

automated, remote backup/archive/storage service that automatically backs up your workstation or server files and allows you to restore them yourself.

If off-site backup is currently unavailable to you, at the very least you should be backing up important projects by copying files to Zip® disks, rewritable compact discs (CD-RW), DVDs, or magnetic tape. These copies should be stored off-site.

If you find yourself thinking that you don't have the time or the need for a back-up system, consider the difficulty—or impossibility—of replacing every electronic file of importance to you. The smart thing to do is to put a system in place—now—to ensure reliable file recovery when you need it.

Mary-Lynn Cummings

Inside CALS:

The Department of Rural Sociology (RS) prides itself in having a unique profile that is unmatched by any other departments of sociology in the nation. An integrated package of scholarship on development, environment, population, and community is its distinguishing characteristic and comparative advantage.

The department is shaped by a concern for understanding the determinants and consequences of societal development and driven by a desire to produce knowledge and educational programs that contribute to the alleviation of social problems, both local and global.

Rural and development sociology is a broad specialty rooted in the core of the discipline of sociology and sensitive to emerging issues and questions about development. One of the challenges confronting RS researchers is the social impact of global and corporate integration. In this arena, sociologists study issues that include the transformation of work and livelihood patterns; shrinking public resources; rural depopulation and repopulation trends; public health issues, including diet; privatization of services and rights; environmental degradation; rising political, environmental, and economic refugees; fragmentation of communities, cultures, and social solidarities.

Researchers also must determine how to re-conceptualize a rapidly changing social world in which standard units of analysis—such as class, state, rural, and family—can no longer be taken at face value because their boundaries and functions have been transformed or compromised by broader or alternative social relationships. Sociologists seek to address these challenges and at the same time provide intellectual leadership in restoring a healthy conception of public goods.

As the broad field of development sociology extends to every facet of society, RS researchers explore a wide spectrum of social issues both domestic and international, continuously building and rebuilding the knowledge base of the sociology of development. For example, Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor Thomas Lyson is investigating how the agriculture and food sector of an economy can serve as an engine of community development. His research

The Department of Rural Sociology

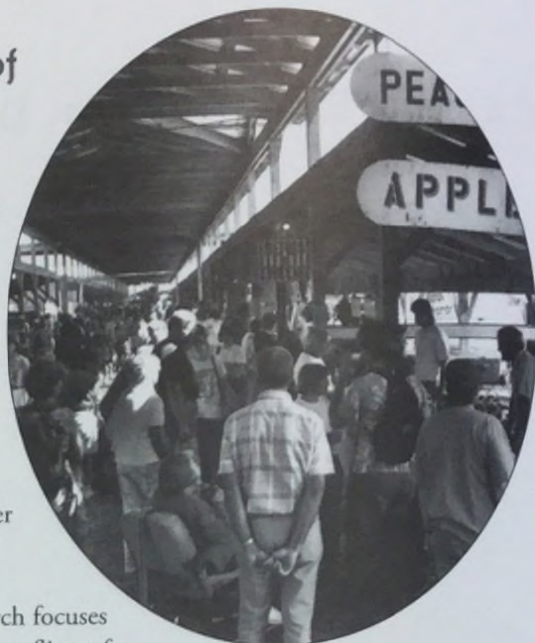
has identified various components of “civic agriculture,” which are the food and agriculture systems that sustain and strengthen farm families, local communities, and natural resources. These include community supported agriculture, farmers’ markets, community kitchens, local agricultural districts, small-scale food processors, producer and consumer cooperatives, and food banks.

Professor Max Pfeffer’s research focuses on the relationships between conflicts of interests and values in modern society, especially those between rural and urban communities regarding natural resources and the environment. Pfeffer’s research also includes a focus on immigrant integration into labor markets and communities. This work concentrates on the importance of class relations within ethnic groups and how disadvantaged individuals gain access to certain labor market opportunities.

“The uniqueness of our department is its commitment to combining development research and outreach, in New York State and elsewhere,” says Philip McMichael, Department of Rural Sociology chair and professor. “Our guiding principle is to produce theoretically grounded scholarship that addresses issues of social importance.”

