

STATION NEWS

125



NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Celebrating the past, shaping the present, inspiring the future.

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BRIEFS

Former Station Plant Pathologist Honored by USDA

Dennis Gonsalves, director for the USDA Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center in Hilo, was selected for the USDA Agricultural Research Service Science Hall of Fame for a discovery leading to papaya plants that fend off the ringspot virus.

Gonsalves, a Cornell Emeritus Professor, was on the faculty in the Geneva department of plant pathology for many years.

"He is respected by colleagues worldwide for his pioneering research on viruses that attack fruits and vegetables," said research service Administrator Edward Knipling, in a news release. "Among other accomplishments, Dr. Gonsalves led a team that used techniques of modern biotechnology to equip papaya plants with resistance to papaya ringspot virus."

The Research Service's Science Hall of Fame program, established in 1986, recognizes agency researchers for outstanding career achievements in agricultural sciences. Recipients must be retired or eligible to retire to receive the award.

Plaques honoring the inductees are on permanent display at the ARS National Visitor Center, Beltsville, Md. The Agricultural Research Service is the USDA's chief scientific research agency.

Grants Awarded for Farm-Based Applied Research

The New York Farm Viability Institute Applied Research Partnership program awards grant funds to on-farm research projects. Applications are due by Oct. 1.

The grant program awards practical

(Continued on page 2)

Oh What A Day!

After more than a year of planning, September 15th finally arrived. The main event of the Station's 125th anniversary year came off without a hitch, and it became clearly evident even before the day was over that it was a huge success. An estimated four to five thousand people of all ages wandered about the campus, visited the various exhibits and chatted with Station personnel. Cool temperatures, threatening skies and intermittent rain later in the day did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of either the attendees or the staff.



Director Tom Burr, with Senator Nozzolio looking on, welcomes attendees to the Open House.

"Good morning, it's a great pleasure to welcome you today to help us celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Experiment Station," said Tom Burr in his welcoming remarks. "It is my hope that during this open house you will learn about, and experience the research and extension programs that focus on producing safe and healthy food for the State of New York."

Cornell President David Skorton pointed out that this was his second visit to the Experiment Station, which he characterized as one of the jewels of New York State. "The work done at this facility is a tremendous benefit to the people of New York," he said.

And Senator Michael Nozzolio added, "Every once in a while New York State does something right – and boy did they do something right 125 years ago."

CALS Dean Susan Henry, Senator Catherine Young, NY State Commissioner of Agriculture Patrick Hooker and Geneva Mayor Donald Cass also spoke extending their congratulations and speaking highly of the Station's many accomplishments.

For most of the day, the tents and other exhibit areas were packed to capacity or near capacity. Many of the attendees were overheard to say such things as "I really didn't know what went on here," "This is very cool," "They should do this every year," – and there were a lot of variations of "oo" and "ah."

It was the exotic butterfly exhibit that drew the biggest crowds, with long lines of people waiting their turn to get close up and personal with the colorful insects. "I see butterflies in my garden all the time, but nothing like this," exclaimed one wide-eyed visitor.

On the day before, September 14, students from ten area schools visited selected exhibits. (See photos on page 6)

"I cannot imagine how the Open House could have gone better today. We all heard so many complimentary comments that should make us very proud, and there is no question that our efforts will benefit the Station in the months and years ahead," said Tom Burr in wrapping up the event. "Perhaps the most important aspect was the teamwork over the past months and weeks, and certainly today, that was so apparent and important in making this historic day such a success."

J. Ogrodnick



(BRIEFS, continued)

research efforts that result in measurable benefit to participating farms during the life of the project. Projects should offer templates for other producers to implement similar measures after the project is complete.

Awards will not exceed \$250,000 for projects of eight month to two years in duration.

The Institute is a farmer-led nonprofit organization that funds research to help farms increase profits. The Institute funds research on farms of all sizes, geographic regions and production practices. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, agro-forestry, aquaculture, bio-energy, dairy, field crops and forage, equine, fruit, green industry, livestock and vegetables.

