

STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

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NOV 7 - 21, 2008

BRIEFS

Food Technology and Safety Issues the Focus at Upcoming International Conference November 18 & 19

The 2008 International Advanced Technology, Food & Agriculture Conference will be held on November 18 and 19 at the Inn on the Lake in Canandaigua. This event will feature industry leaders from both the private and public sectors exploring challenges relating to advances in the technology and practice of food safety. Patrick Hooker, Commissioner, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets will be one of the featured speakers, as will representatives from The Cornell University Cooperative Extension, the New York State Food Policy Council and New York AgriDevelopment Corporation.

The Conference anticipates up to 150 attendees and encourages those interested to register early. Registration and full details are available online at www.factny.org

The following are encouraged to attend:

- Professionals in food, agriculture and technology industry
- Farmers interested in learning about on-farm food safety
- Research and development personnel
- University researchers
- Federal, state and local government representatives
- Public health professionals

The Conference agenda features speakers that will address the pressing issues surrounding current day food safety, packaging, research and development. The

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CALS Honors 2008 Research and Extension Award Winners

Three Experiment Station scientists were among the recipients of this year's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Research and Extension (R&E) Awards.

Susan A. Henry, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Dan Decker, director of the Office of Land Grant Affairs, presented the awards at a ceremony on Cornell's Ithaca campus on November 3.

"Each of our recipients has shown a dedication to research and extension that has benefited the people of New York, the nation, and the world," Henry said. "They exemplify the ideals of our land-grant mission, and we are grateful for their contributions."

The following Experiment Station faculty are the recipients of the 2008 R&E Awards:

Applied Research: Alan Lakso, professor of horticultural sciences, was honored for his applied research that addresses critical problems facing New York state growers. Lakso, who joined Cornell in 1973, has aided countless growers with his studies of the basic physiological mechanisms of apples, grapes, and other fruit crops. Professor Lakso should be recognized for his outstanding research both because of its applied impact and the example he sets to other researchers for the great power of effective translational research.

Extension/Outreach: Terence Robinson, professor of horticultural sciences was honored for creating innovative outreach programs that respond to stakeholder needs. A fruit tree physiologist, Robinson is closely attuned to the needs of New York state fruit growers, packers, and shippers and serves as the principal editor for *New York Fruit Quarterly*.

"It was a proud moment, that two of our faculty received the CALS R&E awards," said Alan Taylor, department chairman of Horticultural Sciences. "Alan Lakso, whose work exemplifies translational research, was recognized for his

(Continued on page 2)



A. Lakso



T. Robinson



(EXTENSION AWARDS, continued)

long-term efforts on apple tree and grape vine physiology. One example of his many accomplishments is his research on developing models of apple plant growth and development that has directly benefited growers in their crop management practices.

“Terence Robinson received this award for his dedication, support and passion for the New York Tree Industry,” Taylor went on to say. “In addition to his many contributions in apple tree management at Cornell, he is a leader and recognized expert at the national and international levels. Both faculty have contributed to the Station's legacy of research and extension to benefit the New York Fruit industry.”

Extension/Outreach: The team award honored the Cornell Soil Health Team, which includes George Abawi, professor of plant pathology and plant-microbe biology, Harold van Es, professor of soil and water management, and David Wolfe, professor of horticulture. The team developed the first-of-its-kind Cornell Soil Health Manual, a web and print guide to help stakeholders understand the basic components of soil health and methods for soil sampling.

“This award belongs to all the members of the Soil Health Team, including accomplished growers, extension educators, industry personnel, and multi-disciplinary faculty and staff” Abawi said. “It is the result of all their contributions.”

“This is truly a very deserved recognition for all George's years of work at Cornell professing the importance of soil as the centerpiece of agriculture,” said Harvey Hoch, department chairman of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology. “George has dedicated his professional career to helping growers, colleagues, and students understand the plant-soil-pathogen relationship. I am elated that he (and the Team) is being recognized for this well deserved award.”

