

VOLUME LXXX • NO. 19
MAY 14-21, 1999

BRIEFS

JOE KOVACH TO LEAVE
FOR OHIO STATE

Joe Kovach has formally accepted the position of Associate Professor of Entomology at Ohio State University, and will be working at the OARDC in Wooster. He will also serve as coordinator of the Ohio IPM Program.

Joe has been at the Experiment Station since 1986. In his joint appointment between entomology and IPM, Joe has cooperated with entomologists, pathologists, and horticulturists, and is quick to remark on the teamwork among researchers in Geneva.

"The spirit of cooperation is awesome among all departments at the Experiment Station," said Joe. "I can only hope to find the same spirit of cooperation in Ohio."

He also remarked how fortunate researchers are to have the USDA-ARS PGRU unit here on-site. "PGRU is definitely an asset for the Experiment Station. They really helped me with the bees on the *Trichoderma* project in strawberries."

Joe's new appointment is effective July 1, 1999.

SAGES

As the academic year comes to a close I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to be the president of the Student Association of the Geneva Experiment Station (SAGES). I also want to thank Koy Tattiyakul, vice-president, Baozhong Meng, treasurer, and Mou-Chieh Kao, secretary, for all their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

Our new leaders for the academic year 1999-2000 are:

Andrea Ficke: President

Pahol Kosiyachinda: Vice-President

Fred Musser: Treasurer

Mandy Esch: Secretary

Best of luck to the new leaders in the upcoming academic year.

Pizza Party

SAGES would like to thank Peter Bell from the Fox Run Winery for speaking at the seminar entitled "Anything but Chardonnay." The event was attended by more than 30 people. Participants tasted a splendid variety of wines from all over the world (including the Finger Lakes Region of New York). Peter challenged us to be bold in trying new wines other than the standard Chardonnay varieties. SAGES would also like to thank Jonathan Licker for all the hard work he put into organizing the event.

Dan Waldstein

DEFERRED EMPLOYEE TUITION AID

Maureen Brull, University Office of Human Resources, has been in contact with a number of area colleges asking if they would consider participating in a Deferred Tuition Aid program with Cornell University. Here are their responses to Maureen:

Finger Lakes Community College is unable to offer the deferral due to the "conditional" agreement (a "D" or better in order for Cornell to make payment at the end of the semester.)

Rochester Institute of Technology doesn't believe that it will work for them as it doesn't fit into the current structure of reimbursement procedures.

Keuka College is unable to allow our deferral agreement to be used by their school. They have multiple concerns.

Broome Community College will not be able to work with the program.

Hobart & William Smith Colleges don't

think it will work due to their high tuition rate and Cornell's reimbursement maximum per semester.

Empire College has a number of concerns regarding the deferred reimbursement program and will not participate at this time.

Many of the colleges stated multiple concerns. One reason is that it is a big undertaking for each financial aid office to implement for the small number of Cornell employees who take classes. The other area of major concern is the overall tuition charge in comparison to the reimbursement rate.

Maureen states: "I wish I had better news. I know that this is disappointing for Geneva employees who are interested in furthering their education. If you think of any other avenues I could explore, please let me know."

Maureen and I welcome your ideas.

Charie Hibbard

EMPIRE PLAN UPDATE

The recent agreement between Blue Cross of Central New York and Cayuga Medical Center is good news for Empire Plan participants.

As a result of this contract, effective March 1, 1999, most services received at Convenient Care Center will be directly billed to Blue Cross. Physician charges for services received at Convenient Care Center will be divided into a professional component amount and a technical component amount. The professional component will be billed to United HealthCare and payment will be made directly to the patient/employee. Since Cayuga Medical Center does not participate with United HealthCare, payment of these charges will be the responsibility of the patient/employee.

The technical component portion of the charge will be billed to Blue Cross and payment will be made directly to Cayuga Medical Center. The patient/employee will be billed for any applicable co-payment (\$30.00 emergency room co-payment) and any non-covered charges as determined by Blue Cross.

Laboratory and x-ray charges for services received at Convenient Care Center will be billed to Blue Cross and payment will be made to Cayuga Medical Center, subject to the \$25.00 out patient hospital co-payment.