The department disseminates research-based information through workshops and other traditional curricular forms, as well as through the Internet, reaching out to both local and international audiences. A formally organized extension initiative comprises three community development programs: Community, Food, and Agriculture Program; Community and Rural Development Program; and Population Information Program. Each of these programs, led by a dedicated RS faculty member, combines applied research and outreach education in a seamless fashion.

The department also is home to several special programs that support larger college and university initiatives. The Agriculture, Food and Community Program integrates and coordinates the college’s teaching, research, and



► **Inside CALS** continued from page 4

extension activities in the areas of small farms, community food systems, community agriculture development, and agroforestry. The Population and Development Program is the center of population studies at Cornell, fostering graduate and undergraduate training in population studies and interdisciplinary research on international and domestic demographic issues. One of the latest initiatives is the Polson Institute for Global Development, established last year as a research and outreach institute within the department. The institute promotes theoretical and applied research activities related to global (domestic and international) development, to enhance and extend the intellectual work and exchanges among RS members, between the department and the Cornell community, and between the department and off-campus development institutes and organizations.

With such a rich heritage, RS students enjoy a wealth of resources and learning opportunities. The instructional program encourages students to become global citizens by developing the analytical and comparative tools needed to investigate and interpret contemporary social change.

The RS major provides an opportunity for in-depth study of the interaction among devel-

opment processes, environmental and technological contexts, demographic structures and processes, and the institutionalized and grass roots social movements through which people seek change.

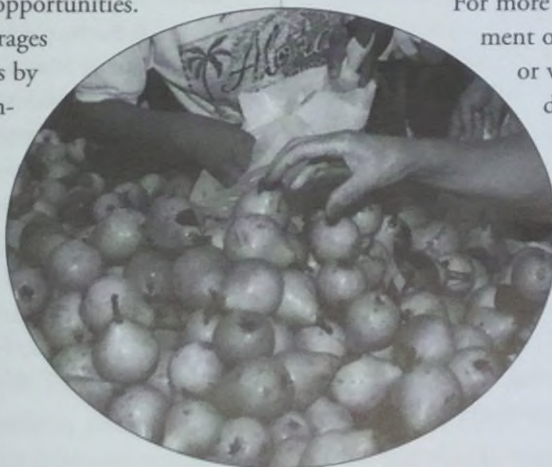
The graduate program in development sociology emphasizes community, regional, and state organizations as well as the world system and focuses on development processes in these contexts. The program provides preparation for research, application of sociology in public-service work, development work in the United States and other countries, and college teaching in sociology, rural sociology, and related fields.

"Our students go on to academic, private, and public posts. We place our graduate students equally in academic as well as applied jobs and postdoctoral programs. Such outcomes offer our students more opportunities than simply academic positions and provide us with resourceful alumni," says McMichael.

For more information about the Department of Rural Sociology, call 255-3163 or visit www.cals.cornell.edu/dept/ruralsoc.

For information about the graduate program, contact Charles Geisler at cgg2@cornell.edu.

Kelvin Tan



► **Human Subject Research** continued from page 1

ment and sociology. "Federal, state, and local regulations and guidance have been changing continuously over the last several years. These changes are expected to accelerate in the next several years through the implementation of pending federal and state regulations and guidelines that increase the protection of human subjects in research."

In addition to policies and procedures, the UCHS website also features an educational program for

anyone who plans to conduct research involving human subjects or identifiable data on living humans, downloadable UCHS application forms, and links to relevant online resources.

Kelvin Tan

www.osp.cornell.edu/Compliance/UCHS/homepageUCHS.htm

Who's New, Who's Who

Appointments

Garrick Blalock has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Applied Economics and Management. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. from the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and B.S. from Yale University. His research interests include the management of technology, strategy, international economics, and emerging markets. He will teach AEM 324: Management Strategy, as well as a new business course to be developed.

