I am very pleased that Agriculture Canada, OMAFRA, and the University of Guelph, i.e. Plant Agriculture, have announced our enhanced partnership for research. This partnership focuses on our Vineland campus which is shared with an AAFC station. This agreement will allow for the secondment of Dr. David Hunter and his research technician Neva Greig into our Department. Dr. Hunter and Ms. Greig bring expertise in pear breeding research. This expertise will be a wonderful complement to our tree fruit breeding efforts being conducted currently at Vineland. In addition, Dr. Hunter has considerable research experience in grape and tree fruit physiology and management. On behalf of our staff, faculty and graduate students I wish to extend a very warm welcome to David and Neva.

Our new tree fruit breeding position is being advertised with a closing date of April 30th. I am very hopeful that we will have a number of strong candidates apply for this position. Once this position is filled we will then have two tree fruit breeding positions fully operative. On the management side, Dr. John Cline will be expanding his research opportunities to include not only apples but other tree fruits including peaches, pears, cherries and plums. He will be conducting research at both our Vineland and Simcoe campuses.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will remain committed to crop protection. Their scientists will be able to work more closely with our faculty involved in breeding and management to enhance our capabilities to provide more effective control measures. Added to this, we have our own expertise in post harvest physiology, the OMAFRA extension personnel including Ken Slingerland, Tender Fruit and Grape Specialist and Dr. Jennifer DeEll, the new Fresh Market Quality Program Lead. One can quickly see that we have the beginnings of a centre of expertise in tree fruit production and management. This opportunity to enhance our research capabilities through collaboration with our partners is just a beginning for our Department as we strive to achieve excellence.
So this is the place to talk about grad student issues and grad student life in the department. And although there have been some requests, I promised myself this would not be a place to complain and rant. For example, this is not the place to ask why the department does not have quilted two-ply toilet paper, or why the roaming beverage snack cart is a reasonable use of department funds. So... I’ll just keep it to myself.

But, on a more personal note, I’m a little sad. Last week I had two office-mates that I’ve lived with for the last two and a half years and now they’re both moving on. Things are definitely quieter now. The office with the mood lighting, Star Wars paraphernalia and the infamous vibrating chair stands idle (for arranged tours, come to cropsce 427 and ask for Coomassie). Idle only until new grad students move in. The point being... I’m quite fond of my friends and colleagues here, and perhaps, we all don’t say it enough. So, as you read this, I’d like you to get up and sneak over to your nearest lab mate or supervisor and give them a big hug. Then reply, “god you stink, and where did you get those shoes and that hair...?” You will both have a good laugh and strengthen the bonds between yourself and the rest of the department. Then, head over to one of the other department buildings and repeat. I know I will! I believe Peter Gabriel summed it up best when he said, “...me, I’m just a lawnmower you can tell me by the way I walk.” Well, it’s not much of a philosophy I know, so don’t come following me around.

Yes friends, it is good to let down your guard just a bit. It’s time to get a little closer...it’s time for a fondue. Mmmm, cheesy goodness. See you all at the next department coffee break. But until then, remember, if you ever see a turtle on a fencepost, you know he had some help.

Keep those comments coming and hugs all around!!!

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Editor’s Note:

Jeremy is located in the Crop Science building in room 427 and lab 419. His office extension is 8182 and his lab extension is 8185. You may also reach Jeremy at jberg@uoguelph.ca
PLANT PEOPLE
BY DON COOMASSIE
(a pseudonym)

Walking the halls and the corridors of life
Is no easy task.
To do it with dignity might suffice.
But to do it with grace
Is no sacrifice.

Be gentle and determined.
Downs may follow ups.
Be true to yourself and others.

Walking the halls and corridors of life
Will let us bask
In the sweetness of joy,
And the challenges;
Those are to come.
Be kind and committed.
Don’t let the trust
Be forfeited.

Walking the halls and corridors of life
Just ask,
Who’s there to greet?
Whose delight to meet?

The answer is there:
Plant Ag people,
They care.
Jason S.T. Deveau

Jason was born in Halifax in 1973. He received his B.Sc.(Hon) at Mt. Allison University, and his M.Sc. at York University.

Jason is presently in the 7th semester of his Ph.D. in the Department of Plant Agriculture with Dr. Bernard Grodzinski. He has recently moved into the new wing of the Bovey building where he investigates photosynthesis in the hopes of finding suitable candidates for extraterrestrial closed environment systems. Essentially, he builds ion-selective electrodes that are 2 microns in diameter, and uses them in a vibration-free, electrically-grounded atmosphere to characterize intercellular ionic and photoassimilate movement. It's sensitive work, and he really misses caffeine! Jason has been fortunate enough to receive a number of scholarships from the department, and the CRESTech Industrial Scholarship to help him fund his research.

Outside of academics, Jason is the president of the Graduate Students Association, applying to be on the Board of Governors, a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and a mean chef. His future plans are still a bit hazy, but he is really looking forward to finding out what happens next.

Colette McAuley

You might have seen Colette hanging out in the Crop Science building. She is usually in the lab, grinding and analysing samples of mint, oregano and thyme. Some of her peers refer to the crop that she is researching as “wacky tobaccy,” but she assures you that all her plants are part of the Lamiaceae family.

Colette is working in Dr. Laima Kott’s lab where she is investigating the stability of high phenolics in field conditions of pre-selected lines as well as testing their antioxidant ability. Colette has always been interested in human health, and when she completes her Master’s degree in Plant Agriculture, she would like to pursue a Ph.D. involving the nutraceutical application for human benefit. Now that’s her academic side.

Colette also has an athletic side, which she finds much more exciting. She plays wing for the Canadian Women’s Rugby team. The team plays against teams from all over the world including New Zealand, England and our neighbours to the south, the U.S. Training and testing are continuous throughout the year to prepare for the upcoming Women’s Rugby World Cup in Barcelona, Spain next year. Colette also coaches rugby at both the university and high school levels to ensure that many girls have the opportunity to be involved in the sport that she enjoys so much.
Jason is a third year Ph.D. student working with Dr. Clarence Swanton, down in the weeds lab. Although not as “weedy” as some of the other projects in their lab, his research focuses on the interaction between weed density and nitrogen fertilizer rates on grain corn grown in southern Ontario. Jason comes by this topic honestly, as he obtained his M.Sc. in nitrogen fertility and crop production from the Department of Land Resource Science (U of G) in 1998. Prior to moving to Guelph in 1996, Jason lived west of Ottawa on a dairy farm, and attended Carleton University where he double-majored in Physical Geography and Biology. Since joining the department in January of 1999, Jason has been fortunate to receive both the Bandeen Scholarship (1999) and the Mary Edmond Williams Scholarship (1999 and 2000).

As for the future, when asked (and many of his friends will attest to this), he is either westward bound to the great province of Alberta and the lure of big-sky country (many think that he is from there anyway), or south to the U.S.A. Either direction, he hopes to secure a teaching position at a university.

Cindy completed her undergraduate degree here at the University of Guelph in plant biology. After completing her undergraduate degree she had a memorable experience working for Dr. Al Sullivan as a research technician. She then joined the lab of Dr. J.T.A. Proctor in the horticultural science division to pursue a Master’s degree. She is currently looking at the effects of ethrel on American ginseng roots. She is conducting field scale trials to determine if ethrel is effective at increasing root yield. If the trials prove to be successful then registration of ethrel on Ontario grown ginseng will help reduce the amount of money growers spend on labour.

Cindy is also investigating a physiological disorder that occurs on ginseng roots. The disorder is known as rusty root and through anatomical studies Cindy is hoping to characterize the symptoms.

Cindy is an energetic individual who loves sports, outdoor activities and values any free time that she can get. She has been the recipient of numerous awards including University of Guelph Graduate Scholarships, the Mrs. Fred Ball Scholarship and the Soden Memorial Scholarship. After completion of her Master’s she is hoping to pursue a career in the horticulture industry.
Professor Manish Rai-zada joined the Department of Plant Agriculture on January 1st, 2001, in the Grass Genomics faculty position in the Crop Science Building. Prior to his arrival at Guelph, Manish was a short-term postdoctoral research fellow at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in Mexico City. Manish completed his Ph.D. work at the end of 1999 in plant (maize) molecular genetics at Stanford University in California. He received a B.Sc. in Genetics from the University of Western Ontario in 1992.

Manish confesses that he almost attended Guelph as an undergraduate, but rejected it in favour of Guelph's archrival, Western. He admits that he has stayed awake nights these past 12 years weeping at this decision, and so has finally come to Guelph to repent his sins. Manish is a native of Brampton, Ontario (No, not Brantford, the home of Wayne Gretzky, but Brampton, the home of strip malls and model homes). The opportunity to establish a new research program in Canada has brought Manish to Guelph, and he is very appreciative of his warm welcome here.

At Guelph, Manish is building upon his work as a grad student and post-doc in functional genomics. Manish loves mutants, likes to look at them and likes to make them. Manish’s fundamental goal is to bridge the gap that exists in the grasses between map-based genetics and molecular gene isolation. At Guelph, his lab will manipulate and use ‘jumping genes’ (transposons) to create mutants (insertional mutagenesis) and alter whole chromosomal segments in order to define gene function. He is designing these molecular tools for use by researchers at Guelph and around the world to understand and isolate genes of agronomic importance such as those that confer disease resistance and abiotic stress tolerance. Because these are complicated traits, Manish is looking forward to collaborating with experts in the department in these areas. Manish's other research interests include the molecular genetic basis of plant tissue regeneration, plant development, genome structure and epigenetic regulation. He looks forward to advising graduate students, undergraduate teaching and reaching out to the public to excite them about the revolution currently going on in biology, agriculture, and medicine.

Manish's hobbies include photography, biking, and more recently, downhill skiing. However, after living in California and skiing in Lake Tahoe, he's not sure that “Blue Mountain” should legally be called a mountain, but has decided not to pursue the matter further. His most recent hobby has been picking up pieces of the used Honda Prelude he recently purchased off the highway. He requests that next time you see a car part on the road, please drop it off at his office.

Manish's office is located in Rm 316 of the Crop Sc. Bldg. He can be contacted by telephone at (519) 824-4120 ext. 3396, or by email at raizada@uoguelph.ca
Mary Ruth McDonald joined the University of Guelph, along with all the others from H.R.I.O. in 1997, with the Enhanced Partnership. Mary Ruth has a long history with the University, achieving a B.Sc. (Agr) in Plant Protection in 1978, and an M.Sc. and Ph.D in plant pathology, all in the Dept. of Environmental Biology. While finishing her Master’s thesis, she got a job as a pest management scout in the Bradford Marsh, based at the Muck Research Station. After working on a kibbutz in Israel and an extension position in Prince Edward Island, she returned to pest management and “the marsh” as a provincial pest management specialist for muck crops. In 1989, she became the manager of the Muck Crops Research Station, taking over the research and extension position formerly held by Matt Valk. Matt often claimed that his job was 95% extension, and that most of the research was done by his technician. With the new management, the research programs were given a higher profile, but extension activities, such as farm calls, writing the Muck Crops Newsletter and organizing the Annual Muck Vegetable Growers’ conference were still a priority.

Mary Ruth’s research programs still focus on muck vegetables (onions, carrots, celery, lettuce and assorted root, bulb and leafy green vegetables) but have also expanded to some projects on cole crops and mineral soils. The most detailed research deals with plant pathology of vegetable crops, but because of her background in integrated pest management and extension, the emphasis is on integrated approaches to crop protection and crop management.

The Enhanced Partnership brought about a number of changes. The first was exchanging the station management for the teaching of vegetable production to degree and diploma students, in partnership with Prof. Vince Machado. Taking on the teaching activities also meant having a second office at the Guelph campus. This development has been great for interacting with other faculty and staff, but has necessitated much photocopying and duplicating of files and other materials. Teaching has proven to be even more time consuming than anticipated.

Probably the best aspect of the University experience has been the opportunity to supervise graduate students. Mary Ruth currently co-supervises five students, and the first one is slated to graduate this spring. The enthusiasm, excitement and fresh perspective brought by graduate students makes a wonderful contribution to the research programs. The university also allows greater freedom of expression, which is refreshing. Unfortunately, the volume of paperwork is no less than in the government.

When not thinking about vegetables, Mary Ruth is running after twin four-year-old sons, Alec and Cameron. So far, they have shown a greater inclination to entomology than plant pathology, but that could change.

Mary Ruth can be reached at the Muck Crops Research Station, (905) 775-3783 or in Guelph at ext. 2791. Her office is 3120 in the Bovey Building.
mrmcdona@uoguelph
In 1977, Wally graduated from the University of Guelph in the B.Sc.(Agr.) program, majoring in Resource Management. After graduation he secured a contract appointment with the University of Guelph arboretum working on nature trail establishment and maintenance of tree collections.

In 1978, a move was made to private industry on the Clarkson Apple Farms in Mississauga, and later to Caledon. Wally directed spray and harvesting operations.

In 1981, his career with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs began at the then Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario in Simcoe. The initial appointment was as the Farm Foreman, directing all cultural operations on the research trials. By 1986 this evolved into the Farm Manager with the associated budget and financial responsibilities. In 1996, due to staff vacancies and shrinking budgets, the administrative section of the Simcoe Research Station was added to his portfolio. This evolution led to the title of Research Station Manager with total control, financially and operationally, in running the Simcoe Research Station and its varied horticultural thrusts in fruits and vegetables on the sandy loams of Norfolk County. By 1997, the station was absorbed by the University of Guelph and became a key player in the formation of Guelph's biggest department, Plant Agriculture. Some of the crops under Wally's auspices at the station include apples, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, cucumbers, asparagus, corn, melons, cabbage, broccoli, nut trees, onions, carrots, cauliflower, peppers, and herbs.

Originally from the banana belt of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Wally and the love of his life for the past 25 years, Nancy, reside in Nixon with their three children. The older two are undergrads attending the University of Guelph. Hank is in his 3rd year in Environmental Engineering, and Amanda is in her first year of Economics and International Development. The youngest, Trevor, is in grade 11 at Delhi Secondary School.

When Wally is not crunching budget numbers at the Station, he is involved in sports. Volleyball in the winter, golf and old timer baseball in the summer. This summer Wally is serving as President of the Simcoe Old-timer Baseball Association. Another extracurricular activity is his role as Mission Chairman at his local church and his involvement in the adoption of a children's hospital orphanage in Haiti, called the House of Hope. A trip to Haiti this year to develop the new partnership is in the works.

Wally felt that putting all research stations under the University umbrella was a realistic move considering budget constraints over the last couple of years. Interacting with all the players in the University, OMAFRA, and the agri-food industry has made for challenging and interesting times. Moving with the changing times and adapting to new systems has quickly proved advantageous. Finding new ways to deliver research operations in a cost-effective manner has Wally and the agricultural and administrative teams continually reevaluating their work practices to improve the future of the Simcoe Research Station.

Wally may be reached at 519-426-7127 ext. 344 or wandres@uoguelph.ca
Editor's Note: This is a new feature of the Department of Plant Agriculture newsletter. Lucy Reynolds (Vineland Campus) and Jim Hoare (Guelph Campus) will submit an article, in alternate issues, relating to computer software and technology.

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**Microsoft PowerPoint 2000—Pack and Go!** By Lucy Reynolds

Launching Pack and Go is straightforward: Display the presentation you want to package and then choose File, Pack and Go to start the Pack and Go Wizard. If it is the first time you have used the wizard, you will be prompted to install it. If this is the case, you will need the Microsoft Office 2000 Premium discs that came with the software. After you insert the disk, click Next to advance past the Start page. On the Pick Files to Pack page, choose which presentation you want to compress. To pack the currently displayed presentation, choose Active Presentation; to compress a different presentation, click Other Presentation(s) and then use Browse to locate your file. When you are finished, choose Next to advance to the Choose Destination page. Specify the location for your packed files and click Next to advance to the Links page.

On the Links page, indicate if you want to include linked files, usually a good insurance policy to ensure you have all the files you need. Additionally, to make sure that the presentations text will display in a similar manner on the destination computer, you can embed TrueType fonts. When you are finished setting options on this page, click Next to advance to the Viewer page.

The Viewer page allows you to pack the PowerPoint Viewer mini-program along with your presentation. Doing so is a good idea if you suspect that the destination computer doesn’t have PowerPoint installed on it. If you are confident that PowerPoint is installed on the presentation computer, you can choose Don’t Include the Viewer. Click Next to advance to the final page of the wizard and then choose Finish. If your presentation is particularly large, you may be prompted to insert additional disks in the drive. When PowerPoint finishes packaging the presentation, a message box alerts you that the presentation was successfully packed.

If you modify your presentation, you will need to repack the presentation by working through the Pack and Go Wizard pages again.

Continued on page 10...
Continued from page 9...

**UNPACKING THE PRESENTATION**

To unpack the presentation, insert the diskette in the destination computer. Right-click the Windows Start button and choose Open from the shortcut menu. Click the Address drop-down arrow and choose the drive where you packaged the presentation. Double-click the Pngsetup.exe file to display the Pack and Go Setup dialog box. In the Destination Folder text box, type the location to which you want to copy your presentation, such as a folder on the hard drive of the presentation computer. Click OK and then follow the instructions to insert your disk(s) when prompted. When the presentation is successfully installed on the destination system, the Pack and Go Setup dialog box is displayed to confirm the installation. To start the presentation, choose Yes in this dialog box; to postpone running the presentation, choose No.

After you have unpacked the presentation, you can run it at any time by returning to the drive and folder to which you unpacked it and then double-clicking the presentation file. PowerPoint (or the PowerPoint Viewer) will fire up and load your presentation so that you can use it.

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**NEW GRADUATES**

Margaret Ajonye with Prof. Barry Micallef  
Cathy Bakker with Prof. Al McKeown  
Sue Blezard with Prof. Al Sullivan  
Cheryl Corbett with Prof. Francois Tardif  
Ramiro Gonzales Matute with Prof. Danny Lee Rinker

(Feature articles on these and other graduates will be found in the GRADS section of future issues.)

**GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINARS**

Graduate Student Seminars for the Hort*6500 and Crop*6400 courses will be presented on **Friday, April 6th**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in 100 Thornborough Building. Refreshment breaks and a light lunch will be available.

Please mark **Friday, April 6th** in your calendar and come out and support our students!

Abstracts of the presentations will be made available closer to the date.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRAD STUDENTS!!!

GOOD NEWS FROM ECW (Expert Committee on Weeds) - the conference was held in Banff, November 2000. Weeds scientists from across Canada were present. Students from Plant Agriculture were also there and did honour to our department.

There were 16 graduate students presenting at the meeting and they were judged for the quality and content of their presentation. The top five places were OUR GRADS!!!: Mike Cowbrough, Kevin Ego, Shane Diebold, Nancy DeSousa, and Kris McNaughton. Mike received the award for the best student presentation. In addition, Kris McNaughton received the Monsanto Scholarship and Mike Cowbrough the Zeneca Travel Award.

CONFERENCES, ETC.


- April 6, 2001 - Workshop speaker at the Update Conference, Guelph, Ontario. Topic: “Growing Edible Mushrooms in the Classroom.”


- June 10 - 13, 2001 - invited speaker at the Penn State Mushroom Growers Short Course, University Park, Pennsylvania. Topic: “Evolving Procedures Used in Canada for the Production of Oyster Mushrooms During the Last Decade.”

- February 20 - 23, 2002 - invited keynote speaker at the IV Conference on Mushroom Biology and Mushroom Products, Cuernavaca, Mexico. Topic: “Handling and Using Spent Mushroom Substrate Around the World.”


- March 2001 - invited by the organizing committee of the 5th International Symposium, Plant-Soil Interactions at Low pH, Durban, South Africa, to take part in a panel discussion on soil plant interactions in horticultural crops.