Charges for physical therapy services received at Convenient Care Center will be covered by Blue Cross only if the services are related to prior hospitalization. In all other cases you should make sure that you receive treatment from a Managed Physical Network (MPN) physical therapist or chiropractor. Call 1-800-942-4640 for a list of providers.

Cayuga Medical Center will bill Blue Cross for all hospital charges (including referred specimen charges), all Woman's Imaging Center charges, and all Surgicare charges. Blue Cross will make payment for covered charges directly to the hospital subject to the \$25.00

outpatient co-payment (\$30.00 in the case of emergency room charges).

This contract does not affect Empire Plan benefits for mental health and substance abuse services. These services are administered and reimbursed by GHI/ValueOptions, not by Blue Cross. You must call Value/Options (1-800-446-3995) before seeking treatment for mental health or substance abuse services. If you do not follow ValueOptions requirements, you will receive a significantly lower level of benefits.

If you have questions concerning your Empire Plan coverage, please contact the benefits office at 1-607-255-1604. Plan providers may be contacted at the following numbers: Empire Blue Cross at 1-800-342-9815, United HealthCare at 1-800-942-4640, or GHI/ValueOptions at 1-800-446-3995.

Eligibility For Statutory Health
Insurance Coverage

The New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) now requires proof of eligibility for all new enrollees and dependent enrollments. Examples of acceptable proof are marriage certificates, birth certificates, adoption papers, or a tuition receipt identifying the dependent, etc.

The type of proof needed to enroll a new dependent depends on your relationship to the dependent and the dependent's status, e.g., spouse, domestic partner, natural child, adopted child, stepchild, disabled child or other child. Please contact the statutory benefits office at 1-607-255-1604 if you have questions regarding proof of eligibility.

Disabled Dependent Children

If you have a disabled dependent child enrolled in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP), who is approaching the age of 19 (or age 25 if a full time student), you should contact the statutory benefits office to obtain Disability Form PS-451. The deadline

(EMPIRE, Continued on page 2)

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MAY 14-21, 1999

SAVE the DATE

Station Club Golf Tournament

Friday, June 18, 1999, tee off at 4:45 pm
Big Oak Golf Course

Station Club Picnic

Friday, July 16, 3:00 pm
Pavilion

LTC

PhotoShop Hands On Open Session

Tuesday, May 18
10:00 am-12 noon

This class is a hands on learning and problem solving class. Bring your questions. Instructors: Rob Way and Joe Ogrodnick.

Advanced HTML

Wednesday, May 19
10am-12 noon

This class will cover forms and resources.
Instructor: Jane Irwin

**CORNELL BREAST CANCER
FACT SHEETS**

The following six fact sheets have recently been published by the Cornell University Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors (BCERF):

- #21 Avoiding Exposure to Household Pesticides: Protective Clothing
 - #22 Safe Use and Storage of Hazardous Household Products
 - #23 Pesticides and Breast Cancer Risk, An Evaluation of Atrazine
 - #24 Consumer Concerns About Pesticides in Food
 - #25 Pesticide Residue Monitoring and Food Safety
 - #26 Pesticides and Breast Cancer Risk, An Evaluation of Chlorpyrifos
- Contact Margaret Haining Cowles at x408 or mh8 for copies.

SPEED AND THE STATION FARMS

Each spring I must send out a request to all who drive on Station farms. This has been a dry spring and with the expansion of facilities at the Research North Farm, there is more traffic and dust than ever. Drive slowly while traveling on the Station's gravel roads. This is important at the main staging area on Research North (a.k.a. Veg Crops). Please show respect for the people who work on the farms and must breathe the dust. Thanks. *Bob Seem*

WEEKEND PARKING

Stillwells Sweeper Service will be on campus sweeping roads and parking lots Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday, May 14, 15 and 16. Please move all vehicles from paved areas prior to leaving campus Friday evening. Parking will be available at the stone lot behind Jordan Hall, the stone lot behind the Sawdust Cafe, the lawn area south of the Plant Path greenhouses, the lawn area west of the Raw Products Building and the stone areas south of the Soils Building. *Tom DeYulio*

(EMPIRE PLAN, cont.)

for filing Form PS-451 is 60 days after the child turns 19 (or 25 for full time students).