Examples of projects previously funded under the Applied Research Partnership program include:

- Use of Benchmarking to Improve Profitability in Dairy Calf Raising
- Managing Onion Thrips and Yellow Spot Virus
- Financial Decision-Making for Bunker Silo Filling
- Overcoming Internal Browning in Apple Storage
- Producing Organic Corn Seed

Applied Research Partnership project leaders may be researchers, educators, agricultural nonprofits, producer groups, agribusiness, government agency and others.

The Institute believes active New York State farmers should participate in identifying the need for project work, implementation, outreach and evaluation of funded efforts.

All applications must be submitted online, www.nyfarmviability.org.

Contact: Rebecca Schuelke, NYFVI public relations specialist

Office: (315) 453-3823 extension 103

Cell: (315) 427-2714

Email: rschuelke@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

(Briefs continued on page 7)

Station Library Has Been Around A While



In the earliest years, the library was likely to have consisted of books shelved in a variety of offices and labs.

When the Geneva Experiment Station first became operational in 1882, the annual report for that year lists book donations and library acquisitions. So it seems as though that the Station's library, in one form or another, is as old as the Station itself. Purchases and donations continued and the collection grew larger every year. In 1896 Director W. H. Jordan sought to hire a full-time person to take on the dual task of librarian and editor of the Station's publications. Frank Hall (hired in 1897) was the first to fill this role. His successor, James Luckett convinced the director that the two jobs should be separate. This was done in 1924, and Catherine Oaks became the first person to hold the title of librarian exclusively.

The library was likely to have originally consisted of books shelved in a variety of offices and labs. Then in 1897 it was consolidated in the Denton House (later called Parrott Hall), which was the administration building and home of the director). Three rooms on the west side of that building were set aside, and a 'library day' (one day each week) was established to encourage staff members to take advantage of the current scientific literature. After Jordan Hall was completed in 1918 the library was moved there. Here was another opportunity to bring stray bits of the collection together under one roof, although department libraries still existed that were branches of the main library in Jordan Hall.

When Frank Hall was in charge of the collection he devised his own system of organizing the books and shelved them accordingly. When he left the position in 1920 it became clear that that method was not satisfactory. James Luckett consulted with librarians at the Department of Agriculture in Washington and was strongly advised to adopt the Dewey Decimal system. Use of a standardized system made the collection more accessible and ensured that successive generations of users would be able to locate the material they wanted and properly maintain the collection. In the mid 1990's the library's system of organizing books was switched to the Library of Congress system, which classifies and organizes books by subject categories. This system remains in place to this day.

Because of the Station's early commitment to grape-related research (grape breeding began in the 1880s) the library has been collecting viticulture and enology related books

(Continued on page 7)



Picture This. . .

The 125th Anniversary Open House



Chris Cooley was still making signs late in the week before the Open House.



B&P crew laid gravel on the floor of one of the greenhouses to prepare it for use as an exhibit area.



Ed Bailey makes a final check of directional signs before the event. The signs were hand painted by Amy Andersen.



Kyle Arvin had an extensive display of seeds and seed-related material on hand.



A young man takes a close look at a rhinoceros beetle.



At the exotic butterfly exhibit, Paul Robbins helps those waiting in line pass the time.



Just a small portion of the thousands that were on the campus for the Open House.



There was plenty to do in the children's area for the younger attendees.



Phil Forsline along with Bill Srmack led the Botany of Desire tour.



Attired as a clown, Retiree Peter Deth painted youthful faces.



Kevin Maloney talked about the apple breeding program and attendees had the opportunity to name a new apple.



Bruce Reisch chronicles the history of the gene gun.



Senator Nozzolio and Randy Worobo talk apple cider.



President Skorton makes a purchase at the Food Venture Center Farmers Market.



The exotic butterfly house was popular with attendees of all ages.



Beth Gugino had a young but attentive audience as she talked about nematode damage on carrot roots.



4:00 PM – it's a done deal!



Open House—Student Edition



Graduate Student Maryann Borsick Herman helps two students test diseased cucumber plants for viruses using ELISA (Enzyme-linked ImmunoSorbent Assay).