Prof. Barry Micallef - invited speaker at the 50th Essex County Associated Growers, Bounty of the Country Trade Show in Leamington. Barry’s talk was entitled, “The genetic improvement of production and quality in plants.” An article on this talk will be coming out in a future issue of ‘The Grower’ newspaper (March or April).
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Xu Xin and her husband on the birth of their daughter, Jessica, born December 2, 2000.

Congratulations to Godfrey Chu and his wife Gaiyun Wu on the birth of their daughter, Korinna Chu, born December 5, 2000.

Congratulations to Jorge Gutierrez and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Regina, born February 12, 2001.

Prof. George Chu has accepted an offer of a position as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, University of Toronto, for the period of January 1, 2001 to June 30, 2003. Prof. Chu has also accepted an appointment as an Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty in the same department.

50th ANNUAL MUCK VEGETABLE GROWERS’ CONFERENCE - March 28 and 29, 2001. The conference, which is attended by growers, researchers, and industry from Canada and the United States, will feature the latest production and crop protection information on onions, carrots and salad crops, as well as updates from various industry groups. Check out the conference program on the Plant Agriculture web site under News, Conferences, & Current Events.

MILLENNIUM FOREST is a project of the Lincoln Horticultural Society, Rotary Club of Lincoln, Department of Plant Agriculture/University of Guelph, and the Town of Lincoln, to plant trees to honour groups or individuals. Approximately three acres of land has been assigned by the Department of Plant Agriculture to this project at their Vineland Campus. The project provides a long lasting or permanent living development to serve as a Millennium project, and at the same time provide beauty, useful information and interest in trees. The trees will be planted with a donation of $200 per tree and will have a plaque to indicate who or what the tree was planted for. For more information you may contact Dr. Emil Andersen (905-563-4580) or Mr. William Ambrust (905-562-7178).

SAKURA PROJECT (background story in the September 2000 issue of this newsletter): the Consul General of Japan HARA Satoshi and Mrs. HARA Michiko will be hosting a dinner party at their residence in honour of Prof. Clarence Swanton and Mrs. Josée Swanton on Friday, March 9. The party is to thank those directly involved with the Sakura Project.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CES RESEARCH FACILITY - Monday, May 14, 2001. This will be in conjunction with an Advanced Life Support Conference being hosted by the CES research program. Within this international conference the MELiSSA (Micro Ecological Life Support System Alterna-
tive) program from the European Space Agency will host their annual internal official meeting (first time off of native soil for them, thus, this represents quite an achievement for the program to attract these officials). Also, the International Advanced Life Support Working Group (IALSWG) will host its third meeting. The IALSWG is a strategic planning group offering information and personnel exchange between international space agencies such as NASA, CSA, ESA, and NASDA (Japan). Included within the conference will be the ALS technology transfer session on the afternoon of May 15th hosted by CRESTech with seminars being given by CSA, ESA, NASA, NASDA, IRAP, and possibly NSERC representatives addressing the current status of ALS internationally and the respective projects and areas each group is currently addressing.

Information will go out to the Department by e-mail closer to the time of the opening.

**HORTICULTURAL JOB FAIR** - Tuesday, January 23, 2001. The 2nd Annual Horticultural Job Fair took place in Peter Clark Hall. Over 25 employers from all areas of the industry, including landscaping companies, garden centres, greenhouses, and turf companies, had a booth at this event. All of the companies were accepting resumes for summer jobs and full and part-time employment. Even though the number of students who came through was fewer than expected, employers were extremely impressed with the students that they did speak to and appreciated having the opportunity to speak directly to horticulture students.

Many thanks to Landscape Ontario for their efforts in contacting businesses and spreading the word about the Job Fair. The event was hosted by the Landscape Ontario Student Chapter, the University of Guelph Horticulture Club, and Career Services.

Congratulations on a job well done by all those involved in co-ordinating this event.

Next year the Job Fair will attempt to attract a higher number of students by having the employer booths stationed in the courtyard of the University Centre. Stay tuned for updates.

**AWARDS**

**Hannam Soybean Utilization Fund (HSUF)** - Prof. Peter Pauls has received $25,000 to conduct research on a line of soybeans for soymilk that will not taste “beany.”

**Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council** - Prof. Bernard Grodzinski recently received a three-year $360,000 grant to investigate biological methods of protecting hydroponic plants which are vulnerable to root diseases that might normally be held in check by fungi or bacteria that live in natural soils.
**Prof. Calvin Chong** has received a University of Guelph/NSERC/Industry Partnership grant for two years.

**URA/University Research Assistantships:**

- **Prof. L. Erickson** - A Bioinformatics Approach to Codon Usage in Plants
- **Prof. E. Lee** - Mapping Quantitative and Qualitative Traits in Maize
- **Prof. P. Pauls** - Developing Low Linolenic, Lipoxygenase-Free Soybean Lines for Improved Soymilk Stability and Flavour
- **Prof. A. Sullivan** - Heterosis in Strawberry Breeding

**USRA/University Student Research Award (NSERC):**

- **Prof. J. Proctor** - Non-pathogenic and Pathogenic Causes of Rusty Root in Ginseng
- **Prof. B. Shelp** - Identification of Genes Encoding for Tomato GABA Transaminase Isoforms
- **Prof. C. Swanton** - Competition between Green Foxtail and Corn as Influenced by Varying Nitrogen Rates
- **Prof. F. Tardif** - Agriculture Research Assistant
- **Prof. M. Tollenaar** - Stress Tolerance in Corn
- **Prof. D. Wolyn** - Mapping the Mitochondrial Genome in Carrot

**COMING EVENTS**

- **CANADABLOOMS** - March 14 to 18, 2001. Held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building, 222 Bremner Blvd., Toronto. Check them out at www.canadablooms.com/


- **IXth INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS RESEARCH CONFERENCE** - July 15 to 21, 2001, Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto. For more information contact Pam Charbonneau at pcharbon@omafra.gov.on.ca or check them out at http://gti.uoguelph.ca/ITRC2001/

**ELECTRONIC BOOKS AND JOURNALS - VIRTUALLY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS**

The University of Guelph McLaughlin Library is moving rapidly into electronic formats for information service and publications. This “virtual service” will promote easier access to a greater variety of materials not just in the library but also at your desktop on campus and at home. Access to electronic journal indexes has been available for several years and now the journals are increasingly available in full text formats through the library catalogue. At the present time the Tri-University TRELLIS catalogue holds over 5,000 electronic journals, with more titles being added everyday. Some new ejournals of interest to the Department of Plant Agriculture are: Grass and Forage Science, Journal of Phytopathology, Plant Breeding, Plant Journal and Plant Pathology. When a journal title is entered in the TRELLIS library search you will receive a message if it is available electronically with the location highlighted in blue on the journal holdings page. You can browse a complete list of the electronic journal titles at [http://tug.lib.uoguelph.ca/ejournals/](http://tug.lib.uoguelph.ca/ejournals/). This web site also lists new titles as they come online and gives information about access and licensing restrictions.

Electronic books have been available on the Internet since it began. The first titles were generally well known classics or government reports without copyright restrictions. What initially began as specialized individual book digitization projects have now evolved into a variety of ebusiness opportunities for authors and publishers. The McLaughlin Library has recently featured on its web page a trial of netLibrary, a commercial supplier of free public domain electronic books and collections of copyrighted books. The trial is now over and the Library has joined with other university libraries in purchasing access to this service. NetLibrary's goal is to "be the world’s largest distributor of eBooks, making thousands of titles globally accessible through the Internet." To date the company has over 30,000 copyrighted and 3,500 free eBooks online. As with printed books, individual libraries purchase the rights to use and hold various electronic titles in their collections. Some agricultural eBooks accessible through the University of Guelph netLibrary are: The Canadian System of Soil Classification, The New Oxford Book of Food Plants, A Dictionary of Plant Sciences, Alternative Agriculture, and The Coming Biotech Age.

Having publications in a digitized format allows for useful electronic enhancements such as highlighting and keyword and phrase searching. Another nice feature offered by netLibrary is an embedded dictionary that provides a quick definition of a highlighted word and in some cases an image or audio pronunciation.

To tryout netLibrary go to [http://www.netlibrary.com/library_home_page.asp](http://www.netlibrary.com/library_home_page.asp) or the Library home page. To use this service you must have version 4.0 or greater of Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator. If you are accessing this from off campus you will usually find searching before 10 AM or after 3:30 PM will bring faster results. If you have problems or questions about netLibrary contact the library.
WEB SIGHTS

by Judy Wanner and Jeremy Friedberg

On December 20, 2000 the USDA announced the final National Standards for Organic Food. These standards cover the production, handling, and processing of organically grown agricultural products including crops, livestock and processed products. The document also provides a national definition for the term “organic” in the U.S. Organic labeling criteria are given and specific regulations such as those prohibiting the use of genetic engineering methods, irradiation and sewage sludge fertilization are listed. According to a USDA News Release on the issue, organic foods in the U.S. in 1999 had an estimated value of retail sales of approximately $6 billion and certified organic cropland has more than doubled from 1992 to 1997. For complete information on this topic including an overview of the U.S. National Organic Program and a full text PDF file of the standards consult the following website: http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop. This site also offers links to other pages on organic agriculture.

Google Toolbar – If you are using the Google search engine frequently (reviewed in the September 2000 issue of the Plant Ag. Newsletter) you may want to install the new Google Toolbar option. When installed it appears automatically along with the Internet Explorer toolbar allowing you to search Google from any website location without returning to the Google home page. The toolbar also provides enhanced search features. These are described in detail at http://toolbar.google.com. Note that you need Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher and a Windows operating system to use this. Before installing read the privacy statement.

Jeremy Friedberg and Jeremy Murray have been putting together a tools web site for the department. They have temporarily placed it up on the central server under Jeremy Friedberg’s account. It is in a testing phase and they would love feed back from people in the department. Address is: http://www.uoguelph.ca/~jdberg/depttools/index.htm

You may reach them at:
Jeremy Friedberg - jdberg@uoguelph.ca
Jeremy Murray - jeremymu@uoguelph.ca

VARIETY CLUB NEWS

Variety Club Memberships are still on sale. Don’t forget to buy your membership and receive discounts at functions during the year. Coffee Breaks - do your best to attend and get to know your Department.

SUPPORT ‘YOUR’ VARIETY CLUB - GET INVOLVED!!
The winter semester has passed quickly into “instant” summer. With all of the business at the end of the teaching semester and preparations for field planting, the Department has once again emerged with a focus on our field and laboratory research programs.

Eight new graduate students have joined the Department for this spring semester. Elizabeth Trebovac will be co-advised by Istvan Rajcan and Paul Goodwin, Chris Horvath co-advised by Praveen Saxena and Perry Martos, Urbee Shome co-advised by Mike Dixon and Austin Fletcher, Shun-Yan Luk and Grant Woronuk will be advised by Peter Pauls, Wendy Shearer and Phil Snelgrove advised by Larry Erickson, and Jun Liu advised by Art Schaafsma. Naheed Rana has joined the Department as a research technician with Barry Micallef at Vineland. Seven new contractual research associate or technical positions were filled and over 80 summer students have found employment in our Department. A very special welcome to all of you.

The review of our graduate program was held on May 8th and 9th. Drs. Charles Boyer, Bryan Harvey and Wayne Loescher were our guests. Dr. Harvey is a professor and University Coordinator of Agricultural Research with the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Loescher is professor and Chair of the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University and Dr. Boyer is professor and Chair of the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University. I wish to extend a special thank you to Dr. Al Sullivan and Jean Wolting for their excellent work in preparing for the site visit and to all graduate students and faculty who participated in the various meetings. We now await their report, and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss their findings with all in our Department.

Julie Dionne, our new turf grass faculty member, will be joining our Department on July 1st. We are in the process of interviewing candidates for the faculty position in bioinformatics. There were a total of nine potential candidates. Our tree fruit breeding position is also well in progress with interviews to begin later this month. There were 22 potential candidates for this position.

As many of you are aware, there have been several changes at our Elora Research Station. These changes have been necessary to improve the day-to-day functioning of this operation. We have joined forces with Research Station Services to explore the potential for achieving greater efficiencies. As we move forward, I would ask those of you using the research station to give this new management system a chance to succeed. Where and when difficulties arise, Rick Upfold and I will be very active in trying to address your concerns.

Bill Deen, Chair of our Variety Club, has informed me that plans are well underway for our summer picnic which will be held this year at our Simcoe campus on Friday, August 24. This picnic is one of the major events in the social life of our Department. It is a great opportunity to bring us all together. The Department will provide transportation to and from Simcoe. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Good luck with all of your summer plans and activities.
Looks like I picked the wrong week to quit research... by Jeremy Friedberg

I’ve been told that my writing in this column seems to be pretty much the ramblings of a crazy man. Well perhaps they are… but as I look back, much of what I write seems to be composed of common and rare lines from movies. Could that explain the excessive Star Wars paraphernalia in my office? Maybe. At any rate, I’ve decided to start a little contest. A contest designed to test your wit and procrastination. At the end of this column will be four movie lines. The first two Plant Ag grad students to e-mail me the four correct answers (movie title) will win a free beer, on me at the grad lounge. Oh, I know… lets see how good you really are!

Now, back to grad stuff, I’d like to welcome all of the new grad students to the department… so welcome… good! On that same note, for all those grad students who have just graduated this semester… well done! And we’ll all miss you, sniff, sniff!

So it’s finally summer in the department! Obviously, the summer is not just localized to the department. Right… but it’s a special time of singing, dancing and planting. But honestly, how is anyone supposed to work inside at a time like this. So I thought I’d suggest a couple of nice summer things to do in and around Guelph. There are of course the pubs with patios such as the Woolwich Arms, Albion Hotel and Jimmy Jazz. But for something more exciting try tubing down the rapids in the Elora Gorge. Actually, the whole area is great for hiking (more info at: [http://www.sirendesigns.com/elora_gorge_index.html](http://www.sirendesigns.com/elora_gorge_index.html)), if you’re in to that sort of thing. Guelph also hosts a couple of great summer musical events that I recommend such as the hillsid festival ([http://www.hillside.on.ca/](http://www.hillside.on.ca/)) and the Guelph Jazz Festival ([http://www.uoguelph.ca/~jazzfest/](http://www.uoguelph.ca/~jazzfest/)). The Jazz Festival is quite nice as it’s spread all over downtown Guelph. So my advice… enjoy your summer semester… but for me… I can’t wait for winter, pretty much ‘cause I don’t own any shorts.

So be well and remember where ever you go… that’s where you are… vivé la two-ply!!!

Movie Line Contest:

1. “Don’t you worry Wilma. Your husband is going to be alright. Don’t you worry about anything. Just think positive. Never let a doubt enter your mind… He’s right, Wilma. But I wouldn’t wait until the last minute to fill out those organ donor cards.”

2. “Surely you can’t be serious?… I am serious, and don’t call me Shirley!”

3. “When I left you, I was but the learner; now I am the master.”

4. No, no, no, light speed is too slow… Light speed, too slow?… Yes, we’re gonna have to go right to ludicrous speed.”

Email your answers to jdberg@uoguelph.ca and good luck!

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Editor’s Note:
Jeremy is located in the Crop Science building in room 427 and lab 419. His office extension is 8182 and his lab extension is 8185. You may also reach Jeremy at jdberg@uoguelph.ca
CONGRATULATIONS

ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (OGS):
Zhihui Cheng, Guangyun Hou, and Justine Vanden Heuvel

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL (NSERC):
Jeremy Friedberg and Heather Shearer

WELCOME NEW GRAD STUDENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANT AGRICULTURE:

Chris Horvath - Advisors: Prof. Praxeen Saxena & Dr. Perry Martos
Jun Liu - Advisor: Prof. Art. Schaafsma
Shun-Yan Luk - Advisor: Prof. Peter Pauls
Wendy Shearer - Advisor: Prof. Larry Erikson
Urbee Shome - Advisors: Prof.'s Mike Dixon & Austin Fletcher
Phl Snelgrove - Advisor: Prof. Larry Erikson
Elizabeth Trebouac - Advisors: Prof.'s Istvan Rajcan & Paul Goodwin
Grant Woronuk - Advisor: Prof. Peter Pauls

Justine Vanden Heuvel

Justine should be a familiar face from around the Bovey Building, as she is about to celebrate her 10th anniversary as a student there! She received a B.Sc.(Agr.) in 1996 and a M.Sc. in 1999. Some would call her unadventurous; Justine’s response is two-fold: 1) she’s already at the best agricultural school in the country so why make a change, and 2) if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!

Justine is currently in the 7th semester of a Ph.D. program in viticulture, where she is investigating the role of interior leaves in carbon production and partitioning in grapevine canopies. Justine has been fortunate to receive several external scholarships; the Educational Foundation of the American Wine Society recently awarded her a scholarship for excellence in research and invited her (all expenses paid!) to present her work at their national conference in Hilton Head, S.C. in the fall. She won an award for presenting the best student paper in viticulture at the meetings of the American Society of Enology and Viticulture (Eastern Section) last year and was also awarded a scholarship by that group.

Outside the world of grapes, Justine has been involved in a number of committees at the department, college, and university level. She plays on the University of Guelph women’s squash travel team, and volunteers with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program. Along with her dog Gillian, Justine visits with residents of St. Joseph’s Home on a weekly basis, where Gillian wins over dozens of people while Justine stands (unnoticed) holding her leash.
Ramiro Gonzalez-Malute

Ramiro was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1969. He received his Veterinarian degree at the University of Buenos Aires in 1993.

Ramiro spent many years living in and traveling to different places in South America (Patagonia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Bolivia). In 1997, he established, with his wife Sonia, a 500 ha farm in the southern part of the province of Buenos Aires. There he worked with the cattle and took care of the crops. At the same time he started to work in the Agronomy University in the area of edible and medicinal mushrooms where his focus theme was the medicinal mushroom called Reishi. He also had his own little production of Oyster mushrooms. He was very busy!!

Ramiro met Dr. Danny Rinker during a course that was given by Dr. Rinker in the Agronomy University in 1999. Ramiro received an invitation to come and work with Danny a year later. Actually, Ramiro has just started his project about the influence of various ammonia suppressants used in poultry manure on compost preparation and mushroom production. He doesn’t have a scholarship and would be very happy to receive one (HA HA HA).

Ramiro has a one year old son, Tobias, who transformed his life. He likes to spend his free time with his family. He also likes, or maybe needs, to get out into the wild. Ramiro would like anyone who might be contemplating inviting him to dinner to know that he is a vegetarian.

Heather Shearer

Heather is currently completing her first year of a Ph.D. program under the supervision of Dr. Steve Bowley. Her research involves improving the winter persistence of alfalfa through an increase in the soluble carbohydrate levels in the plant. This will be accomplished by the over expression of an unregulated form of sucrose-phosphate synthase.

Heather is grateful to have received funding from both Departmental scholarships and from NSERC. Heather completed her M.Sc. at Queen’s University (Kingston) in 2000, and her B.Sc. at Queen’s 1998. After completing her Ph.D., Heather will pursue post-doctoral studies and plans to become a professor.

In her spare time, Heather likes to stay active. When she can afford it, she hopes to travel, learn to scuba and surf, and cram as much fun and adventure into her life as she possibly can. In the mean time, she keeps busy by biking, hiking, skiing (downhill and cross-country), skating, swimming, playing with her cats, and most of all juggling. She is currently perfecting her five-ball cascade, and has aspirations to move on to seven. Nine is probably out of the question, but you never know where such obsessions will lead. Watch out for flying knives and torches!

Heather would like to welcome her younger sister, Wendy, to the department. Wendy recently began her M.Sc. studies with Dr. Larry Erickson. Both ladies can be found on the fourth floor of the Crop Science Building.
Jeremy Friedberg

Jeremy was a city boy raised on Kraft dinner, turned agriculturalist. Born in Toronto in 1974 he had little concept of agriculture and on arrival as a grad student in Plant Agriculture was remembered as asking... “what’s a forage?” Ironically he now focuses his research on alfalfa genetics.