Hazem Daouk has joined the Department of Applied Economics and Management as an assistant professor. He received his Ph.D. from Indiana University, M.B.A. from the University of Maryland, and D.E.S.C.F. from the I.C.S Paris, France. His research interests are in the areas of financial econometrics and international finance. He will teach upper-level courses in finance and applied econometrics.

David Just started August 26 as an assistant professor in the Department of Applied Economics and Management. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and B.A. from Brigham Young University. His research and teaching interests focus on risk and uncertainty, information, and behavioral economics. He will co-teach AEM 414: Behavioral Economics and Managerial Decisions, as well as an upper-level course in applied econometrics.

Jane Mt. Pleasant, associate professor of crop and soil sciences, has been appointed director of Cornell's American Indian Program, which provides educational opportunities for Native American students as well as outreach activities. Mt. Pleasant's involvement with the program dates back to her undergraduate days at Cornell, where she earned her bachelor's degree in 1980 and her master's degree in 1982, both in agronomy. She earned her doctorate in soil science from North Carolina State University in 1987 and joined the Cornell faculty the same year. She previously directed the program from 1995 to 1999.

Honors

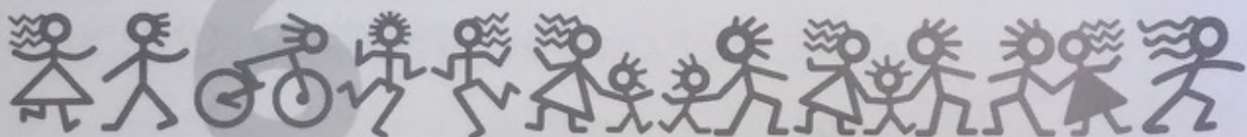
Louis Albright, professor of biological and environmental engineering, is the recipient of the Michael Tien '72 Excellence in Teaching Award, one of the highest awards for teaching in the College of Engineering. He will receive the award and a \$2,500 prize at an awards luncheon to be held in the fall.

Antje Bacumner, assistant professor of biological and environmental engineering, has been selected to receive the Dorothy G. Swanson Excellence in Teaching Award, named by John Swanson '61 ME in honor of his mother. It is one of the highest awards for teaching in the College of Engineering. She will receive the award and a \$2,500 prize at the Teaching Awards Luncheon to be held in the fall.

Elizabeth Earle, professor of plant breeding, has been appointed to a National Research Council Committee on "Identifying and Assessing Unintended Effects of Genetically Engineered Foods on Human Health." The committee's goal is to outline science-based approaches to these issues and present conclusions and recommendations in a report. The committee will compare genetically engineered foods to foods derived from other genetic-modification methods and discuss whether genetic engineering of both plant- and animal-derived foods presents any special health concerns.

Harry Kaiser, professor of applied economics and management, received the Distinguished Member Award from the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association during its annual meeting in June. The NAREA is a professional association of agricultural and resource economists dedicated to stimulating and promoting education and research on economic and social problems.

Murray McBride, professor of environmental soil chemistry, received the 2002 Teaching Award from the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Society of America for his textbook on terrestrial environmental chemistry, his creativity and dedication as a teacher, his ability to integrate research into undergraduate and graduate curricula, and his contributions to an emerging undergraduate



major in environmental sciences at CALS. His contributions to the introductory soil science course and soil and water seminar series also were recognized.

Karl J. Niklas, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Plant Biology, has received the 2002 Jeanette Siron Pelton Award for his research contributions to plant biology and evolution. The Pelton Award is conferred at irregular intervals by the Botanical Society of America and the Conservation and Research Foundation at Connecticut College to junior investigators exhibiting exceptional promise or to senior investigators for sustained excellence in the field of plant morphogenesis. He also presented an award lecture on "Plant morphogenesis: Logic and Mechanism" at the Botany 2002 Conference held August in Madison, Wisconsin. Niklas is a past recipient of Botanical Society of America's lifetime achievement award, among other honors.

Ralph Obendorf, professor of crop and soil sciences, received the honorary degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland, for his scientific contributions to the field of seed biology research. Professor Obendorf has hosted Polish scientists in his laboratory from 1969 to the present, sharing many publications and scientific accomplishments including a recent patent.