Hoch went on to say that this team represents the excellence that Cornell portrays to its stakeholders, and is a model of rigorous science, translational application, outreach, and collaboration across different fields. “The team members work with a diverse client base to acquire and extend knowledge and understanding about soil

(EXTENSION AWARDS, continued)

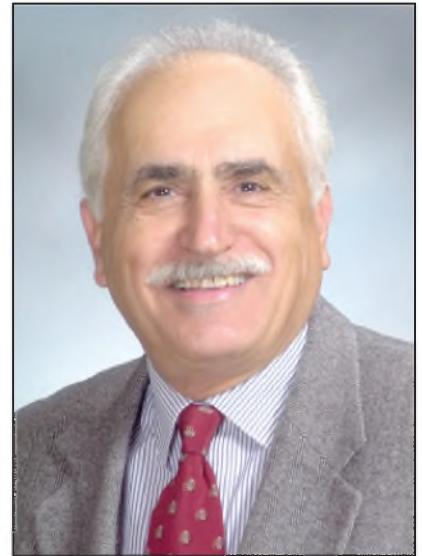
processes important to New York agriculture. It is among the best examples of teamwork within Cornell's Cooperative Extension program.

In addition to the Geneva recipients, the following Ithaca faculty received awards:

Basic Research: Alan Collmer, professor of plant pathology and plant-microbe biology, is best known for sequencing the genome of *Pseudomonas syringae*, a common tomato pathogen. His studies have formed the basis for efforts to mitigate plant disease and stifle attacks from pathogens. This award honors the value of his fundamental research that leads to important advances.

Science and Public Policy: Shelley Feld-

(Continued on page 3)



G. Abawi



Making History

October 31, 2008 was a historic day at the Fredonia Vineyard Laboratory. (Top left) Vineyard Laboratory staff gather at the final vine for the end of harvest. (Top right) Joan Blohm harvests the last cluster for the site. (Bottom) The first steel is erected at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory, Portland, NY.



Head Start and Alan Lakso Group Mark 20th Anniversary

Many groups tour and visit the various Experiment Station facilities throughout the year. One such group, Geneva Head Start, reached a milestone of sorts this fall with its 20th consecutive annual visit to Station orchards and vineyards. Alan Lakso and members of his staff have been hosting the Head Start Class here since 1988.

“They bring the kids out and they pick apples, I give them a little talk about how there are so many different kinds, and they walk around to see other trees



Alan Lakso talks about apples to Head Start students in one of the Station's orchards.

and fruits, mostly grapes in October,” Lakso said. “Their visit each year has become a real highlight for our lab and is one small way to help out the community.”

“The visit to the Experiment Station provides our three- and four-year-old children with the ideal learning experience,” said Jane Gerling, Director of Geneva Head Start. “During these visits Professor Lakso helps expand their knowledge of apples and grapes; they are totally surrounded by the sights and smells of the orchard and get to pick their own apples and talk about the colors, size and number of fruits. Following the trip the teachers do a variety of activities with the children, which may include the creation of a class book about the trip. The children remember this visit to the apple orchard long after they have left Head Start.”

“The highlight of this trip for the children (and staff) has always been to pick the apples, to put them into an individualized bag, and to bring the apples home to share with their families,” added Head Start teacher Lisa Krossber. “We are also given extra apples to use in classroom activities such as making homemade applesauce, learning the parts of an apple, comparing sizes, counting seeds, etc. We are very grateful to the staff at the Experiment Station for being so hospitable to us and for promoting a positive, real-life, hands-on learning experience for our students and their families.”

Lakso pointed out that Rick Piccioni and Michelle Rose have been doing this with him for the last 10 years. “Each year we have many visiting scientists from around the world who also join us and they have a great time with the kids. It’s a real joy to see these kids’ enthusiasm, their enjoyment at being outside and the fun they have picking fruit,” he said. “The teachers are also wonderful in how they encourage the kids but also provide a structured environment of appropriate behavior. They always send delightful hand-made thank you cards to us after each visit which include comments like: ‘We had fun picking apples, seeing a tractor and looking at grapes,’ ‘I liked the smell of the apples,’ ‘Applesauce – I love applesauce,’ and ‘I really liked picking apples.’”

“Alan Lakso’s heartfelt initiative working with Head Start students is one prime example of what the Station does to share our knowledge of science and agriculture, said Station Director Tom Burr. “Congratulations to Alan for the 20 years he has led the program and touched the lives of so many young people. This is a prime example of the many outreach projects where Station members volunteer their time to make our community a better place.”