Jeremy received an honours B.Sc. in molecular genetics from the University of Western Ontario. He is presently in his third year of a Ph.D. program with Dr. Steve Bowley, and is studying the activity and utility of the heat shock response in alfalfa. Specifically, he works with the heat shock transcription factor, attempting to modulate its expression as well as observing its activity under low temperature stress. In essence, his hope is to engineer stress tolerant alfalfa plants. Needless to say the fun never stops! Jeremy has been fortunate to receive a number of scholarships from the department and currently has received an NSERC scholarship to help fund his research.

Outside of his life on the fourth floor of the crop science building, Jeremy likes food, all kinds of food. When he’s not eating Jeremy is very active in the Graduate Students Association and is currently the V.P. External. For the future, Jeremy plans on traveling, Africa possibly, followed by some sort of a career in genetics.

Guangyun Hou

Editor’s Note: I congratulated Guangyun on her OGS award and asked her if she would agree to submit an article about herself. She feels very strongly that this award was a joint effort involving all of the people she interacts with each and every day in this Department and at this University. Therefore, she asked to submit the following article.

Guangyun, thank you for all your kind words.

I am truly happy to know that I have been awarded the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS). I take it more as encouragement. I think I am just lucky to have it. There are many good grads in our Department, each with their own intelligence, brightness and sharpness. I always believe that everyone has something that I can learn and that I will benefit from this learning. My views are broadened in many things by interacting with my fellow grads. I would say that the time I have spent so far at this University has been the most effective period of learning in my life. I have been brought into different exciting research areas through different lectures. The professors in the Department of Plant Agriculture have very generously and kindly shared their knowledge and expertise with the students. I truly appreciate their hard work and contribution to our education which is one of the most important functions of the University. Every single progress I make here is because of all my lecturers, my advisory committees and examination committees, the crew in the soybean breeding group, my fellow grads, and everyone in this Department. Services provided by this Department and the University (especially the Library) have made the study and research here quite enjoyable and convenient.
Professor C.L. (George) Chu joined the Department of Plant Agriculture on the first of July 1998, in the postharvest physiology and storage technology faculty position located at the Vineland Campus. George joined the University of Guelph as a research scientist as part of the Enhanced Partnership between OMAFRA and the University in 1997. Prior to taking on this position George was with the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario (HRIO), where he was a Research Scientist for 17 years. As a result of his initiative, HRIO received a $1.6 million research grant from the Ontario government to build a cutting-edge controlled atmosphere storage facility at the Vineland Station in 1984. He had research responsibilities on harvest maturity determination, storage environment, controlled atmosphere storage, and modified atmosphere packaging of various fruits and vegetables such as apples, pears, kiwi fruits, tomatoes, green peppers, cauliflowers, and rutabaga. Prior to his move to Vineland Station in 1982, he was a research scientist at HRIO, Simcoe, for two years. George received his Ph.D. from Washington State University in 1980 in Postharvest Physiology. He received a M.Sc. in Horticultural Science from the University of Guelph in 1977 and a B.Sc. in Horticulture from the National Chung Hsing University in 1972. He served as a lieutenant in the R.O.T.C. service in Taiwan between 1972 and 1974. When he received his honourable discharge from the infantry, he was doing a major’s job as a Training Officer of a regiment.

George’s research interests have been expanded to include many aspects of the quality improvement and the health and safety of fruits and vegetables, and possibly even flowers. He is focusing on the research and application of pre-harvest treatments, harvest maturity determination, postharvest treatments, new storage techniques, controlled storage environments, and modified atmosphere packaging of most fruits and some vegetables. He is working to join many of these aspects to develop a postharvest system, which could improve produce quality and make them safe to consumers. His research on the postharvest treatments with natural substances to control fungal decay on fruits has proven to be successful in extending marketable life of sweet cherries, plums and apricots. As a co-supervisor of a novel research study by a Ph.D. student from the University of Toronto, he is working on improving the quality of lychee fruit and extending their shelf life. He is also interested in the effect of ethylene gas on Easter lily in greenhouses caused by leakage from natural gas furnaces.

In the past 19 years, George and his wife Julia have been living in Burlington, a peaceful city north of Hamilton. Julia, a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Science from Washington State University, also worked as Chief Research Scientist with Glaxo Canada Ltd. for four years before becoming a registered pharmacist in Ontario. They have one teenage son, Joseph, who is very keen on computers and was also the English award winner at his school. All members of the family are Christians. They love God and enjoy being loved by Him.

George’s office (Room 106) is in the Horticultural Products Laboratory at the Vineland Campus. He may be contacted by telephone at 905-562-4141 extension 118 or by email at gchu@uoguelph.ca
LISA SKOG

Lisa has been at the Horticultural Products Laboratory in Vineland since 1985. She began her career as a technician in the postharvest program and became the research scientist for the program in the fall of 1996, just in time for the OMAFRA/University of Guelph Enhanced Partnership. She has a B.Sc. from Guelph in microbiology and was fortunate to be sponsored by OMAFRA to complete her Master’s, again at Guelph, in postharvest horticulture in 1996. She is currently working on her third degree from Guelph, and hopes to be finished her Ph.D. sometime before she retires!

Lisa’s Ph.D. research utilizes her skills in both microbiology and postharvest physiology. She is studying the use of concentrated fruit volatiles as postharvest anti-fungal compounds. With only three postharvest researchers in the Department, Lisa’s other research interests have had to be quite broad, but have generally involved postharvest concerns of ornamentals, stonefruit, strawberries and vegetables. She works closely with industry, other DPA and AAFC researchers and OMAFRA personnel. Her main expertise is in postharvest physiology, microbiology and quality assessment (specifically sensory evaluation, texture analysis and colour measurement). In recent years, a large part of her efforts has been directed towards minimizing ethylene effects in horticultural crops by surveying ethylene contamination in industry and evaluating the efficacy of new ethylene inhibitors (1-MCP). Minor projects have included cultivar storage trials, modified atmosphere packaging trials on stonefruits, the effect of pre-harvest nutrition on various fruit crops and the use of ozone to preserve postharvest quality. New areas of involvement include projects on the effects of pre- and post-harvest factors on antioxidant levels and food safety related projects.

Except for four years in Guelph, Lisa has always lived in the Niagara Peninsula. In her spare time she spends way too much time in the pottery studio but is finally seeing some improvement in her skills. She also is involved with a medieval re-enactment club and is an avid gardener. She feels that one of the greatest perks of being involved in research at the University is the opportunity afforded for travel and gaining new insights and experiences.

Lisa can be reached at the Horticultural Products Lab on the Vineland Campus, (905) 562-4141 ext 183 or at lskog@uoguelph.ca.
The Horticultural Products Lab (HPL) was built in two stages. The original building was constructed in 1950 and contained equipment and cold storages primarily for food processing and wine making research. In 1984, the new wing was opened which contains extensive storage and post-harvest facilities. The building is currently staffed by researchers Prof. George Chu and Lisa Skog and their technicians Momen Mir (Chu), Brad Schaefer and Sharon Stevenson (Skog). Prof. Helen Fisher and her staff also carry out their wine-making trials in HPL.

Most of the current research in HPL is related to the postharvest physiology of fruit, vegetable and ornamental crops but they still manage to fit in some packaging and processing trials. The researchers work closely with industry and other DPA members particularly in the areas of evaluating the fresh or processed quality of new cultivars and evaluating the effect of pre-harvest factors on postharvest quality and storage.

The facility contains 17 small and 6 larger controlled atmosphere (CA) storage cold rooms, 3 fumigated cold rooms for fumigation treatments, 3 large and 10 small non-CA cold storage rooms, a large filacell cooling room, hydrocooling facilities, an aseptic low temperature food packaging room, 4 walk-in freezers, 6 wine storage rooms and one temperature controlled small laboratory facility equipped with water, electrical and gas hook-ups. Temperatures for most of the rooms can be controlled between -1 and 15°C. Temperatures are controlled and monitored with a computer control system with remote capabilities. High or low humidity adjustment is also available in some rooms. Oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in the controlled atmosphere storage rooms are also computer controlled. The facility also contains an extensive library containing post-harvest and food processing/packaging information.

In addition to basic laboratory equipment, HPL contains: processing and packaging equipment, wine making equipment, sensory evaluation facilities, gas chromatographs (primarily for analysis of ethylene and other plant volatiles), texture measuring equipment, color sensing equipment, microbiology facilities and oxygen and carbon dioxide analysers.

We welcome collaborative projects with all members of the university and industry, especially with those outside our traditional horticultural areas.
Naheed obtained her B.Sc. (Honours) in Biological Sciences this summer from the University of Guelph. In addition, Naheed holds a 3-year diploma in Biological Research Technology (Hons.) from Seneca College. Her major areas of study were Molecular Biology and Genetics, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Tissue Culture, Virology, and Radio-tracer Methodology.

On May 1, 2001, Naheed started working for Dr. Barry Micallef as a Research Technician in the Greenhouse Vegetable Program at the Vineland Campus. Before that, she worked part time as a Lab Assistant in the pathobiology department at the University of Guelph. Naheed enjoys her new job with Dr. Micallef and is very glad to be working at the Department’s Vineland Campus.

In 1993, Naheed immigrated to Canada from Pakistan with her parents. She completed high school and obtained her college diploma in Toronto in 1998. Then she moved to Guelph and obtained her B.Sc. Degree. Naheed now lives in St. Catharines and would like to settle down there. Her hobbies include jogging, reading poetry, and listening to music. She also appreciates the time she spends with family and friends.
Dr. David Hunter is joining the Department as Adjunct Faculty at our Vineland Campus, on assignment from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

David and his wife Chris grew up in Leeds, England. They came to Canada in 1969 for what was supposed to be a 7-week vacation after David had graduated from the University of Nottingham with a B. Sc. in Agriculture (contrary to his kid’s opinion, Robin Hood was NOT one of his classmates - Robin, Marian and the Merry Men were the year ahead!!). First job in Canada - picking grapes in one of Niagara’s vineyards.

Full circle? David was employed in the Department of Crop Science in 1970-71 as a technician in field crop physiology, then joined the staff at the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario (HRIO) at Vineland Station, working in the Viticulture and Physiology program. David and his family (2 children came along in the early 1970’s) lived in St. Catharines, and so he went to Brock University on a part-time basis, completing his M.Sc. in Plant Physiology in 1978. Barry Shelp was a fellow graduate student in Don Ursino’s lab. David left HRIO in 1978 to go into industry with one of the wineries as Research Viticulturist and Grape Manager. In the early 1980’s, there was a spell as a house-husband before the academic life called once again, and David started his Ph.D. program in 1983 in the Department of Horticultural Science with John Proctor. Completing the course requirements in 1984, David was faced with a dilemma - continue his Ph.D. program on a full-time basis (on a graduate student stipend) OR put the Ph.D. program into part-time mode and accept a position with Agriculture Canada at Harrow (on Government salary). From a financial viewpoint, it was not much of a contest, so in 1985, the family moved to south western Ontario, where David worked in grape management, tree fruit orchard management and physiology with pears and peaches, and tree fruit breeding, developing fire blight-resistant pear selections through traditional breeding. At the same time, he completed his thesis research on assimilate partitioning in grapevines, and managed to (finally!!) satisfy the requirements for his Ph.D. in 1990, handing in his thesis (with all required signatures) about one week before his daughter completed high school!!!

The reorganization of AAFC in 1995 led to a move back to Niagara, and since 1997, David has been located in the AAFC building at Vineland Station. Work transfers to Cornell University (Geneva) and USDA (Kearneysville) provided working experience in genetic transformation protocols for tree fruit breeding, and this was the focus of his work with Neva Greig at Vineland. The latest change in location and program results from a proposal for new research synergies between AAFC and the University of Guelph, and David will be moving back into the Administration Building at Vineland - about 30 years after he first started there.

Over the years, David has been active in various scientific and horticultural societies. He is currently an Associate Editor for HortScience and President of the American Pomological Society. He has been involved in the Ontario Institute of Agrologists, serving as Councillor for the Southwestern Branch during his stay in Harrow.

David and his wife Chris (yes, she’s still with me, she’s sure earned her Ph. ‘T’ degree) live in west St. Catharines. Besides trying to whip their garden into shape on that west St. Catharines ‘sand’ (aka builder’s topsoil or Halidmand clay loam), David has an interest (some would say an obsession) with genealogical research, tracing various family lines back to the 1600’s. Their daughter Nichola was recently married, lives in Windsor, and teaches Special Education. Son Craig is currently working in New Orleans as a Geographical Information Systems Analyst.
In 1975, Neva left her home town of Blenheim, Ontario in “The Heart of the Golden Acres” and entered the University of Guelph torn between two interests, biological sciences and the arts. After two years of exploring various disciplines, she left the university and in time traveled west to the rainforests of British Columbia. It was there, isolated in the backwoods that her interest in plants (and her husband, Roger) was realized.

Upon returning to Ontario, she enrolled in horticulture studies at Niagara College in St. Catharines. During the summer of 1981, Neva joined the staff of the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario at the Vineland campus as a summer student working in the ornamentals program.

The thrust of this work has been in developing tissue culture systems for genetic transformation of pear. More recently, her virology and clean stock experience has led to her inclusion on committees to develop strategies to limit Plum Pox damage in Ontario.

In 1989, Neva accepted the position of coordinator/manager of the clean stock program. Her duties included virus indexing trees and small fruits, propagating mother plants, trueness to typing cultivars and research support isolating a few of the more aloof viruses.

In 1996, the clean stock programs were consolidated at stations other than Vineland. She then joined with Dr. David Hunter to work on fire blight control of pear.

Soon Neva and David will be joining a fruit team currently being established on the Vineland campus of the University of Guelph with the mandate of pear breeding and orchard and vineyard management. She looks forward to the challenges ahead with the new team and a return to field projects.

At home in Fenwick, Neva is busy with another team including husband Roger and children Delaney, 16 and Jackson, 13. Activities for all at various levels of input include running, karate, music, basketball and gardening. Neva also finds time to paint and has been invited to present her first show in Port Colborne in 2002.
A new research laboratory has been established at the Horticultural Products Laboratory (HPL) of the Department of Plant Agriculture's Vineland Campus. The occupant of the laboratory, Nematrol Inc. is a private company trying to commercialize an environmentally friendly natural nematicide. This may sound strange, but this arrangement has been made by Prof. Swanton with his initiative to provide research opportunities for life science companies developing innovative technologies. The idea is to encourage industrial research in cooperation with the University.

The key person of the company, Dr. Mikio Chiba has recently doubled the size of the company (?) by employing Dr. Qing Yu as Research Scientist. Both are new under the current management, but are familiar faces at the Vineland campus because they worked in the federal Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Centre until March 1999.

Mikio was the first research Scientist that started working in the brand new AAFC Research Centre that was built in 1967. His research covered a wide range of pesticide analytical chemistry related subjects and he cooperated with many scientists with different disciplines until his retirement in 1999. Since 1974 he has carried an extra duty as Honorary Research Professor at the Chemistry Department of Brock University responsible mainly for M.Sc. students.

Qing is an established nematologist who obtained his M.Sc. & Ph.D. in Belgium. Since he came to Canada in 1994, Qing contributed to the initial stage of the current research project at AAFC Vineland. He has a wide range of training and experience in plant pathology, particularly in nematology, and is utilizing his skills and knowledge to improve the efficacies of the product in the new laboratory.

The project they are currently working on is essentially an extension of the project they worked on at the AAFC in cooperation with Dr. John Potter and Dr. Rong Cao from the summer of 1996 to March 1999,

Continued on page 13...
Continued from page 12...

when the project was terminated. However, AAFC agreed to transfer the intellectual properties including the patent rights to Mikio and John. Mikio then established Nematrol Inc. by himself and started looking for a financial supporter in order to carry out further studies that are essential to register the product with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the United States and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in Canada. John was and still is not allowed to participate in this project because he is still working at AAFC. Once Dr. Chiba secured a research loan from the Technology Adoption and Demonstration (TAD) Fund of the Saskatchewan Government, he met with Prof. Swanton to arrange the current set-up. With Prof. Swanton’s understanding, guidance and encouragement, the two scientists are quite happy in the new environment where staff members are friendly and cooperative.

Of the many activities that Dr. Chiba must manage, the most important one is to arrange cooperative research projects with professors and scientists in Canada and the United States. For this season several arrangements have been set and some of them are already in progress at the University of Guelph and several locations in the United States. Crops under investigation are strawberry, soybean, tomato, potato and turf grass.

The product Nematrol Inc. that they are trying to commercialize is excellent; it is safe to handle, natural, environmentally friendly, and works well to control not only nematodes, but also some soil fungi and insects, and it is safe to earthworms. It was approved recently as a biochemical pesticide by the US EPA. This is great, because there is no need for going through $50 million worth of toxicological studies to register the product. This can be used for protection of many crops and turf grasses. Timing is right because many fumigants are on their way out and other toxic synthetic pesticides are no longer in use because users are afraid of them. The list goes on and on.—

Does this mean this business will succeed without fail? “That’s tough to answer,” Mikio responds, “But I am pretty sure that we will succeed. Actually, my dream is that this natural pesticide be distributed and appreciated by not only commercial growers, but also by home gardeners throughout the world. I’m quite happy if I can materialize this dream in my lifetime.”

We wish you good luck, Mikio!
In 1986, there was one known computer virus; three years later, that number had increased to six and by 1990, the total had jumped to 80. From December 1998 to October 1999, the total virus count jumped from 20,500 to 42,000. More than 57,000 virus threats exist today.

A computer virus is a program designed to replicate and spread on its own, preferably without a user's knowledge. According to the International Computer Security Association (ICSA), diskettes are declining as a major source of virus infection, accounting for 68% of all reported infections in 1998 and 38% in 1999. Infections that spread through e-mail attachments increased from 32% in 1998 to 56% in 1999. Causing everything from lost data to inaccessible files, computer viruses, as well as worms and Trojan Horses, are a drain on corporate bottom lines and employee patience. A rise in virus hoaxes, which can clog e-mail networks, can also result in downtime and lost productivity.

We send infected e-mail document attachments, trade programs on diskettes, or copy files to file servers. When the next unsuspecting user receives the infected file or disk, they spread the virus to their computer, and so on. As the name implies, a Trojan Horse program comes with a hidden surprise intended by the programmer but totally unexpected by the user. Trojan Horses are often designed to cause damage or do something malicious to a system, but are disguised as something useful. Unlike viruses, Trojan Horses don't make copies of themselves. Like viruses, they can cause significant damage to a computer. A virus hoax is an e-mail that is intended to scare people about a non-existent virus threat. Users often forward these alerts thinking they are doing a service to their fellow workers, but this causes lost productivity, panic and lost time. This increased traffic can soon become a massive problem in e-mail systems and cause unnecessary fear and panic.

Worms are like viruses in that they do replicate themselves. However, instead of spreading from file to file, they spread from computer to computer, infecting an entire system. Worms are insidious because they rely less (or not at all) upon human behavior in order to spread themselves from one computer to another. The computer worm is a program that is designed to copy itself from one computer to another, leveraging some network medium: e-mail, TCP/IP, etc. The worm is more interested in infecting as many machines as possible on the network, and less interested in only once; after the initial infection, the worm attempts to spread to other machines on the network.

Continued on page 15..
The rise in Internet use is paralleled by an increase in Internet-borne malicious code carried by Microsoft ActiveX controls and Sun Microsystems Java applets. ActiveX or Java technology is downloaded to a user’s hard drive and launched on the local computer, potentially with few security restrictions. This will be the next generation of computer viruses and simply browsing infected web pages could soon be the method of infecting your machine and doing damage.

What is one to do?
You can drastically reduce your vulnerability to viruses by following a few simple procedures, according to many anti-virus experts. As they say “an ounce of prevention now will save a pound of cure later.”