Kaz Deys helps students grind up grapes to extract pigments, separate the pigments with chromatography, and then visualize them with visible and UV light.



Al Taylor points out one of the steps in coating seeds on a video.



Herb Cooley, Megan Lang and John Churey talk to students about preservation of food products using modified atmosphere packaging and by pickling.



Cy Lee talks about the health benefits of eating dark chocolate.



Students get up close and personal with an insect larva at the biopesticides exhibit.



Changes In Administrative Services Center

There are some significant changes that have occurred in the leadership of the Administrative Services Center (ASC) that I would like to share with you.

I am very pleased to inform you that effective September 1, 2007, Lorraine Barry has agreed to assume the role of Manager of Administrative Operations for the Administrative Services Center and the Station. With this change, Lorraine will be responsible for providing leadership through planning, organizing and directing the ASC and its financial staff in the areas of financial management, grant and contract preparation, core funding budget preparation, and transactional support. She will collaborate with Administration, Chairs and Unit Leaders on development and implementation of management strategies for short- and long-range fiscal, human resources, and operational funding challenges. In addition, she will work with Human Resources in the areas of organizational development, staffing, performance management, employee relations, strategic planning.

I am delighted that Lorraine has accepted this exciting challenge, and ask you to join with me in congratulating her!

Tom Burr

(LIBRARY, continued)

for quite some time. Today, the library is a component of the Cornell University Library, and is the university's main repository for grape growing and winemaking books and journals. Because of the strength of this collection and the Station's work in the field, the Eastern Section of the American Society of Enologists (ASE/ES) decided to establish an Eastern US library dedicated to these topics at the Experiment Station library. The idea was originally proposed by Phillip Wagner with a vision that the library would serve as a place for ASE/ES members to have access to important journal articles and books they might otherwise not be able to easily find. Once approval came in the late 1970s the ASE/ES (later named American Society for Enology and Viticulture / Eastern Section - ASEV/ES) began donating \$500 annually to support the purchase of new grape and wine science titles.

The Station library has always been an important source of information for scientists, graduate students and others who work at the Station. However, budget limitations and the library's small size when compared to larger more comprehensive Cornell libraries has occasionally been a source of frustration to faculty needing ready access to current journals and books. One such faculty member was Frank A. Lee who worked in the chemistry division which later became part of the present department of food science. Lee worked at the Station from 1936 to 1967 and conducted important work in the area of freezing. Dr. Lee was concerned that the library did not always have the means to procure the best materials and so he left a sizable bequest to the library in his will. In honor of Dr. Lee's 2.3 million dollar gift the Experiment Station Library was renamed the Frank E. Lee Library in 2000.

Visit The Frank A. Lee Library at <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/library/>

Mike Fordon

Celebrate The Harvest

8th Annual Candlelight Evening at Rose Hill Mansion

Saturday, September 22, 5 - 7:30 PM

• Finger Lakes Wine & Beer • Great Area Restaurants • Cooking Demonstrations • Wine Raffle

Donation: \$30 GHS Members, \$35 Non-members

Make reservations by calling 315-789-5151, at the Geneva Historical Society Museum, or call Gil Stoewsand at 315-789-3246

For more Information go to info@genevahistoricalsociety.com

(BRIEFS continued on page 2)

of Agriculture and Markets. Visit www.ny-farmviability.org.

SBIR/STTR Seminar To Be Held at the Technology Farm

The Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park is offering an introductory look at federal SBIR and STTR funding programs on Thursday, September 27, 2007. The program will highlight opportunities for biotechnology and agricultural applications within the programs.

The seminar will be held at the Technology Farm, from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. The program will include John Trachtenberg, the Industrial Outreach Grant Applications Manager from the Cornell University Center for Life Science Enterprise and Rami Katz, the Technology Commercialization Manager at High Technology Rochester. They will be speaking on SBIR/STTR eligibility, application content and strategies for writing a winning proposal.