If the child was covered under other health insurance and not enrolled in NYSHIP, and loses the other coverage involuntarily, you have 60 days from the date of loss of coverage to apply for coverage under NYSHIP. You must provide proof that the disability occurred before the normal NYSHIP age disqualification date (age 19, or 25 if a full time student) and that the loss of the other coverage was involuntary.

Please contact the statutory benefits office at 1-607-255-1604 if you have further questions.

**FIELD RESEARCH UNIT
PESTICIDE REMINDERS**

The spray season has begun. Please remember to check the electronic posting board (EPOST), WPS Central Posting, or the on-site posting before entering any research blocks. EPOST instructions are in the file "Apple Menu:Chooser:Computer Centre[connect as a guest; the server "CC" will appear on your desktop]:CC:Sprays:EPOST readme".

Please remember applicators cannot always see people in or around the blocks being sprayed. If you are exposed to drift, vacate the area immediately and check the proper central posting location for specific information about the application or contact Mart Van Kirk at 781-5307 or mwv1.

UNITED WAY

On behalf of the United Way/Red Cross, I would like to personally thank Station people for their generosity on behalf of the United Way/Red Cross. Together, we were able to raise \$17,500 to Make Good Things Happen in our communities.

Dave Lasher

**WORKER PROTECTION
STANDARD TRAINING**


Training sessions for the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) will be held on Fridays, May 14, May 28, June 11, and June 25 in the Auditorium of Jordan Hall from 1:30-3:00 pm.

All new employees who will work in farm fields and/or greenhouses and all new B&P staff should attend as soon as possible after their first day of work. New employees should bring with them to the training session a signed copy of the "Basic Pesticide Training Requirements for Workers" from the back of the current electronic version of the Station Safety Manual. The Manual is found in the safety folder on the CC fileserver.

Employees trained in 1994 are required to be trained again in 1999 and should attend a training session before the expiration date on their WPS Handler Verification Card.

No pre-registration is necessary.

This training is in addition to any OSHA training that may be required for lab or office workers. Call Mart VanKirk (781-5307) for more information.

 **RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL
DISCOUNT PASSES**

Station Club has obtained discount passes for the 23rd Annual Renaissance Festival and Summer Marketplace, which takes place Saturdays and Sundays, July 3 to August 15, 1999, from 10:00 am-7:00 pm in Sterling, NY. Adults \$10.50, children \$5.99 (ages 6-12), and children 5 and under are admitted free. Special passes for the Children's half-price Weekend (July 3-4) must be purchased at the gate. See Colleen VanAllan (A108 Barton Lab.) for brochures, directions, and tickets.

FRU SURPLUS TO BID

FRU is accepting sealed bids for the following items. Bids must be submitted to Mark L. Scott by Tuesday, May 25, noon. The bid should include your name, department, phone number, item and bid. The unit holds the right to reject any or all bids. Any questions please contact Mark at 789-3689.

| Item | Condition | Location | Minimum Bid |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Gas welder | fair | Research N | \$250 |
| Spray safe filter & frame | poor | Research N | 50 |
| Vicon | fair | Research N | 250 |
| 100 gal herb trailer | fair | Research N | 30 |
| 200 gal herb trailer | fair | Research N | 30 |
| John Deere Flex Planter | fair | Research N | 20 ea |
| Bush Hog 8' offset mower | 65547300055 | Robbins | 500 |
| Chain link fence 6' ht. | 9.5 rolls | Loomis | 50 ea |
| American wire fence 4' | 2 rolls, approx. 450' | Pom.Polebarn | 50 |

SURPLUS ITEM

B&P has the following surplus vehicle for bid: 1970 Ford C600 with sprayer. It can be seen on the Robbins farm. Minimum bid is \$250. Please submit your bid in a sealed envelope to the B&P office or the Fleet Garage office. Bids will be opened at 3:30 pm on May 21.

CLASSIFIED

FREE: Kittens, various colors, males and females: 5 two-month old, 1 six-month old. Call x318 or e-mail cmh6.

FOR SALE: Pool slide, 8 ft. high, good condition (could use a coat of paint). Asking \$400. Contact Pat Mahoney (pmm19), x394.

SHRUBS AND TREES AVAILABLE: Over 80 varieties of shade trees, flowering trees, native plants, flowering shrubs and foundation plants. Contact Jim Engel (jpe6@nysaes.cornell.edu or x378).