First, get protected! Opening e-mail attachments, downloading software via the Internet, receiving floppy disks from other machines, etc. make you vulnerable to getting a computer virus. If you are running without any anti-virus software, consider the University of Guelph’s site license for McAfee/Network Associates software: it’s free to all University of Guelph faculty, staff and students. Check out: http://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/virus

Next, make sure any anti-virus software contains up-to-date virus definitions. Many people think that just having anti-virus software is enough. Sorry, individuals should ensure that their virus definitions are up-to-date either by automatic scheduled update checks or manually checking vendor web sites on a regular basis.

Keep regular backups of important data, documents, images, etc. on media not normally on the machine. Viruses often don’t stop at the ‘C drive.’ They can also attack network drives, tape/zip drives, etc. If disaster hits, you can reinstall software (be it a time consuming exercise); but how do you reproduce the rest of your system?

Finally, use the same caution while opening your e-mail as you do opening your front door. Many viruses these days masquerade as vanity messages (“I love you,” “I’m sorry,” and so forth) or harmless downloads with cute appeal (“dancing babies” or “naked wife”). You should treat all messages as potentially harmful. The problem with viruses is not anti-virus software, but the people who think it could never happen to them.

Happy computing.

References
http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/virus.backgrounder.html
http://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/virus
http://www.zdnet.com/pcmag/stories/reviews/0,6755,2680236,00.html
FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2001

HAMBURGERS
VEGGIE BURGERS
HOT DOGS
CORN ROAST
FRESH PICKED FRUIT
SIMCOE CAMPUS TOURS
CANOE RACES

= 

LOTS OF FUN
AT THE
PLANT AGRICULTURE PICNIC
AT THE
SIMCOE CAMPUS

Transportation will be provided!

More information from the Variety Club will be coming in the weeks ahead.
The Controlled Environment Systems Research Facility officially opened on Monday, May 14, 2001. Headed by Prof. Mike Dixon, the $7.9 million facility is unique in the world in the field of advanced life support. Representatives from several international space agencies, industry, politics and the university were in attendance.

The facility will have the highest level of Canadian technology in controlled environment systems research, eventually containing 14 of the plant science world's most sophisticated hypobaric (reduced pressure) chambers. The chambers—the first of which was introduced at the opening—will allow researchers to study the contributions of plants in supporting human life during long-term space missions such as those to Mars.

Prof. Dixon has been noted as saying, it is certain that future human exploration of space must be based on a biological life-support system. Currently, space-mission vehicles are able to carry just enough air, food and water to keep crews alive for short missions. But during those long space missions, the needs of the crew can be met only by developing renewable life-support systems based on plants and micro-organisms. Plants are the most efficient means of sustaining life in space. They provide food and add oxygen to the atmosphere by removing carbon dioxide and helping eliminate polluting by-products. They also help provide water and recycle waste.

For more information you may contact:

Prof. Mike Dixon
Department of Plant Agriculture
(519) 824-4120, ext. 2555
mdixon@ces.uoguelph.ca
CONGRATULATIONS HORT CLUB!
By Alana Respondek

The weekend of March 17-18 will go down as one of the highlights of this year’s Horticultural Club. Several executive and general members of the Hort Club worked like beavers to make an outstanding display for the community of Guelph to witness during the open house weekend of College Royal. Their efforts did not go unnoticed. The Hort Club display placed 1st in the college of OAC and 3rd campus wide. Displays included a four season garden, a ‘Royal Chair’ (a wooden chair decorated with plants), lawn maintenance and integrated pest management. Interactive displays for kids included the return of the ever popular turf heads and a new edition, dried flower bookmarks. The club would like to thank everyone involved and we hope to see the same fabulous results next year.
CONGRATULATIONS

Prof. Peter Pauls - 2000-2001 recipient of the Presidential Award of Merit. This award is given to faculty members who have proven themselves to be exceptional in their positions.

Prof.'s Glen Lumis and Calvin Chong have received another IRAP/Industry (Landscape Ontario) partnership grant to continue working on nutrient recycling with container-grown nursery crops.

Dr. Alan Darlington has won the prestigious Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technological Entrepreneurship for his project titled ‘Utility Air Biofilters: The Development of a Technologically Innovative Business Arising from the CRESTech Sponsored Research Project (CE99-BFA02).’ The objectives of the Fellowship are to foster an entrepreneurial spirit within the Ontario Centres of Excellence and facilitate the transfer of technology out of the Centres into a new technologically innovative business venture.

Joanna Gils (M.Sc.)/Prof.'s Lumis & Chong received a NSERC IPS (Industrial Postgraduate Scholarship).

Prof. Istvan Rajcan - Special Research Program, OMAFRA - as part of a multi-institutional collaborative group, received $75,000 over two years for the project ‘Determination of the functional (value-added) components of Ontario produced soybeans, and the development of novel value-added soy food products for the Ontario food industry.’ Collaborators include: Dr.’s C.J. Jackson, H. Faulkner, V. Rupasinghe, V. Poysa, and L. Woodrow, from Lab Services, University of Guelph, and AAFC at Harrow.

Prof. Barry Micallef received a 2001/2002 NSERC Grant for ‘The Role of Diel C/N Transport and Metabolism in Controlling Plant Growth and Development.’

Prof. Judy Strommer received a 2001/2002 NSERC Grant for ‘Genetic Regulation of Anthocyanin Production in Vitis vinifera.’

CANADA BLOOMS 2001 - was a great success for the Department of Plant Agriculture. We had the opportunity to speak to potential students and industry partners. There was a great deal of interest in our booth and we were very busy. These events would not be the success they are without the help of all the volunteers. A big THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered for Canada Blooms!

CORRECTION:
Editor: The names of Prof.’s John Sutton and Chris Hall, Environmental Biology, were omitted in error from the March 2001 newsletter AWARDS section for a NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL (NSERC) Award and should have read:
Professor’s John Sutton and Chris Hall, Environmental Biology and Professor Bernard Grodzinski, Plant Agriculture, recently received a three-year $360,000 grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. They will investigate biological methods of protecting hydroponic plants, which are vulnerable to root diseases that might normally be held in check by fungi or bacteria that live in natural soils.
Congratulations to Shuping Li (here from China working with Duane Falk) on the birth of her daughter who came into the world at 10:00 a.m. June 1, 2001 at 9 lbs 2 oz. Both are doing well.

Congratulations to David and Lori Kerec on the birth of their second child, Tristan Daniel Kerec born June 11, 2001, weighing 9 lbs 5 oz. All are doing well.

Visiting Scientist -- Claudia Schmidt of Germany will be working in Prof. Istvan Rajcan’s soybean research program for the period May to July, 2001, as an IAESTE exchange student. Claudia is currently working toward her B.Sc. Degree in Agriculture at the Martin-Luther University in Halle, Germany. Please take a moment to welcome Claudia and help her enjoy her visit and experience here.

Visiting Scientist -- Ana Rezende, a scientist from the Federal University of Vicosa, Brazil, is visiting with us until the end of July (3 months) working with Prof. Calvin Chong. Several years ago, Ana obtained her second master’s degree (Engineering) from the University of Toronto dealing with paper mill effluent. At the university in Brazil, she is also working towards her Ph.D. dealing with (…you guessed it!) paper mill sludge utilization. Thus, her primary mission here is to learn more about paper mill sludge utilization in agriculture. She is one of three recipients from South America and the Caribbean who are sponsored for this type of internship through the IICA-Canada program this year. During her stay here (mostly at the Vineland Campus), she will be commuting from Guelph. Please welcome Ana to our Department and take a moment to introduce yourself to her.

Sue Couling - is on a leave of absence for one year (June 8, 2001 to June 8, 2002). Sue, and twin sons Harry and William, are following her husband Scott to Arizona for a year. Scott has been transferred with his job but only for one year. They have purchased a lovely house there and are looking forward to the challenges ahead.

COMING EVENTS


8th INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS RESEARCH CONFERENCE - July 15 to 21, 2001, Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto. For more information contact Pam Charbonneau at pcharbon@omafr.gov.on.ca or check them out at: http://gti.uoguelph.ca/ITRC2001/


**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**

**Six Outstanding Ontarians Inducted into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2001.**

**Alexander Peden Connell** (1938-1999) - earned his reputation for leadership, honesty and fair dealing in growing, processing and marketing superior pedigreed seed and operating a beef feedlot. **Sponsored by the Ontario Cattlemen’s Association and the Ontario Seed Growers’ Association.**

**Martin A. Drew** (1874-1949) - provided extraordinary leadership and vision during turbulent, depressed times in Ontario agriculture. He encouraged producers to establish innovative new marketing schemes. **Sponsored by Mr. Larry Drew and Family.**

**William Thomas Ewen** (1910-1996) - influenced agriculture through research, teaching in the classroom, correspondence courses, meetings and farm visits. Prof. Ewen began teaching soils at Niagara School of Horticulture and then taught Soil Science courses for 25 years to generations of Associate Diploma in Agriculture and Farm Mechanics students at the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph. **Sponsored by the Class of 1967A, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph.**

**Ernest Andrew Kerr** (1917- ) - is arguably the most successful Canadian vegetable breeder that Canada has produced. This skilled plant geneticist developed a commercially valuable assortment of vegetable and fruit cultivars that have impacted the horticultural industry locally and internationally. Ernie Kerr made major contributions at the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario. His advancements in tomato, sweet corn and other crop germ plasm development are unequalled. **Sponsored by the Ontario Institute of Agrologists and the Long Point Branch of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists.**

**Kenneth Lantz** (1921- ) - rose through the ranks from Assistant Agricultural Representative to the post of Deputy Minister of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF). He served as Director of Extension and supervised the 54 county and district offices of the Ministry. There he established the Farm Business Management Program as a vital dimension of the Agriculture Ministry’s service to commercial farmers. **Sponsored by the Canadian National Exhibition Association and the Kent County Federation of Agriculture.**

**Eugene Whelan** (1924- ) - Officer of the Order of Canada, former member of the Senate of Canada, Minister of Agriculture for Canada and Ambassador to the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization. During Mr. Whelan’s 10 years as Federal Minister of Agriculture he proclaimed national supply management agencies for eggs, chicken and turkeys, in addition to the Canadian Dairy Commission. **Sponsored by the Chicken Farmers of Ontario, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Egg Producers, Ontario Turkey Producers’ Marketing Board and the Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg and Chick Commission.**

The Induction Ceremony was held at the Country Heritage Park (formerly The Farm Museum), on June 10, 2001, at 2:30 p.m. in the Gambrel Barn. For more information on the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Gallery call their office at (905) 878-8151.
Delivering the information you need.

Relevant information on new production issues and technologies to the Ontario Horticultural Industry is being delivered through HORT MATTERS.

HORT MATTERS - newest newsletter for hort agribusiness is now on-line at http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/hort/news/index.html#matters

Being developed and delivered by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) specialists who are working on all aspects of horticultural crop production.

Five issues have been circulated and more will be produced bi-weekly from April to October and monthly from October to March. Some topics covered to-date are: Monitoring Equipment for 2001, How Much is Manure Worth, New Ginseng Herbicide, Minor Use, Pardner for Cover Crops, First Fungicide for Berry Crops, Early Season Pests in Vegetables, Heat is Accumulating, Importance of Isolation, Pruning Tender Fruit Trees, Preparing for Late Blight on Tomato 2001 and much more.

Ask for your copy by requesting to get an email or fax version of HORT MATTERS. Send your fax number or email address to editors:

donna.speranzini@omafra.gov.on.ca or hannah.fraser@omafra.gov.on.ca or phone (905) 562-4147.

Available NOW! - Production Recommendations for Ginseng - Pub. 610

This new resource includes the most current information on insects, diseases, and other pests. Ginseng growers will appreciate the ninety-six coloured photographs and the detailed section on soil management, fertilizer use and disease controls. To order your copy call the Publication Order Centre at 1-888-466-2372 or 519-826-3100.

Information and Resources...

...Subscribe to the Crop Technology Branch mailing lists, to keep you informed about topics on Fruit and Vegetable Crops, Specialty Crops, Ontario Berry Newsletter and Field Crops on the OMAFRA Web Site. You can subscribe by typing in your e-mail address on the OMAFRA Crops web page at http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/subscribe/index.html You will then receive a notice in your mailbox when new information and resources are posted on the categories of interest to you.
Digital Dissertations Database: Is Your Literature Review Complete Without Using This Important Information Resource?

Digital Dissertations, developed by UMI - University Microfilms International, is the online version of Dissertation Abstracts. What has always been an important resource for literature reviews is now even more complete and accessible in an electronic format. This database is a good place to start to ensure your topic is unique and to source bibliographic references in your area of interest. The database, available through the Guelph library journal index page http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/indexes/alpha-all.html contains more than 1.5 million entries starting with the first U.S. dissertation accepted in 1861. Almost 60,000 new entries are added every year. Citations and abstracts of doctoral dissertations and some masters theses for all subject areas are available from over 1,000 accredited colleges and universities primarily in North America and Europe. Citations are available from 1861 to the present. 350-word abstracts written by the author are available for dissertations from 1980 to the present and 150-word abstracts for included masters theses from 1988 to the present. In addition, the full text is available as PDF files for most dissertations from 1997 forward. Currently there are over 100,000 full-text titles in PDF format, all of which can be downloaded using Adobe Acrobat software.

Access options: Citations and abstracts are freely available for searching. From 1997 forward a free twenty-four page preview of each entry is provided. Students and faculty of each participating university (University of Guelph included) may download the full text of dissertations and theses from their institution without charge. To obtain the full-text of non-Guelph entries you may use the interlibrary loan process or place an online order for the full-text from UMI. Pricing and purchasing options are described on the database web site. There are 6 purchase formats: The most economical (U.S.$23.) and immediate is PDF web download. Other options are unbound paper copy (U.S. $31.), soft or hard cover copies and microfilm or microfiche. If ordering in PDF format keep in mind that dissertations are usually very large files which may take a significant amount of time to download and print out.

Information for authors: Beginning with dissertations received in 2000, all titles will receive an ISBN (International Standard Book Number). Titles will be listed in the UMI Dissertation Abstracts database and other well known on-line and web-based book distributors and databases. The average time between submission of theses and dissertations from the university graduate program to the database operator and appearance in the database is about 3 months.

Searching the database: The Dissertations database permits simple and advanced searching using standard fields including author, title, keyword and institution. There is a detailed help screen attached to the database. If you have questions about the database or need assistance searching, library staff would be happy to help you.
WEB SIGHTS

by Judy Wanner and Jeremy Friedberg

The Australian Academy of Science web site (http://www.science.org.au/nova) has been a valuable resource for all areas of the sciences since it began in 1997. It has won numerous awards and was recently rated ‘outstanding’ by Encyclopaedia Britannica and awarded an A+ rating by Education World. The site registered over 990,000 hits in 2000. The site topics are very clearly designed and may provide ideas for course sites you are thinking of developing. Each topic is described in a key text section accompanied with side tabs leading to a glossary, teaching activities, further reading and useful links. For a preview, look at the topic “More food, cleaner food – gene technology and plants” (http://www.science.org.au/nova/009/009key.htm). Other topics of interest are: “Biomass – the growing energy resource” and “Integrated pest management – the good, the bad and the genetically modified.”

A good overview of Australian agricultural research is presented by the CSIRO – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, in their Plant Industry (http://www.pi.csiro.au/sitemap/sitemap.htm) and Land and Water (http://www.clw.csiro.au/site.htm) sites. Horticulture, crop science and sustainable agriculture projects are described with links to other Australian agricultural research centres. Many of the research reports are available in full text PDF files.

Becoming Human
A great interactive web site that details the evolution of humans. This site uses broad band interactive media to trace the path of archeological and genetic efforts to discover our evolutionary ancestors. Personally, it is really well done.

http://www.becominghuman.org/

Genetics Science Learning Center
A nice site with new ideas for teaching genetics.

http://gslc.genetics.utah.edu/

Jeremy Friedberg and Jeremy Murray have been putting together a tools web site for the department. They have temporarily placed it up on the central server under Jeremy Friedberg’s account. It is in a testing phase and they would love feed back from people in the department. Address is:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/~jdberg/deptools/index.htm

You may reach them at:
Jeremy Friedberg - jdberg@uoguelph.ca
Jeremy Murray - jeremymu@uoguelph.ca

VARIETY CLUB NEWS

SUMMER PICNIC - Friday, August 24, 2001 at the Simcoe Campus. More information on this event can be found inside this newsletter.

MUGS - Department mugs are for sale at the low cost of $7.00. Mugs may be purchased at Guelph coffee breaks or from Deb Hilborn located at the Vineland Campus.

OAC’s Annual BBQ - Wednesday, June 20, 2001 (rain or shine) at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute 12:00 noon to 3:30 p.m. All are invited. Busing available in Guelph. COST: Staff/Students $7.00, Faculty $12.00 (after June 13 the cost goes up $3.00).

SUPPORT ‘YOUR’ VARIETY CLUB - GET INVOLVED!!
If you missed the summer picnic at our Simcoe campus...you missed a really good time. More than 140 people attended! It was a great opportunity for many of us to visit this campus for the very first time. The food was great, the tours informative and to top it off, many of us participated in canoe races. Congratulations to the first place team from Simcoe, Paul Splinter and Roger Vaughan, having defeated rival teams from Guelph and Vineland. On behalf of all who attended, I would like to express appreciation to Bill Deen and the members of our Variety Club who helped to organize this event. A special thank you to Wally Andres and his crew from Simcoe for welcoming us to their beautiful campus.

On September 7th, the graduate teaching committee held our Department’s first Orientation and Poster Day. This day was held to help inform new graduate students about our Department and as well, to celebrate the special role that our graduate students play in the life of our Department. A special thanks must be extended to Jeremy Friedberg and Prof. Bernie Grodzinski, for assuming the leadership in putting this day together, to our Departmental Graduate Committee, and to the many student volunteers who also helped to make this day possible. Thank you to everyone that presented a poster. There were over 60 in total. The ultimate cookie contest was awarded to Angela Hill for her creation entitled Pizzelle. The new Departmental “currency” was found by many to be redeemable at the graduate lounge. Based upon the number of transactions that occurred, I would have to conclude that the event was a great success. We may have mortgaged the Department for years to come.

On a sadder note, as many of you are aware, a serious accident occurred to Joy Kirkby, one of our summer students. A fire broke out in the Crop Science Building on Thursday, August 9th in the teaching lab located in rooms 119 and 120. Joy was admitted to the burn unit at the Hamilton General. Joy has been progressing well and was released from the hospital on August 31st. On behalf of all members of our Department, we wish her a very speedy recovery. I would ask all of you to pay special attention to safety issues within your work environment. Work place safety is first and foremost within our Department. Shortly, all campus and building safety committees will be reviewing our current safety procedures and recommending changes for improvement.

Thirteen new graduate students joined our Department as of September 1st. Andrea Armstrong, Jamshid Ashigh, Erin Bullas, Cara Chamberlain, Stefan Richard, Jane Coventry, Kris Mahoney, Scott McClincheay, Garth Munz, Noe Ortiz-Urube, Karrie Thomas, Ezequiel Villanueva-Ruiz and Jiazheng Yuan. A very special welcome to all of you. As well, Julie Dionne, our new Turf management specialist, has taken up occupancy in room 1230 in the Bovey Building. Lewis Lukens, our new faculty member in bioinformatics, will join our Department on April 1st, 2002, and we continue our search for our tree fruit breeder. I wish all of you the very best as we begin our fall semester.
Fear not...that plant will save us!  

BY JEREMY FRIEDBERG

...which is what I keep telling myself. Right! But on to more immediate things... So the summer is finally over and the beginning of a new school year is here. Well, except for grad students... cause I guess it never really stops. At any rate, I'd like to bid welcome to all the new grad students, staff and faculty. And for those who don't know, this section of the newsletter is a place to talk about grad student stuff. Anything and everything about Plant Ag grad students outside of their research... or perhaps just an outlet for me, my babbling and meandering creative writing. So please, pass on your ideas, thoughts, special events or anything else you'd like to see mentioned here.