Also on the agenda will be Dr. Gary Harman, Professor of Horticultural Sciences at the Geneva Station and Chief Scientific Officer for Terrenow, LLC. Dr. Harman will discuss the SBIR/STTR system from a user's prospective and provide comments from direct experience with the programs.

The program is open to all interested parties. The cost of the seminar is \$35. Refreshments will be available at 8:30 AM. For additional information please contact Steve Isaacs at 315-781-0070.

Cherry Juice For Sale at the Tech Farm

CherryPharm would like to let the Station community know that we have an outlet to purchase CherryPharm juice which is open every Wednesday, 10 AM -2 PM. We will also sell by appointment. Contact Cindy Smith at 781-7308. It's right here at the Tech Farm. Please call for more information.

*Cynthia Smith
Cherrypharm, Inc.*



CALENDAR of EVENTS
SEPT 21 - OCT 5, 2007

MEETINGS

CHAIR'S MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2007
Time: 8:30 AM
Place: Director's Office

CHAIR'S & DIRECTOR'S MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2007
Time: 3 PM
Place: 348 Morrison, Ithaca

CALS SENATE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2007
Time: 4 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab, A/V Linkage

SEMINARS

PLANT PATH

Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2007
Time: 3:30 PM, Coffee at 3 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Jub Siraprapa, USDA/ARS
Title: Inheritance and cloning of candidate resistance gene analogs (RGAs) for downy mildew in grapevine (*Vitis* spp.)

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2007
Time: 3:30 PM, Coffee at 3 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab
Speaker: NC State Student Exchange Speaker
Title: TBD

ENTOMOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2007
Time: 10:30 AM, Coffee at 10:15 AM
Place: 310 Barton Lab
Speaker: Mao Chen, NYSAES
Title: Ecological Risk Assessment for Insect-Resistant GM Crops: Why Target on Non-Targets?

HORT SCIENCE

Date: Monday, September 24, 2007
Time: 11:15 AM - 12 PM
Place: A134 Barton Lab
Speaker: Jaap van Tuyl, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
Title: Interspecific Hybridization of Floral Crops

SEMINARS CONTINUED

FOOD SCIENCE

Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2007
Time: 11 AM
Place: FST Conference Room 251
Speaker: Gavin Sacks, NYSAES
Title: Isotopic Metabolomics: Coupling comprehensive 2-D gas chromatography to isotope ratio mass spectrometry (GCxGC-IRMS)

SPECIAL SEMINAR

Date: Thursday, September 27, 2007
Time: 8:30 - 11:30 AM
Place: Technology Farm
Speakers: John Trachtenberg, Rami Katz, and Gary Harman
Title: SBIR/STTR

TAEKARDIO

Day: Monday and Wednesday
Time: 12 - 1 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium
Cost: \$25 for 6 weeks
Please bring water, floor mat, towel and ware comfy clothes.
NOTE: On October 1 and 3, TAEKARDIO will be held in the Saw Dust Cafe

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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

Instructor: Susan Deidrich
When: Every Tuesday & Thursday from 4:30 - 7:30 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.



Congratulations to Susan and Carl Switras-Meyer! Their daughter Iris Margaret was born Sunday September 10 (7lb15oz and 21 inches). Mom, Dad and baby are doing well.

STATION SAFETY COMMITTEE SAFETY TIPS

Why is attendance at health & safety training sessions mandatory?

- To help prevent accidents and injuries at the Station.
- To learn about resources available to comply with federal/state/local laws, regulations, and requirements.
- To learn about safe operating procedures.

If you have not been invited to any Safety Training sessions please contact Soon Kong at 2350.

You can review your safety training history at <http://fru.nysaes.cornell.edu/training/Staff/FMPro?-db=staff.fp3&-lay=web&-format=search.htm&-view>

SAVE THE DATES

**Wednesday
October 24, 2007**

FLU CLINIC

**Friday
November 2, 2007**

STATION BANQUET

**Saturday
November 10, 2007**

CRAFT FAIR AND BOOK SALE

**Friday
December 7, 2007**

BENEFAIR