J. Ogradnick

(AWARDS, continued)

man, professor of development sociology, received the award for scientific research that informs public policy. Feldman was an editor of the World Bank’s International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science, and Technology for Development, a recent report on how farming methods affect hunger, poverty, nutrition, human health, and environmental and social sustainability across the globe.

Outstanding Service to the CALS Community: Dennis Miller, professor of food science, was honored for his long commitment to the college over the span of his 30-year career. Miller, former chair of the Department of Food Science, has guided the CALS Faculty Senate since 2006 and serves as the food science representative to the University Senate.

(BRIEFS, continued)

speakers range from Noah Sheetz, Executive Chef, New York State Governor’s Mansion; J. Joseph Corby, Executive Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials; Kristen Park, Extension Associate, Cornell University, Food Industry Management, and more.

Presentation and discussion topics will include:

- Examining new innovative technologies
- Interdisciplinary networking opportunities
- Generating new R&D strategies
- Exploring potential partnerships for innovation
- Opportunities in photonics, optoelectronics, bio-processing and Micro-Electrical-Mechanical Systems
- Technologies apply to food safety and security such as smart packaging, smart appliances and in-field pathogen detection

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Steve Isaacs or Susan Noble at the Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park, 315-781-0070.



CALENDAR of EVENTS NOV 7 - 21, 2008

MEETINGS

EMPLOYEE MEETING

Date: Friday, November 14, 2008
Time: 8:30 AM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium

SEMINARS

FOOD SCIENCE

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Time: 11 AM
Place: FST Conference Room
Title: TBA
Speaker: Hal Huffsmith, Trincherio Winery

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2008
Time: 4 PM
Place: FST Conference Room
Title: Mass Spectrometry Technologies And Applications In Proteomics And Metabolomics Research
Speaker: Sheng Zhang, Ithaca

ENTOMOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2008
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: *A134 Barton Lab
Title: ESA Practice Seminars
Speaker: Graduate Students, Postdoctoral Associates, and Faculty

HORT SCIENCE

Date: Monday, November 10, 2008
Time: 4 PM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Title: TBA
Speaker: Susan McCouch, Ithaca

Date: Monday, November 17, 2008
Time: 4 PM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Title: The Geological History of Western NY and How it Led to the Landscapes and Soils Important to Agriculture
Speaker: Tara Curtin, Hobart College

(Continued in next column)

SEMINARS CONTINUED

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2008
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Title: Controlling Dollar Spot: Climatic Conditions And The Timing Of Fungicide Applications
Speaker: John Koenig, Ohio State Uni.

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2008
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: A-134 Barton Lab
Title: Plant Disease Management - From The Age Of Chemicals To The Age Of Biology
Speaker: Brian Olson, Dow AgroSciences LLC Geneva, NY

YOGA FOR EVERYONE

Day: Monday Evenings
Time: 6 - 7:15 PM, 9/22/08 - 11/17/08
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium
Info: This class is suitable for beginners and long time participants. You may join at any time. Call Nancy Reissig at x2323 for more details.

Instructor: Margaret Newland, 719-7009

TAEKARDIO AND BOKKENKICK

Days: Monday, TaeKardio
Wednesday, Bokkenkick
Thursday, TaeKardio
Time: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Place: Saw Dust Cafe
Cost: \$25 for 2 classes/week or \$30 for 3 classes/week
Instructor: Tina Felice, Geneva Martial Arts

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT: One bedroom, furnished Apartment available December 1, \$525.00 per month includes all utilities, trash removal, off-street parking for one (1) vehicle and internet service. Great location on Main Street Geneva. No smoking, no pets, references and lease required. Contact Kathy DeRosa, x2236, kad2.

WANTED: Large 3 ring binders. It doesn't matter if they have printing on them or what color they are. Old Greeting cards with birds or wildlife illustrations, fishing or wildlife books and magazines Contact Donna Boyce @ x2492 or dmb62

SAVE THE DATES!

**Monday
December 1**
Benefair
Jordan Hall
10 AM to Noon.

**Remember to get your flu shot
at the Benefair**



**December 13
1-3 PM**

WE HAVE CALLED AHEAD AND SANTA CLAUS IS AVAILABLE, SO THERE WILL BE FUN, FOOD, AND A VISIT FROM THE JOLLY, WEIGHT AND AGE CHALLENGED, RED SUIT WEARING MAN FROM THE NORTH POLE. CONTACT BETSY BIHN, EAB38 OR X2625.