In the last newsletter I encouraged all those new to Guelph to experience some of the local events that happened over the summer. As I was pretty much in and out of town this summer, I'm hoping that you'll share your fun with the rest of us. Me... I discovered surfing. It's my new favorite activity, notwithstanding the apparent absence of an ocean around here or within a thousand kilometers. Hey... that didn't stop the University from having a marine biology program, so I remain optimistic. As well, I am very interested in hearing about who went to what conferences this summer. So, if you will, please pass that information on to me. I attended the joint meeting of the ASPB/CSPP and to those Plant Ag students who were also there, especially those who were rooming with me... thanks for a great time. Clam bake and dance... need I say more!

In the upcoming semester there are lots of events happening in the Department such as the pig roast, Department Christmas party and the many coffee breaks. So I'll see you all there, and those who aren't... I'll find you... oh yes I'll find you!!! Until next time... take care, be well and never look directly into the sun.

**Movie Line Contest**

There was only one winner of the last movie line contest. Congratulations Tommy Sors! There were several good guesses... keep it coming. Here are the new movies lines and again the first two individuals to e-mail me the correct movie titles will win pints of beer in the grad lounge (purchased by me of course). Good luck!

1. You want answers?... I think I'm entitled to them... You want answers?! I want the truth... You can't handle the truth!
2. Every man dies... Not every man really lives.
3. Nigel: What we do is if we need that extra... push over the cliff... you know what we do? Marty: Put it up to eleven.
Marty: Why don't you just make ten louder and make ten be the top... number... and make that a little louder?
Nigel: These go to eleven.
4. ...fake a stomach cramp and when you're doubled over, moaning and wailing, just lick your palms. It's a little stupid and childish but then so is high school. Right?

Email your answers to jdberg@uoguelph.ca

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Editor's Note:
Jeremy is located in the Crop Science building in room 427 and lab 419. His office extension is 8182 and his lab extension is 8185. You may also reach Jeremy at jdberg@uoguelph.ca
Liz was born on a hobby farm just north of Waterloo where her family raised everything from pigs and beef cattle to the not so traditional bantam hens and peacocks. Once, they even had a dairy cow until reasons for automated milking became obvious to everyone and Daisy the Cow went to a new home.

Liz thought about becoming a teacher as a child, but then decided she wanted to become a vet as a result of a semi life-altering experience (it involves a baby calf and a story you can ask her about directly). After realizing that there was a lot more to agriculture than farming - and that she was never going to get into vet school with her (slightly above) average marks - she decided to continue with her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree with a major in Animal Science.

As she came closer to her graduation date of June 2000, she realized that she did not want to work in a lab or formulate livestock feeds for the rest of her life. It was in her last year as an intern with OFAC (Ontario Farm Animal Council) that she discovered that she could combine her new found love for agriculture and her well established talent for communicating – well, talking really.

With no long term future plans (only a one-month contract for May 2000 working for the Dean’s office as a pseudo camp counselor), a chance meeting with her future advisor (Doug Powell) started her off for a new adventure – a masters in the Department of Plant Agriculture.

Her project involves the theories of risk communication, theories that are probably not familiar to others in the department, but theories she’s willing to share with those who are interested (once again, ask her directly). More specifically, she’s developing a CD ROM resource for Grade 11 Biology students with the hopes of getting Ontario students to understand why genetically engineered food crops are an option for farmers and how this technology affects them personally and society as a whole. She’s currently developing a fall field trip for area schools in conjunction with the Food Safety Network’s model farm project. Check it out at: [http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/safefood](http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/safefood)
Maria D. L. A. Jaime

Maria was born in Pachuca, Mexico. She received her B.Sc. (Honours) in 1995 in Agricultural Engineering specializing in crop production, from the I.T.E.S.M. (Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey), Queretaro campus, Queretaro, Mexico. Maria worked in Dupont, Mexico in the Department of Research and Development of New Products from 1997 to 1998. Maria obtained her experience in crop production as Production Manager in Rancho Tucay in 1995/96.

In 1998, she decided to come to Canada to pursue her dream of obtaining a M.Sc. degree from the University of Guelph. At the beginning it wasn’t easy being in a new country with a new life style and a different language. The opportunity started to show up after one year of being in Canada. During the summer of 1999, Maria joined the staff of the Muck Crops Research Station as a summer student. Finally, Maria started her M.Sc. in September 1999 at the University of Guelph in the Department of Plant Agriculture, under the supervision of Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald and Dr. Tom Hsiang. Her research involves the search for biological controls for the management of white rot in onions on organic soil. Maria is presently in the 6th semester of her program. Maria currently holds a NSERC scholarship, Hoskins Scholarship and Taffy Davison Memorial Research Travel Grant.

Outside of her scholarly life, Maria enjoys many outdoor activities and especially likes to play tennis and soccer. After completing her M.Sc., Maria would like to work in the pest management sector before pursuing a Ph.D. degree in the areas of plant pathology and ecology.

Oscar Valentinuz

Oscar Valentinuz is from Argentina, the country at the extreme south of the American Continent. Oscar started his Ph.D. program in our department in the fall of 1998. He received his Bachelor degree in agronomy at the University of Entre Ríos (1987) and his M.Sc. degree in crop management and physiology at the University of Mar del Plata (1996), both in Argentina. Between 1987 and 1994, Oscar worked as an agronomist advising farmers in soil conservation and crop production. In 1994, he joined the National Institute of Agronomy in Argentina, where his research was centered in determination of yield ceiling in crops such as maize, sunflower, soybean, and wheat in the north of the Pampas region. At the beginning of 1998, Oscar became an Assistant Professor at the University of Entre Ríos teaching undergraduate courses such as Field Crop Production and Crop Physiology.

At the University of Guelph, Oscar is working under the direction of Dr. Thys Tolle-naar in physiology of maize. In his research he is comparing old and modern maize hybrids focusing in functional and visual symptoms of leaf senescence.

Oscar and his wife, Adriana, are the proud parents of two children, Angelina and Marcos. The Valentinuz’s like Guelph and when “daddy has free time,” they enjoy traveling across North America.
Way back in 1976, on the hills of Caracas, Venezuela, a baby boy named Tommy Sors was born. Ever since that bright, almost blinding day, life has not been the same for me. For you see, I’m Tommy Sors. The adventures of my life have taken me to many corners of the world, and have rewarded me with opportunities, experiences, and most of all, fresh air.

My family’s background is Jewish European, with a mixture of Polish, Hungarian, Italian and former Yugoslavian. My father was born in Paris, France, and my mother in Caracas, Venezuela. Did I mention that I’m totally and utterly, culturally confused? That is not even half of the story. I lived in Spain for a year, after which I moved to Toronto, Canada at the age of 12. I spent most of my teenage years confused, as many of us were, and that has not changed much today.

My undergraduate education was done at Guelph, concentrating on plant physiology and molecular biology for the last two years of that episode. At the risk of incriminating myself, I will not mention the first two years at Guelph. The real truth is that I don’t remember them with full clarity, or at all for that matter. By my fourth year of undergrad, I decided it would be a good idea to do a Master’s. Well, I must have been crazy or drunk! What was I thinking? I would have much rather been water skiing naked behind a boat going at mach 2, while getting a windburn on various locations of my body. However, as time went by at the Estevan Bowley lab working on alfalfa cold tolerance, I found the beaches. For those of you who do not know, there are two main beaches: the Elora Beach Resort and, my favorite, the New Liskeard Beach Resort. Rain or shine, the beaches have been an inspiration to continue the research and prolong the pleasant agony of science.

During the course of my time at Plant Ag., I’ve met some delightful people that have provided me with the memories of a lifetime. I thank you all for enhancing the experience in more ways than you can imagine. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of making the best out of my time here, even if it meant that you had to put up with some of my lunatic antics.

Currently, you’re reading the profile that I wrote to procrastinate, to take a break from making corrections to my thesis. You see, I’m on the final stretch of my Master’s and to tell you the truth, I’m sad to leave. In September, depending on my bribe offer to my defense committee, I’ll move on to a Ph.D. at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. Again, I must be a masochist to go through another three years of torture in Agronomy working on alfalfa cold acclimation. But then again, there’s always the Purdue Beach Resort as a consolation. I hear they have some pretty big surf in the center of the continental U.S.A. I’ll send you postcards and pictures (windburn and all).

…but enough about me.
The American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) held their 98th Annual International meeting in Sacramento, California July 22-25, 2001. In the graduate student poster competition, Department of Plant Agriculture students Dan MacLean placed 1st and Cindy Campeau placed 2nd. Dan and Cindy’s advisors are Dennis Murr and John T. A. Proctor, respectively. Awards were made at the annual ASHS business meeting.

Dan MacLean: Sacramento, the state capital of California, played host to the 98th annual international meeting for the American Society for Horticultural Science in late July 2001. A large group of University of Guelph students inundated the conference with at least 10 posters and two oral presentations. I presented two posters on the research conducted in the first year of my M.Sc., one of which won first place in the annual graduate student poster competition. The winning poster was entitled “Analysis of apple antioxidant levels using a modified TOSC assay,” which earned me a sizable amount of American green back. The cheque was promised to be ‘in the mail’ by the board of directors, which was rather inconvenient seeing I managed to spend my reward the previous evening on a celebratory trip up to Lake Tahoe, which left half of our group in my car, around midnight, on the side of the highway, some 65 miles from Sacramento, with a water pump that wasn’t pumping.

Cindy Campeau presented a poster titled, “Ginseng (Panax quinquefolius) Rust Spot.” It focused on determining the characteristics of the rust spots using various microscopic techniques. She won second prize and will be receiving a cash prize and a plaque. It is also ‘in the mail.’

CONGRATULATIONS - DAN AND CINDY
The Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS) met at the University of Guelph, July 8-11 during the AIC 2001 annual conference. The technical meeting was held on July 10th with a combination of invited oral presentations followed by contributed poster presentations. The conference organizers would like to acknowledge the following winners of the Graduate Student Poster Competition, who were awarded with a cash prize and certificate at the CSHS evening banquet.

1st Place - Sean Westerveld, from the Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph, who was co-author of a poster by S. Westerveld, M.R. McDonald, C. Scott-Dupree, and A. McKeown entitled “Effect of Nitrogen Rate and Source on The Nitrogen Status, Yield, Quality, and Thrips Damage of Summer Cabbage Grown in Mineral Soil in Ontario.”

2nd Place - Treasa Caldwell, from the Department of Plant and Animal Sciences, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, who was co-author of a poster by T. Caldwell, R. Lada and D. Hooper entitled “Physiological Responses of Carrot Seedlings Exposed to Drought.”

3rd Place - Justine E. Vanden Heuvel, from the Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph, who was co-author of a poster by J. E. Vanden Heuvel, K.H. Fisher, and J.A. Sullivan entitled, “Is Pruning Weight an Accurate Expression of Vine Size?”

CONGRATULATIONS - SEAN AND JUSTINE
WELCOME NEW GRADS

M.Sc.

Karrie Thomas
(with Lumis/Blom)

Andrea Armstrong
(with Tollenaar)

Cara Chamberlain
(with Dixon)

Garth Munz
(with Darlington/Dixon)

Jamshid Ashigh
(with Tardif)

Erin Bullas
(with Schaafsma)

Stefan Richard
(with Dixon)

Scott McClinchey
(with Kott)

Ph.D.

Jiazheng Yuan
(with Pauls)

Kris Mahoney
(with Swanton)

Jane Coventry
(with Strommer, just finished M.Sc. with Kott)

Ezequiel Villanueva-Ruiz
(with Murr)

Noe Ortiz-Uribe
(with Grodzinski)
Professor Glen Lumis joined the Department of Horticultural Science (now part of the Department of Plant Agriculture) in 1970 as an Assistant Professor and went through the ranks and became a full professor in 1990. Glen received his Ph.D. in 1970 and his M.Sc. in 1966 from Michigan State University in the Department of Horticulture. Before that, Glen received his B.Sc. in 1964 from Penn State University in the Department of Horticulture.

Prof. Lumis enjoys teaching and currently teaches all or part of three diploma and two degree courses: Plant Identification I, Plant Identification II, Nursery Management, Woody Plants, and Nursery Production. His effort and ability in teaching was rewarded in 1991 when he received the OAC Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, the Waghorn Teaching Fellowship, and the Teaching Award of Merit from the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. In 2001, Glen, along with Ron Dutton, received a Teaching Support Services Instructional Development Grant to prepare courseware for Plant Identification I and II, including web and CD delivery of plant photo images, plant name pronunciation, and skill testing. Prof. Lumis fostered the establishment and implementation of the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory graduate student assistantship in horticultural science.

Glen's past research relating to nursery and landscape growth and production has included applied aspects of: highway deicing salt damage, roadside plant susceptibility to deicing salt, sodium formate as a deicing salt alternative, aerial darts for forest seedling establishment, field survival of aerial dart seeded conifer seedlings, chemical pruning of nursery stock, tree root regeneration, chemical stimulation of tree root regeneration at planting, soil backfill amendment effects on bare root tree survival and establishment on highway right-of-ways, staking effects on young tree trunk growth, wire basket effects on tree roots, in-ground fabric containers for producing nursery trees, nutrient utilization of nursery stock, and pulse and flood irrigation of container grown nursery stock.

Glen's current research with container-grown nursery stock includes applied aspects of: nutrient release rates of controlled release fertilizers, nutrient and water recycling using a computer controlled multi-fertilizer injector (with Prof. Calvin Chong), and nutrient and water leaching.

Glen is involved with a number of nursery and landscape professional trade organizations, some of which include being an honorary member of the Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, a life member of the Growers' Group Board of Directors of Landscape Ontario, the only non-industry member of the Standards Committee of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association. Glen recently completed eight years on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Ornamental Plants Foundation and completed several years on the Board of Directors of the International Society of Arboriculture (Ontario) Research Trust. For the past 20 years, Glen has been on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Environmental Horticulture, and previously served as an Associate Editor for the journals of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

Glen was born and raised in rural Chester County in southern Pennsylvania. Glen's love of horticulture follows him home where he, and wife Peggy, enjoy developing their home gardens. You will find gardens created from plants, stone and wood. Their former gardens were featured on the HGTV (Home and Garden Television) program hosted by Kathy Renwald.

Glen's office is located in room 1232 in the Bovey building located on the Guelph Campus and may be contacted by telephone at 519-824-4120 ext. 2130 or by email at glumis@uoguelph.ca
Professor John T.A. Proctor earned his B.Sc. in 1964 at the Univ. of Reading, England, his M.Sc. in 1967, and Ph.D. in 1969 from Cornell Univ. He joined the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario (HRIO) at Simcoe in 1969, where he served as Research Scientist and Assistant Director until 1978. He resigned his position with HRIO and joined the faculty of Horticultural Science at the University of Guelph (where he was already an Associated Graduate Faculty) as an Associate Professor (1978-1984), and then became a Professor (1984). John was Acting Chair from 1985 to 1988. He has been an Associated Graduate Faculty (1972-1974), McMaster University, Ontario; a Visiting Research Fellow (1975), Long Ashton Research Station, University of Bristol, England; a Visiting Research Scientist (1982), Agriculture Canada, Kentville, Nova Scotia; and Senior Visiting Research Fellow (1989) at Horticultural Research International, East Malling, England.

John’s early research emphasis included choice of cultivars, plant spacing and arrangements, precocious small-tree orchards, and integrated pest management. Associated studies on fruit tree physiology have included orchard microclimate and measurements of leaf and plant photosynthesis, respiration, assimilate partitioning, and plant growth regulators. John’s more recent emphasis on ginseng, which started over 25 years ago as a hobby, has allowed him to make contributions to understanding the growth and culture of this medicinal herb. He has been an invited speaker at International Ginseng Conferences in Korea and China and many ginseng research workers from these countries have worked, or visited with John at Guelph.

John’s work has been of great importance to the Ontario ginseng industry and now is one of the leading North American programs. Not only has he contributed to this industry through his research efforts, but he has given leadership by bringing the industry together, encouraging industry funding of university research and in developing effective technology transfer to the industry. In 1984, he organized the 6th North American Ginseng Conference which was held at the University of Guelph. In 1994, he was Program Chair for the International Ginseng Conference held in Vancouver, B.C. He is on the Organizing Committee for the 2003 International Ginseng Conference to be held in Melbourne, Australia.

John is recognized worldwide as a leader in research on fruit tree physiology and ginseng culture and physiology. He is an elected Fellow (1987) of the American Society for Horticultural Science. He was the first Guelph faculty member and only the fourth Canadian to receive this honour. Also, he is an elected Fellow (1986) of the Institute of Horticulture, U.K. and an elected Fellow (1999) of the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC). He is an elected Honourary Life Member of the Ginseng Growers Association of Canada since 1985, and the Associated Ginseng Growers of B.C. since 1993. He has received several awards, including the ASHS Stark Award (1976), the ASHS Fruit Publication Award (1996), and U.P. Hedrick Awards (1984, 1987, 1988, 1993, 2001) from the American Pomological Society. In 1992, he was named the Robert F. Carlson Distinguished Lecturer by the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association and was the first Canadian to be so recognized. From 1986 to 1988, John served as the elected President of the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science and President (1987/88) of the American Pomological Society. From 1990 to 1993, he served as an elected National Councillor of the AIC, and was Vice-President of AC in 1991-1992. Presently, John is an elected member of the Board of Directors of AIC, sits on the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council and is completing a 4-year term as an Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

John teaches at the diploma, undergraduate and graduate levels. He has mentored numerous graduate students both as advisor and Graduate Coordinator, published over 120 research papers and 85 conference papers, and produced over 80 technical reports for grower organizations.

John lives in Guelph with his wife, Heather, a retired French teacher. They have three grown children, Natalie, a Systems Design Engineer with Nortel in Ottawa; Wendy, a school teacher in Whakatane, New Zealand; and Ian, a Business Consultant with Arthur Andersen in Toronto.

John’s office is located in the Bovey building in room 1218. He can be contacted by telephone at (519) 824-4120 ext. 3446 or by email at: jproctor@uoguelph.ca
Professor Julie Dionne joined the Department of Plant Agriculture on July 1st, 2001, in the Turfgrass Management faculty position.

Julie completed her Ph. D. in Plant Science at Laval University, Québec in the spring of 2001. She received a B.Sc. in Agronomy from Laval University in 1993. Julie has a strong interest in plants and horticulture. She grew up in a horticulture family where her parents owned a garden centre, a nursery, and a landscape company, and her grandparents were greenhouse flower growers.

Since 1999, Julie was the coordinator of the turf program at the Horticultural Research Centre at Laval University. She currently co-supervises five graduate students working in Quebec on different aspects of turfgrass management including: the influence of mycorrhizae on growth and quality of turfgrass species, the physiological effects of anoxia on turfgrass during cold acclimation, the biology and control of turfgrass insect pests on golf courses, and the effect of potassium silicate applications on turfgrass diseases tolerance.

At Guelph, Julie’s goal is to establish a strong turfgrass management research program in both applied and basic research aspects. Julie’s research interests include the physiology and ecophysiology of turfgrass species in relation with environmental stress tolerance such as extreme temperature, drought, and anoxia. She looks forward to having graduate students working with her in the lab and conducting research projects at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI).

When not thinking about turfgrass or improving her golf swing, Julie is enjoying the precious time spent with her three-year-old daughter Émilie, husband Steven, and friends.

Julie’s office is located in the Bovey building in room 1230. She can be contacted by telephone at (519) 824-4120 ext. 2232 or by e-mail at jdionne@uoguelph.ca

When not thinking about turfgrass or improving her golf swing, Julie is enjoying the precious time spent with her three-year-old daughter Émilie, husband Steven, and friends.
Many thanks to Jeremy Friedberg and Prof. Bernie Grodzinski for organizing the Department’s first Orientation and Poster Day. Jeremy and Bernie would like to thank Nenad Mihelic, Heather Shearer, Wendy Shearer, Bonnie Lacroix, Liz Gomes, Melanie Johnstone and Cindy Camp peau for their help in making this day such a success. With special thanks to Ron Dutton and Rodger Tschanz for all their help. And last, but not least, a BIG thank you to our Chair, Prof. Clarence Swanton, for his sense of humour (just look at the “Swanton”) and for footing the bill for the day.