Bernard Stanton, professor emeritus of applied economics and management, was conferred an honorary doctor of science degree in June from the College of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Helsinki. Stanton was one of eight to receive this honorary award, which is bestowed once every five years.

Natalie Uhl, professor emerita of L H Bailey Hortorium, was presented the 2002 Asa Gray Award in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments pertinent to the goals of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists. The Asa Gray is the highest award in plant taxonomy in honor of lifetime achievement. Uhl is the first woman to win the award and joins a prestigious group of only 18 people, including Cornell alumnus Robert Thorne. Uhl spent a lifetime studying the taxonomy, morphology, and anatomy of palms.

Norman Uphoff, director of CIIFAD, had been awarded the University of Minnesota's Outstanding Achievement Award as an alumnus of that institution ('63). This award is conferred to University of

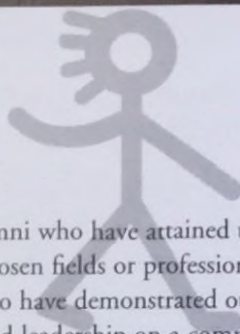
Minnesota alumni who have attained unusual distinction in their chosen fields or professions or in public service, and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national, or international level.

Joseph Walther, professor of communication, has won the 2002 National Communication Association Charles H. Woolbert Research Award. This honor is given annually to the author of an article or book chapter that has "stood the test of time and which has become a stimulus for new conceptualizations of speech communication phenomena." His article, "Interpersonal Effects in Computer-Mediated Interaction: A Relational Perspective," was published in 1992 in *Communication Research*.

Martin Wiedmann, assistant professor of food science, received the American Dairy Science Association "Foundation Scholar Award—Dairy Foods" for his research and educational leadership and his ability to identify critical issues affecting the future of the dairy industry. Weidmann addresses farm-to-fork food safety issues with a diverse educational background in animal science, food science and veterinary medicine. The award was presented at the ADSA/American Society of Animal Science/Canadian Society of Animal Science 2002 joint meeting in Quebec.

Jennifer Wilkins, senior extension associate in the Division of Nutritional Sciences, has been elected vice president of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society. The two-year term of office converts to president in June 2003. Founded in 1987, AFHVS promotes interdisciplinary research and scholarship in the broad areas of agriculture and rural studies.

David Wolfe, professor of horticulture, received an Outstanding Academic Title award from the editors of CHOICE magazine for his book, *Tales From the Underground: A Natural History of Subterranean Life*. A publication of the Association of College & Research Libraries, which is a division of American Library Association, CHOICE publishes reviews of significant current books and electronic media of interest to those in higher education.



Survey of Organic Farmers and Grain Buyers

Cornell's Small Farm Program has contracted with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service to survey farmers and grain buyers about organic feed grain supplies in the Northeast. For more information, see www.smallfarms.cornell.edu or contact Dave Smith (rds4@cornell.edu, 607-255-7286) or Joanna Green (jg16@cornell.edu, 607-255-9227) with Cornell's Small Farm Program.

FYI

Food Science Centennial on October 13-15

Join in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Food Science at Cornell University. For registration details and agenda, see www.foodscience.cornell.edu/centennial%20celebration.htm.

Business Program Celebrates on November 16

The Department of Applied Economics and Management (AEM) is hosting a celebration of Cornell's Undergraduate Business Program on November 16. More than 5,000 AEM alumni and 4,000 CALS alumni in the northeastern United States have been invited. The program includes an executive panel, networking luncheon, and breakout sessions on eight diverse topics. The day will end with a gala sponsored by the ALS Alumni Association. For registration information and agenda, see www.aem.cornell.edu/celebration.

Web Resource for Apple Growers

NY FarmNet has announced a new web page for apple growers in New York State—at www.nyfarmnet.org, select "Current Issues" and then "Information for Fruit Growers." The information includes publications and links about industry trends, research and marketing, risk management, decision making, stress management, and financial issues.

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DEAN

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