There were over 60 posters presented. Most of the titles are on the web at: http://www.uoguelph.ca/~jdberg/plantagposterday/oriindex

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE ULTIMATE COOKIE CONTEST

1st Place - Pizzelle by Angela Hill
2nd Place - Whoopie Pies by The Shearer Sisters
3rd Place - Untitled Cookie with Chocolate chips, No.1b by Jamie Doran

Oops...here’s Jean munching on another Chocolate Macadamia Madness cookie. Boy, they must be good!
JENNY VAN DE KAMER, Executive Officer - Plant Agriculture

Responsible for the overall management of both human and financial resources in the Department. Advising faculty and staff on the best way to get something done regarding administrative matters.

Location: Guelph Campus, Crop Science Building, Room 315
Telephone: 519-824-4120, ext. 3387
E-mail: jvandeka@uoguelph.ca

ANGIE TRIVETT, Secretary

I am responsible for disbursing petty cash, issuing building and office keys to faculty, staff and graduate students, and booking rooms in the Bovey building for meetings, thesis defenses, social activities, etc. I am the secretary to several faculty and their staff, and process travel advances and travel expense reports. I allocate office space in the Bovey building to new graduate students and visiting scientists, and call the maintenance office for necessary repairs. I also call Telecommunications to report and request the repair of disabled telephones. I send mail by courier for faculty and staff, deposit cheques to Revenue Control, and assist in placing orders to suppliers as required.

It doesn’t end there, I also monitor the checking out of the laptop, video, slide and overhead projectors, call service representatives when the photocopiers are down, set up the safety video for new staff and graduate students, and administer the safety quiz. I order stationery supplies as required. When informed by Physical Resources that there will be disruptions in services to the Bovey building I inform Bovey personnel by e-mail and distribute incoming mail on a daily basis.

Location: Guelph Campus, Bovey Building, Room 1104
Telephone: 519-824-4120, ext. 2693
E-mail: atrivett@uoguelph.ca

JEAN WOLTING, Graduate Secretary & Clerk

I am the Graduate Secretary to all graduate students in the Department and therefore responsible for the policies, procedures and all other matters related to graduate studies. I am also the Clerk in the Bovey building and responsible for the policies and procedures relating to purchasing supplies and equipment and the payment of invoices.

Location: Guelph Campus, Bovey Building, Room 1105
Telephone: 519-824-4120, ext. 6077
E-mail: jwolting@uoguelph.ca
# OFFICE

<table>
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<th><strong>CROP SCIENCE BUILDING</strong></th>
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<td><strong>AGNES BELOSIC, Clerk</strong></td>
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When a stranger with an inquisitive mind enters the small office on the main floor and sees all the equipment, they may clue in to the variety of responsibilities I have. A computer with two printers enables me to process a number of different forms: purchase orders, system contracts, cheque requisitions, travel claims, revenue remittance vouchers, etc. It also helps me to communicate within the department, the university, and with the world! If there is a need to know the status of an account at any time, or to find out the particulars, such as whether an invoice was paid or not, to print monthly financial reports, to look up donors and the amounts, to invoice for services rendered, or to invoice a corporate sponsor for a grant-in-aid, I’m here to do it. All the supplies, from the penny laboratory items to the huge pieces of scientific equipment are received by me, and I ensure that the invoices are paid.

You need to transfer the funds between the accounts, or you need to bill another department on campus? Come and see me, and I’ll do a journal entry. Attending a conference? I’ll process the Registration for you with the payment. Shipping a piece of equipment to the USA for repair? I’ll arrange the documentation to go with it. Need to rent a car, or to arrange a bus for a field trip? ...

In our Crop Science stores, which I look after, you’ll find laboratory supplies, such as petri dishes, tips, tubes, parafilm, paper towels, etc.

Location: Guelph Campus, Crop Science Building, Room 102  
Telephone: 519-824-4120, ext. 3561  
E-mail: [abelosic@uoguelph.ca](mailto:abelosic@uoguelph.ca)

| **ANGELA HILL, Secretary** |

I share reception and handle general inquiries along with Jennifer Kingswell. I book rooms, issue photocopy (venda) cards, tally long distance telephone calls for personal use and bill monthly, and prepare Purolator slips. I am assigned to nine faculty members and type travel requests for the faculty I am assigned to along with their technicians, grad students, etc. I cover for Agnes Belosic (when she's on vacation) typing up orders, etc. In Fran’s absence I handle petty cash requests and issue keys for the building.

Location: Guelph Campus, Crop Science Building, Room 306  
Telephone: 519-824-4120, ext. 6086  
E-mail: [amhill@uoguelph.ca](mailto:amhill@uoguelph.ca)

| **JENNIFER KINGSWELL, Secretary** |

I am responsible for the administration of payroll for contractual employees at the Guelph campus as well as assist all building personnel in a receptionist capacity as required. I co-ordinate department student hiring programs/opportunities (i.e. Summer Exp., URA/USRA, Summer Job Service Programs, etc.). I order stationery, paper and computer supplies for building personnel. I assist the AGR* 4400 facilitator in uploading of course material to WEB-CT format and assist the IT Manager in the maintenance of Department Computer Listserves (i.e. PA-ALL, PA-Staff-E, etc.) and the personnel section of the Department Web Page.

Location: Guelph Campus, Crop Science Building, Room 306  
Telephone: 519-824-4120, ext. 6083  
E-mail: [jkingswe@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jkingswe@uoguelph.ca)
BETH LIVINGSTONE, Secretary

I am responsible for Undergraduate scheduling, secretarial duties for seven faculty/scientists and their technicians and research assistants; contact person on the 2nd floor for visitors, students, trouble shooting for the photocopier and computer room (when Jim is not around), I look after the fax and computer room charges as well. I am secretary for the Safety Committee and the Undergraduate Committee. I also cover for the main office when people are away because of vacations, etc.

Location: Guelph Campus, Crop Science Building, Room 206
Telephone: 519-824-4120, ext. 2414
E-mail: blivings@uoguelph.ca

FRAN THOMAS, Secretary to the Chair

As the secretary to the Chair, I am the person you should get in contact with if you want an appointment with the Chair. Some of my other duties include issuing keys for the Crop Science building, reimbursing people for petty cash expenditures, booking rooms anywhere except the Bovey building, and assisting with information and general inquiries. Graduate students within the Crop Science building should see me so that they can sign their registration form. Vacation and sick days are reported to me and in the absence of Jen and Angie I collect the hours from the hourly paid employees. I also act as the backup for Jenny Van de Kamer in her absence.

Location: Guelph Campus, Crop Science Building, Room 309
Telephone: 519-824-4120, ext. 2783
E-mail: fthomas@uoguelph.ca

EDNA HOOVER, Secretary

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday

With the help of many kind people both at Guelph and Vineland, I try to meet the demands of all the faculty and staff at the Simcoe Campus. This includes everything from accounts, personnel, secretarial duties (coffee making included), to cleaning my office. I enjoy the variety of duties I have and the people I work for.

I am responsible for all the office duties at the Simcoe Campus and have the good fortune of having Judy Kelly come in each Friday to pick up where I leave off each week. Judy can be reached at my telephone and extension number.

Location: Simcoe Campus
Telephone: 519-426-7127, ext. 323
E-mail: ehoover@uoguelph.ca

JUDY KELLY, Secretary

Friday
VINELAND CAMPUS

JESSIE REID, Manager, Finance and Administration

Responsible for the Vineland Campus budget and trust funds, human resources, and health and safety administration and information; general office management and supervision; divisional signing authority; building and equipment maintenance, repairs, and inventories; space and furniture allocation; program and non-program related major and minor capital projects; property rentals; liaison for on-site tenants (OMAFRA Advisory, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Nematrol); back up for Station Manager.

Location: Vineland Campus, Administration Building, Room 133
Telephone: 905-562-4141, ext. 104
E-mail: jreid@uoguelph.ca

ERIKA ANKERSMIT, Purchasing/Finance Clerk

Staff at Vineland come and see me when they have any questions about purchasing, accounts payable and accounts receivable. I also print and distribute the month end OMAFRA/Grant Project statements for faculty and sort out any problems that might show up on the printouts.

Location: Vineland Campus, Administration Building, Room 102
Telephone: 905-562-4141, ext. 112
E-mail: eankersm@uoguelph.ca

CAROL FRIESEN, Secretary/Telecommunications Clerk

People should see me if they need a telephone extension or voice mail box set up for them, or need a long distance calling card; if they need electronic or manual keys for any place on the Vineland campus; or if they need office, computer, photocopier, photographic or calendar supplies, an American Express travel card or business cards. I also provide secretarial services to assigned faculty members and research staff.

Location: Vineland Campus, Administration Building, Room 100
Telephone: 905-562-4141, ext. 103
E-mail: cgf@uoguelph.ca

DONNA HILL, Secretary/Receptionist

I am the first person someone speaks with when calling the Vineland campus if they are not sure of the extension they are calling or who they should speak with. Consequently, I need to know the whereabouts of the faculty, staff and casuals at all times. I am also usually the first person people see when they come into the Administration Building for whatever purpose and I direct them to wherever they need to go. I book the Board Room in our building for meetings, as well as keep the log at my desk for the station vehicles that have to be reserved. I take care of all incoming and outgoing regular and courier mail. I also book the audio visual equipment for staff use and ensure all equipment is returned. I also provide secretarial services to assigned faculty members and their staff.

Location: Vineland Campus, Administration Building, Room 130
Telephone: 905-562-4141, ext. 0
E-mail: dhill@uoguelph.ca
SYLVANA LAGROTTERIA, Administrative Secretary

Employees should see me if they need reimbursement from petty cash. They hand me their attendance and ask any questions pertaining to payroll. I assist them in any questions they may have on their benefits, i.e. claims, vacation credits, etc. I book meetings for them with the Chair. I also provide secretarial services to assigned faculty members and research staff.

Location: Vineland Campus, Administration Building, Room 132
Telephone: 905-562-4141, ext. 145
E-mail: slagrott@uoguelph.ca

MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION - BRADFORD

PATRICIA FLINN, Secretary

As the only office staff at the Muck Crops Research Station, Patricia is responsible for all front office support and secretarial duties, and is the building maintenance liaison for the station.

Location: Muck Crops Research Station - Bradford
Telephone: 905-775-3783
E-mail: pflinn@uoguelph.ca

Remember

You can view this newsletter in colour at:

http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/news.html
CD media has become the medium of choice because it is very cheap and has a high storage capacity.

During the manufacturing process little bumps called pits are stamped onto the disc. The empty spaces between these pits are called lands. The CD-ROM is read when a laser passes over the disc while measuring how much light is reflected back to the drive. When passing over a pit the light is diffused so less light is reflected back to the drive. As you can guess, more light is reflected when the laser passes over a land. The drive interprets the pits and lands as strings of ones and zeros – the language computers understand.

CD-R and CD-RW have recordable layers which a CD-ROM does not as pits are not stamped onto them.

When a CD-RW drive writes data to a CD, it burns a bubble onto the transparent recordable layer of the disc, which then darkens it and creates a pit. As above when the drive reads the CD-R light is diffused when it passes over a pit. When the laser passes over a land, it goes through the transparent recordable layer and more light reflects back to the drive. Even old CD drives can read this type of media which makes them the media of choice for burning an auction CD.

CD-RW media is very different as its recordable layer is made of several metals which are not as reflective as CD-R media. When data is written to a CDRW it melts a dark pit into the recordable layer. This happens when drive fires a very short, super hot blast of laser light into the media. If the drive needs to erase something a little less heat, over a longer time is used to return the pit back to its original state. This erases the spot making that part of the disc reusable.

The Past 26 Years (better known as “The Reasons I Am Retiring”)

26 years
2 locations
4 directors
1 chairman
2 employers
10 offices
6 bosses (1 twice)
2 positions (Agricultural Technician and Computer Technician)
3 years at school
3 programs (2 at once 1 summer with 8 students and 2 bosses)
3 moves
2 dogs
1 son

After all this, it’s time to leave and by the way the very last one on the list is the very first in my heart.

Good luck to you all and remember it’s what happens after 4:30 that matters.

(Lucy’s last day is November 23, 2001 with her official retirement date being February 2, 2002.)
The summer of 2001 saw the Department of Plant Agriculture’s ornamental trial garden get off to a quiet but colourful start on the grounds of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI). Companies such as Ball Seed, Pan American Seed and Benary submitted annual seed for trials this year. Results of the summer trials will be made available in the fall on the Web. For more information contact Rodger Tschanz ext. 2788.

Jianhua Ma

Jianhua is a senior agronomist from Qinghai Province, China. She obtained her Bachelor degree in Agricultural Science at Qinghai University in 1986. After her graduation, she worked at the Qinghai Provincial Agricultural Design Institute for nine years. In 1995, she joined the provincial Agricultural Department, Office of Vegetable Crop Production, and has completed three projects. Jianhua has had five papers published in journals and periodicals. In 1999, she attended a UN project on Intensive English Training to learn English at the Beijing Second Foreign Language Institute. She also attended courses to enhance her English listening and speaking ability at the Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Jianhua has been awarded a Chinese Government Scholarship from the China Scholarship Council as a visiting scholar to study storage technology in Canada for one year. Her major interest is storage and handling techniques for fruits and vegetables. She started her study and research in August 2001 with Professor C.L. (George) Chu at the University of Guelph’s postharvest physiology lab in HPL (Vineland Station). Just in time to harvest a good crop of fruits and vegetables in Ontario this year.

During her first few weeks in Canada, she was very happy to meet many friendly people on campus. She also visited Toronto and Niagara Falls with her friends. Jianhua is busy learning the Canadian culture during her spare time.
Dr. Bill Deen (in collaboration with Dr.’s Richard Heck, and John Lauzon of the Land Resource Science Department) - was recently awarded a $1.2 million grant from the New Opportunities program of the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Ontario Innovation Trust Fund. The proposed infrastructure which includes production, remote sensing, controlled environment, analytical and computing equipment, will enable interdisciplinary, collaborative research at a field scale. The infrastructure will enable establishment of a complete range of agronomic treatments (fertility, cover crops, plant populations, tillage, etc.) across field-scale landscapes; comprehensive geo-referenced characterization of field landscapes in terms of plant stress response (e.g. leaf area index, biomass, yield, and root development), soil characteristics (e.g. chemical and physical composition, topography) and environmental conditions; and generation and maintenance of a complete, centrally accessed site specific data set.

Prof. Mike Dixon - was awarded an NRC (National Research Council - USA) award as a Senior Scientist to do research at Kennedy Space Centre. Prof. Dixon will be working in close collaboration with scientists from Kennedy (John Sagar, Ray Wheeler, et.al.). Along with Mike’s plant water stress research, he will be providing some technology transfer related to the hypobaric chambers in the CES Facility and assisting NASA with the set up plans for these chambers. NASA is renovating some space in one of their hangers to accommodate the new chambers that will compliment research done here in Guelph. Mike plans on starting his research at the Kennedy Space Centre in December 2001.

Prof. David Hume - was elected a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) at the AIC’s annual meeting at the University of Guelph in July.

Prof. Calvin Chong and Prof. Glen Lumis - paper titled, “Mixtures of paper mill sludge, wood chips, bark, and peat in substrates for pot-in-pot shade tree production,” which appeared in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (80:669-675), 2000, have been awarded the Plant Products Co. Ltd. Award of the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science. The award is presented each year to the paper judged the best paper published in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS) in the area of floriculture and ornamental horticulture in the previous year. The award was presented at the CJPS Awards dinner held on Tuesday, July 10, 2001, at the OVC Lifetime Learning Centre, University of Guelph.

Dr. Neil Miles - was awarded the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors 2001 Award of Excellence. This award was presented to Neil for excellence in the integration of research to aid in the control and elimination of Plum Pox.

Dr. John Cline and Mary Bijl - hosted approximately 30 members of the Ontario Apple Industry and the Canadian Horticulture Council on August 14, 2001, at the Simcoe Campus. The groups were touring several operations in southern Ontario with a particular focus on apples.

Hugh Martin - has accepted a position with OMAFRA as the Organic Crop Production Program Lead for Crop Technology. Hugh will take over his new responsibilities on September 4, 2001. We wish Hugh every success as he starts his new job at 1 Stone Road.
Congratulations to Momen Mir and his wife on the birth of their second daughter, Iman Mumtahina, born June 16, 2001. Mom and baby are doing fine.

Congratulations to Bill Deen and his wife Andrea on the birth of their son, Joel Ryan. Joel was born on Saturday, July 7, 2001.


Congratulations to Fran and Glan Thomas who celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on September 2, 2001. Fran is famous for her potato salad and rumour has it that her potato salad is so-o-o-o good that it got a die-hard dieter off of her diet for a day.

ADVANCED ANNOUNCEMENT: Graduate Student Seminars for the Hort*6500 and Crop*6400 courses will be presented on Monday, December 3rd, from 9:00 to 4:30 in room 1307 Thornborough Building. Refreshments and a light lunch will be available. Please mark Monday, December 3rd, 2001 in your calendar and come out and support our graduate students!

COMING EVENTS

CANADA'S OUTDOOR FARM SHOW - September 11 to 13, 2001, Woodstock, Ontario. Deb Hilborn will represent the Department of Plant Agriculture at the show along with other volunteers. Check the Farm Show out at: http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com

RURAL EXPO 2001 (International Plowing Match) - September 18 to 22, 2001, Navan (near Ottawa), Ontario. Deb Hilborn will represent the Department of Plant Agriculture at the Expo along with other volunteers. Check the Expo out at: http://www.ipm2001.com/en/welcome.phtml

CANADIAN GREENHOUSE CONFERENCE - October 3 and 4, 2001. The Conference will be held at the International Centre, Toronto, Ontario (new location). The University of Guelph will have booths at the conference along with the Department being represented with speakers and presenters. Check the Conference out at: http://www.canadiangreenhouseconference.com

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR - November 2 to 11, 2001, National Trade Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario. Deb Hilborn will represent the Department of Plant Agriculture at the Fair along with other volunteers. Check out the Fair at: http://www.royalfair.org

Volunteers urgently needed for the Norfolk County Fair - October 2 to 8, 2001, Simcoe, Ontario. Please contact Deb Hilborn, Department Liaison, at 905-562-4141 ext. 124 or dhilborn@uoguelph.ca if you are interested in volunteering for this event. Volunteers needed for most days but especially October 7 and 8. The Department needs your help! Check out the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show at: http://www.norfair.com/
Over 140 people from the Department travelled to Simcoe to attend the Department picnic sponsored by the Variety Club and hosted this year by the Simcoe Campus. Many, many thanks to Wally Andres and everyone at Simcoe who did such an excellent job in setting up the eating area (along with the corn roast), arranging the tour of the research plots, and the canoe races. Also, a big thank you to the Variety Club for all their work in promoting the event, selling tickets and getting all that fantastic food ready for everyone to eat. Here are a few pictures from the event with the rest available on our web site at:

http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/images/picnic

IT WAS...FUN...FUN...FUN...FOR EVERYONE!!!

PICNIC 2001
Various corn eating techniques witnessed at the picnic.
THE WINNERS!
SIMCOE’S Paul Splinter and Roger Vaughan
Fall semester 2001 brings **important changes** to the library services and collections. The library website has been upgraded with a new look and revised streamlined menu for easier use. The catalogue search screen appears different but functions as before with a new Basic Search feature combining keywords with author, title, subject and call number.

For new students and faculty the “**online library tour**” and “**where is it**” function help with library orientation and location of items in the library and on the shelves. Entering the call number of the wanted item will result in a floor map and stack location display.

**Virtual reference** is an exciting new service for on-campus student library support (off-campus access is being considered for the future). The new virtual reference software permits interactive library communication allowing students and library staff to collaborate through shared computer screens and help files and to carry on live reference chat sessions. During off hours, self-help guides are available and questions and messages can be left for the reference librarians. This service “removes the barriers of geography for library users and can be accessed whenever an information need arises.”

Electronic full text journals continue to be added to the library collection. These are listed along with electronic books and reference tools under the library web page heading “**What’s Online**.” Computer access to these resources is available both on and off campus. For complete information on setting up your computer to connect to the library consult “How To Connect From Off Campus” on the library home page.

Significant **changes to the major agricultural and environmental science databases** have taken place over the summer. Biological & Agricultural Index and Environmental Sciences and Pollution Management are no longer available and Agricola, CAB and Digital Dissertations are being offered on new platforms. The new ProQuest platforms include the same reference coverage with some additional features. The search protocols are slightly different but help screens and tutorials are available to assist with the transition. A new database, Environmental Knowledgebase, supplemented with ongoing access to Biological Abstracts and Biological Sciences, will replace the discontinued databases. Bookmarks for any of the databases that have been changed will have to be updated to reflect the new platform addresses. Consult the “Search” section of the library home page to connect to these and other indexes and databases. These changes have been made to take advantage of enhanced versions of the original index or to provide less expensive index coverage of a particular subject area.

As always, if you have any questions about these changes or need assistance to take advantage of the new library features, please do not hesitate to contact library staff.
WEB SIGHTS

by Judy Wanner and Jeremy Friedberg

Old web address – new web page. The Guelph library has redesigned its web page. Try out [http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca](http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca) to see the new look. Note also the new features – “Where is it” helps you locate items in the stacks, “Online library tour” walks you through the library and “Virtual Reference” provides a new reference service for on-campus users.

A new library database is “Web of Science” [http://woscanada.isihost.com](http://woscanada.isihost.com) produced by the Institute of Scientific Information.

The Graduate Students Association has a new Graduate Student web page set up and running. It has a great deal of information for Guelph Graduate Students. Check it out at: [http://www.uoguelph.ca/~gsa](http://www.uoguelph.ca/~gsa)

VARIETY CLUB NEWS

CHRISTMAS PARTY - Friday, December 7th. More information to come in the months ahead. It is a great evening of food, fun, door prizes and lots of dancing. It is worth the effort to come out. So...you have the date, now book it for the party and come out and have some fun.

MUGS - Department mugs are on sale at the low cost of $7.00. Mugs may be purchased at Guelph coffee breaks or from Deb Hilborn located at the Vineland Campus.

SUPPORT YOUR VARIETY CLUB - GET INVOLVED!!
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The fall semester of 2001 is quickly winding down. It has been very busy with all of the teaching and harvesting activities. As well, we have completed the interview process for a new faculty member in tree fruit breeding. I hope to have this position finalized within the next few weeks.

I want to thank all members of this Department who participated and contributed to our United Way Campaign. This year’s Plant Agriculture United Way campaign was a phenomenal success with a goal of $9,800 being surpassed and reaching $12,521. We represent the largest portion of the OAC Campaign and 5% of the entire University of Guelph Campaign goal of $245,000. This is exemplary proof that we are a caring Department and that we appreciate the critical service agencies provided by the United Way in each of our communities. Special mention should be made of the high participation rate of 56% at our Simcoe Campus this year - well done! The Plant Agriculture United Way Committee would like to thank all of those who supported the campaign in one way or another by donating via payroll deduction, attending a bake sale, partaking in BINGO or purchasing a raffle ticket. The Committee wanted you to feel that we were giving back to you either by way of an income tax deduction, tasty treats, cash or prizes!

Many thanks to Jen Kingswell for spearheading our Department’s United Way Campaign and to the volunteer efforts of Wally Andres, Donna Hill, Mary Ruth McDonald, Angie Trivett, Youbin Zheng, Donna Hancock, Mike Peppard, and Angela Hill for canvassing, record keeping, raffle ticket and BINGO card sales, and background co-ordination. Also, a huge thank you to those who generously donated prizes above and beyond your own personal donations for various events, namely Deb Hilborn, Yesenia Salazar, Angela Hill, and the Department. The University hosted a volunteer appreciation luncheon at the MacDonald Stewart Art Gallery on November 29 where various awards were distributed.

The Department was greatly saddened by the passing of Gerry Dickinson, one of our Ag. Assistants at the Elora Research Station. His presence is missed by all of those who knew Gerry and worked with him.

Lucy Reynolds, our computer specialist at Vineland, will be retiring on February 28, 2002. She was hired by HRIO on October 20, 1975. In 1997, Lucy became a member of the Department of Plant Agriculture. Since joining our Department she has been very instrumental in helping to up-date and maintain our computer capabilities at our campuses located at Vineland, Simcoe and Bradford. Lucy has contributed greatly to the building of our Department. I understand that she is looking forward to starting her own business by helping others understand the complexities of computers. As well, she will be spending more one on one time with her pet Boston terrier named Becker. Lucy, on behalf of the Department of Plant Agriculture we wish you joy and contentment in your retirement years.

We will be welcoming three new grad students to our Department in January. Melissa Wheeler will be advised by Dr. François Tardif, Renee Coutier will be advised by Dr. Bernie Grodzinski, and Martha Cunningham will be advised by Dr. Julie Dionne.

The Graduate Student Seminars were held on December 3rd, and were a great success. Thank you to all the presenters, organizers, evaluators, and those who stopped by to show support for our students. It was an exciting and informative day.

There is a blaze of Christmas festivities scheduled in December. The Departmental Christmas Party is scheduled for December 7th. Christmas lunches will be held at Vineland and Simcoe on December 14th and at the Guelph campus on December 21st at Gryph’s. I hope as many of you as possible will have an opportunity to celebrate with your colleagues at one or more of these events. These celebrations, at this time of year, are a very important part of the life of our Department.

On behalf of my family, Josée, Ana, Stephanie and Lesley-Anne I want to wish all of you a very merry and safe Christmas holiday.

Current and back issues of this newsletter are available at: http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/news.html#Newsletter
Who does number two work for?

BY JEREMY FRIEDEBERG

Yes...yes I know...it's always all about movie lines isn't it! Actually, I've developed a completely new form of communication based solely on movie lines so for those who are interested you can sign up for classes. Okay...on to grad issues...

Well, the winter holidays are almost upon us and there is much merriment to be had. Clearly, I'll be seeing all of you at the Department Christmas party. But in all this holiday fun and amidst all the holiday parties there lurks an irritating problem. A problem rarely spoken of or even realized...but it's a problem that has quietly infiltrated its way into life on the university campus and in the end, a problem that affects us all. I refer to "the Mega Role" or "the white torture wheel of doom," that ridiculous roll of toilet paper, now found in all campus washrooms. Twenty kilometres of unrefined industrial wood pulp compressed into a 2 kg roll, half a meter in diameter. The quilted two ply (QTP) days of yesteryear have long since vanished from our campus. It was a time not too long ago...when one could take five minutes for solitude and meditation without having to stand for the rest of the day. Yes, its time to take control and take back the day! As essential as clean water and the air we breathe...the two ply quilted is something that I can't live without. To settle for thinner and rougher goes against the natural forces of evolution...or the quilted paper industry. I'm sure if I actually did the survey 9 out of 10 scientists would prefer the QTP to the industrial mega roll.

This type of daily punishment is about to come to an end. Coming this holiday season...I announce the formation of the QTPTPC...the quilted two ply toilet paper club. Those who are interested in joining will be able to sign out some of the soft stuff (contact me for more information). Feel proud, strong and comfortable and forget the mandated punishment of the mega roll. To quote Charles Robert Darwin, "Physiological experiment on animals is justifiable for real investigation, but not for mere damnable and detestable curiosity."

This new years, make a resolution...be proud, be free, join the QTPQPC!!!

Thanks for indulging me!!! Enjoy the winter holidays and remember to actually leave your labs over the holiday 'cause the university along with the heat, actually closes down for a week.

See you in January.

Cheers,

Jeremy

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Movie Line Contest

The winner of the last movie line contest was Kris Mahoney. Congratulations Kris! There were several good guesses...keep it coming. Here are the new movie lines and again the first two individuals to e-mail me the correct movie titles will win pints of beer in the grad lounge (purchased by me of course). Good luck!

1. I am Vinz Clortho. Keymaster of Gozer, Volguus Zildrohar, Lord of the Sebouillia. Are you the Gatekeeper?
2. My brother and I used to say that drowning in beer was like heaven, eh? Now he's not here, and I got two soakers... This isn't heaven, this sucks!
3. In case I don't see you -- good afternoon, good evening and good night.
4. In physics, um, we ah, we talk about physics... about properties of physics... So it's sorta social...demented and sad, but social. Right?

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Editor's Note:
Jeremy is located in the Crop Science building in room 427 and lab 419. His office extension is 8182 and his lab extension is 8185. You may also reach Jeremy at jdberg@uoguelph.ca
Aron D. Weir

I started my life in Kingston, the home and birthplace of many inspiring Canadians. After completing high school, I continued my education at Queen's University in the field of Environmental Biology. Through the influence of several faculty members and field courses in Ontario and Argentina, my interest in ornithology was born. This interest directed me to employment in California. In California I was serving as a wildlife biologist intern in the mountains around Big Sur. I worked on a continuous migrating bird study project and was also part of a team attempting to reintroduce the majestic California condor back into its once native habitat range.

I came to Guelph from California during the autumn of 1998. Perhaps it was the frustration of working with a species that had no home range left, or it may have been too many mosquito bites while sleeping under the stars, whatever the reason was, I decided I wanted to study plant breeding and genetics. The University of Guelph seemed the obvious choice and I packed up my few personal belongings and headed home to Ontario.

When I arrived in Guelph, I felt at home due to its welcoming community and similar size to Kingston. I began a Masters degree with Istvan Rajcan studying soybean breeding and genetics. My project involves the mapping of quantitative trait loci for seed quality traits in soybean. I have recently started the molecular biology phase of my research and plan on getting to know the fourth floor of Crop Science pretty well over the next several months.

Those that know me realize my passion is the sport of triathlon. There are never enough hours in the day to complete everything desired and this is particularly true come the peak training season. To my friends I must apologize for my apparent absence from social activities in the spring and summer. Grab a pair of running shoes and we can talk about it more on the way.

Cara Chamberlain

Cara is currently in her 1st semester of the M.Sc. Program under the supervision of Dr. Mike Dixon. Her research involves the study of plant water relations under hypobaric conditions. Born in 1977 and raised in the snowy home of the Big Nickel (Sudbury, Ontario), Cara received an honors B.Sc. in Plant Biology from none other than, the University of Guelph. She is happy to continue her education here and grateful to the Department for awarding her the Jack Atkins Graduate Scholarship in Horticultural Science.

In her spare time, Cara stays sane caring for her various pets (a dog, a horse and an iguana), hiking and horseback riding. She also spends her time discovering her native background, dreaming of new places to travel and hopes to continue her training in show jumping and dressage.
Jennifer Young

Jennifer completed high school in Whitby, a suburb of Toronto. She spent a lot of time in the city attending concerts, movies, and visiting the Art Gallery of Ontario. She completed her first year of university at McMaster in Hamilton. After completing her first year she took some time off to decide exactly what to major in. During this time off she worked for a real estate management company and did volunteer counselling at the local women’s center. Deciding to major in genetics, Jennifer transferred to the University of Guelph to complete her Honors Undergraduate degree. In her fourth year she completed a research project investigating a putative oxygen defense gene in Drosophila.

Before beginning her Masters degree Jennifer spent an enjoyable year as a substitute teacher at both the elementary and secondary levels. The decision to join the Department of Plant Agriculture was sure to bring its challenges as Jennifer had very little agricultural background. She is very proud to be part of a Department with such diversity in its research and with a commitment to the practical application of its research goals. Jennifer began her project last fall with Elizabeth Lee. She is attempting to map QTLs for food quality in food grade white corn as part of an OCC initiative to develop Ontario white corn hybrids. She has learned about agriculture since she joined the Department and now knows what a combine is and hopes that someday Byron will allow her to drive one.

Cheryl Corbett

Cheryl began her academic career at the University of Guelph in the B.Sc. Wildlife Biology program. She made the switch to Plant Biology when she realized that plants are much more interesting than animals, and that plants are easier to study because they can’t move around on their own. She spent the summers of her undergraduate degree working at the Muck Research Station near Bradford and the corn physiology and wheat breeding labs in Guelph.

Cheryl completed her B.Sc. in the summer of 2000. In the spring of 2001 she began working on a Master’s degree in Weed Science with Dr. François Tardif. She is currently researching alternative methods of diagnosing ALS-inhibiting (Group 2) herbicide resistance in green and redroot pigweeds. She believes that she is uniquely suited to her project as she usually tries to find the easiest way to do something anyway. Cheryl was the recipient of the John Bandeen Memorial Scholarship this year.

In her spare time Cheryl enjoys many extracurricular activities. She is a member of both the Plant Agriculture Variety Club and the OAC Grad Student Council. She also enjoys playing intramural sports such as ice hockey, floor hockey, and beach volleyball. Cheryl’s future ambitions include a Ph.D.
WELCOME NEW GRADS

Starting in January 2002:

Renee Cloutier - doctoral student with Dr. Bernie Grodzinski
Martha Cunningham - master’s student with Dr. Julie Dionne
Melissa Wheeler - master’s student with Dr. François Tardif

CONGRATULATIONS

On October 11, 2001, the Ontario Agricultural College held their graduate awards ceremony. The following Department of Plant Agriculture grads received awards:

Wendy Allan - Kasha Scientific Travel Fund
Jerome Audair - Mary Edmunds Williams Scholarships
Ingvar Bjornsson - Bullick Scholarship in Food Grain Research and Soden Memorial Scholarships in Agriculture
Cara Chamberlain - Jack Atkin Graduate Scholarship in Horticultural Science
Cheryl Corbett - Bandeen Memorial Scholarship
Jane Coventry - Mary Edmunds Williams Scholarships
Martha Cunningham - Ball Scholarship (Winter 2002)
Jason Deveau - H.L. Hutt Memorial Scholarship
James Doran - Major General La Fleche Memorial Scholarship
Jeremy Friedberg - Kasha Scientific Travel Fund
Ken Janoviek - Pride Brand Seeds (Pride 5) Scholarship
Guy Levesque - Manton Memorial Award
Dan Maclean - Mary Edmunds Williams Scholarships (Winter 2002)
Kris Mahoney - Mary Edmunds Williams Scholarships
Valerio Primomo - Mary Edmunds Williams Scholarships
Urbee Shome - Hoskins Scholarship
Philip Snelgrove - McConkey Scholarship
Karie Thomas - Tommy Thompson Scholarship
Justine Vanden Heuvel - Ronald C. Moyer Scholarship
Aron Weir - Soden Memorial Scholarships in Agriculture and Soybean Research Scholarship
Sean Westerveld - Soden Memorial Scholarships in Agriculture
Jianhui (Lisa) Yang - Hoskins Scholarship
Jennifer Young - Sue Chase and John Steckle Scholarship

Congratulations Justine!

Justine Vanden Heuvel is the first Canadian student to win the American Wine Society Educational Foundation Scholarship. Justine also won the best paper award in viticulture from the American Society of Enology and Viticulture.
Professor Adam Dale earned his B.Sc. in 1969 and his Ph.D. in 1974 at the University of Sheffield, England. He joined the Scottish Horticultural Research Institute (now Scottish Crop Research Institute), Dundee, Scotland in 1974 as a Higher Scientific Officer and was promoted to Senior Scientific officer in 1982. In 1983, he joined the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario (HRIO) at Simcoe as a Research Scientist 3, was promoted to Research Scientist 4 in 1986 and Research Scientist 5 in 1995. When HRIO was amalgamated with the University, he became a Senior Research Scientist - Fruit Team leader, and after HRIO became part of Plant Agriculture in 1998 joined faculty as a full professor. In 1999, he was elected Division leader of the HRIO division. Adam also served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Plant Science at McGill University from 1988-1999.

At the Scottish Crop Research Institute, Adam was part of a small fruit breeding team where his research interests included breeding raspberries and black currants, investigating yield components in raspberry and spring frost tolerance and yield stability in black currants. He developed a method to quantify yield in breeding selections and small plots of raspberries, discovered how to germinate raspberry seeds without a cold period, and published on multivariate analysis of raspberry yield components.

When Adam joined HRIO, at the Horticultural Experiment Station, Simcoe, he was research coordinator for a $1 million project to develop machine harvesting for strawberries. This project was a cooperative project between growers, food processors, scientists and engineers which developed a system to once-over harvest strawberries from solid beds of plants.

Since coming to Canada, Adam has released a steady stream of new strawberry cultivars. First, he released six varieties selected by his predecessor, Dr. Lew Ricketson and from his own program Startyme in 1995, with Prof. Al Sullivan, G19 in 1997, and two new ones Sapphire and Serenity. He has developed a method to increase plant production in dayneutral strawberries and has worked extensively to incorporate wild Fragaria virginiana germplasm into the breeding program. Recently his research into greenhouse production of raspberries has created considerable interest by growers.

Adam has actively cooperated with the Ontario Berry Growers' Association (OBGA) over the years and they presented him with their Award of Merit in 1998. He was instrumental in developing the OBGA's Achene committee which administers their extensive portfolio of variety rights in Canada and the berry crop plant propagation program. He was an Associate Editor for the Canadian Journal of Plant Science for eight years and is presently chair of the Rubus and Ribes Section of the International Society for Horticultural Science.

When asked about his first memories of Canada, Adam says he remembers leaving Scotland on the 7 Jan 1983 in a blizzard and arriving in Toronto to a record warm spell — not what his family was expecting. He also remembers at 6 a.m. the next day walking his young family along Highway 3 in Simcoe to find somewhere to eat breakfast. They eventually found somewhere that was open — McDonald's!

Adam lives in Simcoe with

They have three grown children, Frances, a human resources manager with the Royal Bank in Toronto; Rebecca, a Guelph grad, who is exploring New Zealand, and Andrew, who is in his second year at Ottawa University.

Adam's office is located at the Simcoe campus. He can be contacted by telephone at (519)426-7127 ext. 333 or by email at adale@uoguelph.ca
**Computer Buyers’ Guide**  
*(Just in Time for Christmas)*  
*by Jim Hoare*

"Tis the season to be thinking of upgrading that home computer or even the office or lab machine. I hope this article will help answer some of your questions on what to look for and provide a few of the “buzz words” to toss around so it sounds like you know what you are talking about.

On the outside, most desktop personal computers (PCs) look pretty similar. But they are not all created equal. So how do you select the right system? In order to choose the right desktop PC, you’ll need to figure out what you’ll be doing with it and how much you have to spend on it.

**Low end:** Accomplish basic tasks such as word processing, e-mail, and Web browsing. Willing to sacrifice a little on performance, features, and portability to save some money.

**Student system:** Write papers and create spreadsheets, do research on the Web, use e-mail, and download music—and still have money left over for books.

**Family system:** Word processor; e-mail; browse the Web; manage home finances; and create digital photo albums and of course there’s those “educational games.” Want a system that won’t break the budget but has enough power and features for the whole family.

**Gamer:** Have to have the latest and greatest of everything. Starting with the very fastest processor available, loads of memory, the best graphics and audio systems, and DVD-ROM and CD-R (read/write or re-writable) drives.

**Budget:** To get a reliable PC with enough power and features to last a few years, you have to spend a little money. Generally desktop prices, including monitor costs, can be broken down into three categories: budget PCs (less than $1,200), midrange systems ($1,200 to $2,000), and high-end systems ($2,000 and up) for gamers and PC enthusiasts.

**Speed:** Don’t get caught up in all the hype over Central Processor Unit’s (CPU) speed. Clock speed isn’t the only factor that determines a system’s performance. As of this writing, the top end is pegged at 2.0 Giga Hertz (GHz) with 1.7, 1.5 Ghz systems affordable. Intel Pentium 4 chips are usually your best bet and anything above 1GHz are P4s (1GHz and less are PIII).

**Memory:** Random Access Memory (RAM) has a big impact on system performance. You should get at least 128 Mega bytes (MB) SDRAM. The new RDRAM (Rambus Direct RAM) is faster, but also more expensive. The next standard amount would be 256MB and top end systems should be configured with 512MB.

Continued on page 8.
Hard drive: When evaluating your mass storage (hard drive) needs, consider its interface, its speed as well as its capacity. The most popular interface is still IDE with the modern standard of Ultra IDE ATA/66 (that’s 66MB/s transfer rates). Speed usually refers to the revolutions of the disk and look for either 5400 RPM or the preferred 7200 RPM. A typical capacity is 40 Giga bytes (GB).

Graphics card: All PCs have a separate set of chips designated specifically for handling graphics and text displayed on the screen. Most also have separate memory devoted to this task. Usually, these components are on a separate card that sits in a special slot (called an AGP slot), but on budget systems the graphics chips and memory may be part of the system’s motherboard. The type of graphics card and amount of memory really depend on what you want to do with a PC. (Note: older systems will only have PCI slots, so be careful if you are trying to upgrade your video card.) Gamers will need the high end video cards with 3D chipset (i.e. 3DFx Voodoo3 or nVidia TNT2). Having an optional “TV Out” feature will allow you to play DVD’s on your computer (if you have the DVD drive), but send the video signal to your TV or VCR!

Monitor: Some low-end PCs are still bundled with 15-inch monitors, but if your budget permits, you should steer clear of these and opt for either a 17- or even 19-inch monitor. Flat panel screens are still very expensive, but are getting brighter and cheaper all the time. Monitors typically have a dot pitch (DPI) of 0.27mm or less (with the smaller value being better/ crisper).

Sound card and speakers: For the majority of users, the basic, Sound-blaster compatible sound card and speakers that come with a new system will do just fine. If you play computer games or plan to delve into digital audio (MP3s, audio CDs while you work), you may want to upgrade to a speaker system with a separate subwoofer or even the surround sound card (i.e. Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live).

Media drives: All desktop PCs, regardless of price, come with a floppy drive (3.5" 1.44MB). Standard issue is a CD-ROM drive (typically running at 52 times original speed) which lets you install new software plus play audio CDs. Most mid-range and high-end systems now substitute a DVD-ROM drive for the CD-ROM, which can handle both ordinary CDs and much higher capacity DVDs used for digital movies. CD-RW drives can write and rewrite data to 650MB (700MB or 800MB formats also available) CDs. Typical specs of 12/8/32 would indicate a 12x writing speed, 8x rewrite and 32x reading speed. These drives are typically an upgrade, but you might want to consider having both DVD and CD-RW on the same system.

Ports: All systems include serial (RS232/COM) ports and parallel (LPT) ports. Make sure that your new system has at least two USB (Universal Serial Bus) ports. Keyboard and mice usually plug into PS/2 connectors, however, newer devices are using the USB interface. High end users should look for the new IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interface for connecting new digital/video and other bandwidth intensive devices. The game port can be found on the sound card and are all standard issue.

Internet/network hardware: A 56K modem is now standard fare on all home PCs. Most corporate systems include a network interface card (NIC) for connecting to 10 Mbps or
100 Mbps Ethernet networks. A NIC is also required if that home system is going to access high-speed broadband Internet connections via cable or high speed modem (DSL).

**Input Devices:** A keyboard is a keyboard, and a mouse is a mouse, right? Actually, the industry has put a lot of thought into these seemingly mundane devices. Some systems now include loads of extra buttons and dials for jumping directly to Web sites; launching applications; etc. (Internet keyboard). The mouse has also sprouted all sorts of buttons and wheels designed primarily to make browsing the Web faster and easier (ask for scroll or intelli mouse). Gamers of course need game pad/joystick/driving wheels and prices vary a lot. I don’t have room here to explain scanners and digital cameras. Perhaps the next newsletter will explain those devices.

**Printers:** Today you have two flavours: ink or laser and you basically pay for what you get. If you need really good quality black print only, then the laser printer is required, but you pay more. Colour printers, on the other hand, have the disadvantage of using water soluble ink. The printing speed is measured in pages/minute (PPM) and resolution is dots/inch (DPI). Paying for your replacement toner or ink cartridges should also be considered when selecting a printer.

Ok, you now have selected all your hardware. What about the software?

**Operating System:** Your first decision needs to be your Operating system (OS). Typically this is some version of Microsoft (MS) Windows: XP, 2000, Millennium (Me), or the older 98 Second Edition are available. I’m not going to expand on this area and most systems are bundled with one of the above.

**Application Software:** Next, you need to select all those applications (apps), games, etc. Your choices are endless. Office Suites get you word processing, spreadsheet and presentation apps (i.e. MS Office XP, 2000, 97 or Corel Office 2001, 2000, 8). Internet browsers: Internet Explorer 5.5 or 6, Netscape 4.78 or 6. Don’t forget your anti-virus software (i.e. McAfee or Norton). Games: we all go there eventually and I will leave that to you to work out.

**Supplier:** To buy name brand vs clones is not an easy choice. The main issue is service later. Will that small outfit be there next year when you have a problem or if you move will there be some service centre willing to work on your system? What about the warranty itself: how many years and what is covered (i.e. parts and/or labour)? What about delivery? For example, ordering from Dell means you must have it shipped and that typically costs $50-$75 dollars depending on what your system includes! Is set up included in the price?

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**References**

- http://www.compaq.ca/eng/englandhome.htm
- http://dell.ca
- http://www.gateway.com/ca/
- http://www.futureshop.ca/
- http://www.staples.ca/
- http://pcmag.com/
A FINAL GOODBYE...Hello everyone! I had to change my departure date because of pension issues. My last day at work is December 13th. I plan to start my own business “Infotech Computer Services” and work out of my home in Welland. I want to wish everyone a Joyous and Healthy Holiday Season and hope the New Year is a good one for all. Thank you for your support....Lucy Reynolds

Wenjin Yu - research technician with Dr. Larry Erikson, has tendered his resignation as of Dec. 1/01. Wenjin will be working as a scientist with Syngenta Biotechnology Inc. in North Carolina where he will continue his plant research career.

Gerry Dickinson - passed away October 20, 2001 after a short illness. Gerry was an Agricultural Assistant on our Elora Research Station since March 19, 1985. Gerry will be sadly missed by the many people who knew and loved him.

The following three researchers have recently joined Dr. Praveen Saxena’s Plant Cell Technology Laboratory:

Dr. Sayed Zobayed recently came to Dr. Saxena’s lab from the University of Hull, UK. His previous postdoc work was with Dr. Kozai at Chiba University in Japan. While in Guelph, his research will focus on environmental control in micropropagation and bioreactor design.

Dr. Zengguang Pan is a postdoc and came to Dr. Saxena’s lab in October. Dr. Pan came from the Horticulture Laboratory, University of Tokyo, where he worked on a research program tracking genetic evaluation of horticultural plants with Dr. Ryozo Sakiyama for two years. Pan holds a Doctorate from the National Key Laboratory in Genetic Improvement of Crops, Central China Agriculture University. During his appointment in Dr. Saxena’s lab, Pan will focus his research on protoplast culture and fusion of medicinal and ornamental plants.

Dr. Chunzhao Liu joined Dr. Saxena’s lab in August. Dr. Liu graduated from the National Laboratory of Biochemical Engineering, Chinese Academy of Science, and worked in Japan and the United States for three years. His research focus is on plant biotechnology and biochemical engineering of medicinal plants.

Tannis Slimmon, technician/singer-songwriter, opened for veteran Canadian folk singer Valdy, on a five-city tour that began November 14th in Co-operators Hall at the River Run Centre in Guelph.

Tannis has worked with the likes of Willie P. Bennett, Gwen Swick and the Barenaked Ladies.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.
CONGRATULATIONS TO PROF. RICK UPFOLD!
Rick is one of this year’s winners of the Distinguished Professorial Teaching Awards. Rick was recognized for his dynamic teaching style and for creating a learning experience “unparalleled” in the undergraduate agriculture program.

Dr. John Proctor’s term on the AIC board as one of the AMO representatives comes to an end this December 2001. The AIC board expressed sincere appreciation to John for his solid participation at the board table and wisdom to the AIC board discussions.

Dr. Alan Darlington has been awarded $100,000 from the Ontario Centres of Excellence, a government-funded group that works to connect university research and the marketplace. Alan is going to make a business venture out of indoor biofilters that use flora and fauna to create miniature ecosystems that also have a side effect of beautifying the rooms they clean. You will still see Alan around the Bovey Building. He is still collaborating on two major projects in the Department. Congratulations and Good Luck!

Dr. Calvin Chong presented:
- a talk to the Nursery Growers’ Group of Landscape Ontario on “Recycling of wastes, composts, nutrients and irrigation run-off” on November 14, 2001.

SUCCESS FOR THE OAC WEEDS TEAM
by François Tardif

The 2001 North Eastern Collegiate Weed Science Contest was a successful one for the OAC Weeds Team. Taking place on the 30th of July, at the University of Connecticut, the contest measured the skills and knowledge of 59 students coming from Universities and Schools from as far as Nova Scotia, Virginia and North Carolina.

While some students from other schools were very experienced, taking part in their second, third or even fourth contest, it was a first for the five undergrad and two grad students representing OAC. Students are judged for their performance in four events: weed identification, herbicide injury diagnostics, sprayer calibration and farmer problem solving.

Hard work by our students combined with experienced coaching by Jason Cathcart proved to be a successful combination. In a very competitive field the grad team of Sara Mohr and Cheryl Corbett placed fifth among 11 teams. The undergrad teams both merited a place on the podium with Scott Gillespie and Robin Little placing third and Sharon Robertson, Kara Lammers and Garth Wilson placing second. In addition to Jason Cathcart, coaches for the team were Nancy Cain, Clarence Swanton and myself.

HAPPENINGS
Dr. Mike Dixon will be on sabbatical at the Kennedy Space Centre from December 1, 2001 to May 2002:

Human exploration of space must be based on a biological life support system. It is now accepted by space agencies around the world (NASA, ESA, CSA) that during long-term missions, such as the construction of a lunar or Mars observatory, the needs of the crews can only be met by developing self-sustaining, renewable life support systems based on plants and micro-organisms. The plants and the microbes are the most efficient means to provide, a) essential gas exchange of oxygen for carbon dioxide via plant photosynthesis, b) food in the form of edible plant biomass, c) potable water from plant transpiration and d) recycling of inedible biomass from both the plants and the crew via microbial regeneration.

The assessments of candidate plant species (e.g. potato) will be used to contribute to models of water and atmosphere management in life support systems and enhance our understanding of the adaptive responses of plants to the challenging environments of human space exploration. Research objectives will include technical assessments for applications on the ISS and Mars greenhouse.

The proposed research will determine the most reliable techniques for making critical measurements of plant physiological responses to variable pressure environments and establish practical guidelines for the application of these techniques. The study will also take the first detailed look at plant water relations variables under these conditions.

Progress resulting from technical and experimental objectives will be invaluable in proposing water and atmosphere management strategies for Advanced Life Support and will yield exciting new information on the adaptation of plants to the challenging environments of human space exploration.

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**PLANT AGRICULTURE**

**2001 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN TEAM**

From the left: Angela Hill, Mike Peppard, Donna Hancock, Walter Andres, Jennifer Kingswell (chair), and Angie Trivett. Absent: Donna Hill and Youbin Zheng.

**THANK YOU** for all your hard work in making this year’s United Way Campaign the most successful ever!
**Sakura Project**: On Tuesday, November 27, 2001, the first Department of Plant Agriculture grown Sakura Flowering Cherry trees were planted at Downsview Park. Ray Kaczmarski, Station Manager at our Vineland Campus, was present along with a small delegation of representatives from the Consul General of Japan’s office as well as people from Downsview Park. More plantings are scheduled for the spring of 2002.

**COMING EVENTS**

**Southwest Agricultural Conference** - January 8 and 9, 2002 at Ridgetown College, Ridgetown. For further information phone 519-674-1596 or 1-888-222-9682.


**Horticultural Jobs Fair** - Wednesday, January 30, 2002 in the Court Yard of the University Centre, University of Guelph. For further information contact Deb Hilborn at 905-562-4141 ext. 124 or Rodger Tschanz at 519-824-4120 ext. 8912 or 6423.

**Canadian International Farm Equipment Show** - February 5 to 8, 2002 at the International Centre, Toronto. Check them out at: [http://www.torontofarmshow.com](http://www.torontofarmshow.com)

**Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers’ Association (NPF&VGA) Conference** - February 20 and 21, 2002 at Brock University, St. Catharines. Contact: Tom Greensides (905) 687-2033.


**East Central Farm Show** - March 6 and 7, 2002 at Morrow Building, Peterborough Fair Grounds, Peterborough. Check them out at: [http://webhome.idirect.com/~njmoore/ECFS.html](http://webhome.idirect.com/~njmoore/ECFS.html)

**Canada Blooms** - March 13 to 17, 2002 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. Check them out at: [http://www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

**International IPM Conference** - March 24 to 26, 2002 at the International Plaza Hotel, Toronto. Check them out at: [http://www.gov.on.ca/QMAFRA/ipmconference/](http://www.gov.on.ca/QMAFRA/ipmconference/)
A special supplement to the December issue of the Department of Plant Agriculture newsletter:

**My Exploratory Visit to the University of Stellenbosch**

by Maria Derkacz, M.Sc.

Fruit Tree and Grape Nutrition

In September 2001, I was invited by Dr. Martin Fey, Head, Department of Soil Science, to visit the Faculty of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. Between September 25th and 28th, I met with research scientists and graduate students of the Department to discuss ongoing projects and to explore opportunities for research collaboration in areas of mutual interest. During my brief stay at the University, I became familiar with a number of M.Sc. and Ph.D. projects that included both fundamental and applied aspects of research in soil science and plant-soil interactions. I also presented a seminar on “Climate, soil types and fruit production in the region of Niagara’’ to the Faculty of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences.

Because my research interests are in the area of nutrient management for fruit production, I was particularly keen in understanding the problems that fruit producers in the western part of the Republic of South Africa are faced with. A number of issues that create obstacles in obtaining economical fruit yields and quality in the region are environmentally related. Therefore, the topics of the research projects conducted by the Department are very diversified. Issues such as excessive uptake of potassium by grape vines, availability of nitrogen for strawberry production, water quality for irrigation of horticultural crops, nutrient availability as affected by soil pH, and stability of aluminum in soils acidified by tea plantations, were a few examples of the topics that I discussed with the scientists and students. In general, the efforts of the Department are concentrated on finding the best soil management practices that would improve soil nutrient availability and allow for water and land conservation.

I spent several hours with Dr. Jan Lambrechts, Scientist, Department of Soil Science, talking about the principals for establishing phosphorous and potassium fertilizer recommendations for apple production. I also visited with Dr. Eduard Hoffman, a scientist in the same Department, to review our understanding of nitrogen availability and nitrogen requirements for strawberry production. We concluded that it would be beneficial to integrate our efforts and resources for further studies on the nitrogen issue in strawberries.

The Horticulture Department was also on the list of my meetings and Drs. Piet Stassen, Marius Huysamer, and Gerard Jacobs provided me with a detailed review on the state of the fruit industry in the region and their research needs. We realized the importance of linking nutrient management with fruit quality and hope to develop some collaborative research in that area. Dr. Piet Stassen indicated that he would be visiting Toronto in 2002 to participate in the Horticultural Congress. He expressed his interest in visiting the Niagara region to meet with fruit industry representatives to share his experiences in stone fruit orchard management. I will make the necessary arrangements to host Dr. Stassen in August of 2002 in Vineland.

In addition to my meetings with the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry Soil Science and the Dept. of Horticulture, I met scientists at the Research Station for Viticulture, Horticulture, Enology and Landscape Architecture. The scientists present at the meeting were Dr. Klaus Schaller, the director of the station, Dr. Kobus Conradie (viticulture) and Dr. Martin Fey. The goal of the meeting was to evaluate the current knowledge on nutrient requirements for grape production in the region. We compared the vineyard management methods between the Stellenbosch region and the Niagara region to understand that the same grape cultivars grown in two different climatic zones would require different production methods to ensure wines of equal quality. Some of the differences were based on different approaches to water and soil floor management. All of the scientists stressed the importance of communicating with other parts of the world to enhance our expertise in the area of viticulture and enology.

In summary, Stellenbosch is probably one of the most interesting regions for scientists working in the area of soil science and horticulture. Because of the diversity in soil types and microclimates, the region provides a great opportunity for studies on the impact of environmental stress on fruit crop physiology and soil ecology. The high level of expertise presented by the scientists makes the University of Stellenbosch an ideal place for extended scientific visits and collaborative research. The incredible beauty of the region, which I had a chance to admire while visiting the research plots located outside of the University, plus the very friendly atmosphere of the campus, made my stay a memorable experience. I hope to maintain my contacts and visit the University again in the near future. The time and effort that Dr. Martin Fey spent on organizing my visit is greatly appreciated.
The Guelph library web page has many links to fact sheets and web pages that explain the latest issues and regulations relating to copyright and licensing of intellectual property in various media forms. Faculty, researchers, and students have greater access today than ever before to easily copied and manipulated information. It is very important to be aware of copyright and licensing requirements both to protect one's own creations and to prevent possible legal action relating to misuse of protected material. Copyright laws for print materials are fairly stable, but for electronic creations it is a work in progress, being revised and interpreted to accommodate new digital information formats and electronic licensing situations.

Guelph, as part of the Tri-University group of libraries, has provided several helpful copyright information aids. The library home page “What's Online, E-Reference Tools” Copyright section [http://tug.lib.uoguelph.ca/referencetools/copyright.html](http://tug.lib.uoguelph.ca/referencetools/copyright.html) includes a page of links to Canadian, United States and International copyright information. The most immediately relevant and important is the CANCOPY information. CANCOPY, the Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency, has an agreement with the University by which royalty payments are collected to pay for research copying of printed materials beyond what is allowed by “fair dealing.” Their brochure, “Copying right: A guide for Canada's universities to the complex world of copyright and collective licensing,” explains this process in detail. The full text of the brochure is available at [http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/Broch_97.htm](http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/Broch_97.htm) Copying guidelines which summarize this information and also discuss copying for library reserve, and obtaining copyright clearance are available at [http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/LibEd/newfacultygrad/New_Faculty/copyright.htm](http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/LibEd/newfacultygrad/New_Faculty/copyright.htm). The CANCOPY web site [http://www.cancopy.com](http://www.cancopy.com) has good information on specific issues such as authorship vs ownership and exceptions to copyright. Some types of works such as, unpublished works, negatives, instruction manuals and government documents, are not covered by CANCOPY and the copyright holder must give permission for use.

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A great new corn web site for Ontario, http://www.gocorn.net focuses on emerging corn technologies and agronomy research as well as providing general information on corn production, diseases and pests, harvesting and marketing and related environmental topics. The site, sponsored by the Ontario Corn Producer’s Association http://www.onriotcorn.org, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the University of Guelph, lists Department of Plant Agriculture faculty members Thijs Tollenaar and Liz Lee as corn specialist contacts. Links off the site lead to further corn information resources such as Purdue University’s http://www.kingcorn.org (also known as The Corn Growers’ Guidebook), a web based encyclopedia of knowledge about corn in North America.

Ever wonder how corn mazes are designed and constructed? Try http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/cgg5/maze.htm to have all your questions answered and to look at some pretty amazing examples, including A-Maze-in-Grace, an Indiana cornfield maze sponsored by the Grace Lutheran Church.