I would like to welcome every one to the first newsletter of 2002. The campuses have come alive with student activities, new class beginnings and the preparation and submission of annual reports, final reports and new research proposals. This year, however, will certainly have its challenges as we try to adjust to the new OMAFRA-University partnership. I have been assured that efforts are continuing at many levels to help seek positive solutions to our “budget crunch.”

Perhaps the most profound change to date has been the arrival of our new Dean, Dr. Craig Pearson. Dr. Pearson did his BSc at the University of Western Australia. His MSc was completed in the Department of Crop Science under the guidance of our very own Dr. Tony Hunt and his Ph.D. followed from Macquarie University. He comes to us with a wide range of academic and administrative experiences. In Australia, he was the Chief Scientist in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. As well, he was the former Executive Dean, Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science and Pro Vice Chancellor at the University of Queensland from 1995 to 1999. When he was really inspired, he was a Professor of Agronomy at the University of Sidney from 1985 to 1995. All of this from his humble beginnings in 1968 when the Australian government took a leap of faith and hired him as a wheat and sheep advisor for the Department of Agriculture in Western Australia.

I was very pleased that Dr. Pearson was able to visit our Vineland and Simcoe campuses within the first few weeks of January and at our Guelph location at the end of February. He was welcomed very graciously by the faculty, staff, and students at all campuses. Craig, on behalf of the staff, faculty and students of Plant Agriculture, we wish you a very warm welcome to our University.

I am delighted to have our Department introduce the seminar series “Frontiers in Plant Biology.” I encourage all faculty, staff and students to be part of this innovative series which runs from March 4 to April 8.

On a final note, I wish to extend a special welcome to Lewis Lukens. Dr. Lukens is our new faculty member who will be working within the discipline of bioinformatics. He will join our faculty on April 1st.
Walking in a Winter Wonderland?

BY JEREMY FRIEDBERG

What a winter, we laughed, we cried, it was better than Cats! We had winter holidays, the Olympics and field conditions that were as useful to a low temperature stress researcher as sock puppets and an interpretive dance! Although it seemed as though we skipped fall and most of winter… rest assured that earth is still revolving around the sun and spring will soon be upon us. So hats off to those of us studying the effects of low temperature stress and don’t forget to book an appointment with your local statistical masseuse.

As for reading week, which for the first time one can safely refer to as spring break I spent most of my time in the lab. I’ve been inadvertently working on the alfalfa genome sequencing project 800bp at a time. Needless to say, I might as well have been out mowing the lawn. But, alas, I’m in good spirits as I just saw the movie “The Lord of the Rings” for my second time. In this movie lovers opinion “The Lord of the Rings” is pretty much the best movie of the year but possibly second only to Crossroads, staring Britney Spears which against better judgment, I’ll be viewing tonight. Clearly, it is my imperative duty to view this film and file a report in the next newsletter. Oh… you all pretend you don’t like her, but I know… you’re in the car alone and you start singing along to “…hit me baby one more time.”

I’m looking to expand the graduate student field of the department newsletter to something beyond my humble ramblings. So those who are interested in writing for this section please send me an email. Let me know your ideas, suggestions or things you might want to do. Strangely enough one day I too might even graduate and someone else will be needed to ramble. But until that day, remember… where ever you go that’s where you are!!!

Movie Line Contest

The winner of the last movie line contest was Kris Mahoney, Kevin Vander Kooi and Shannon Campbell:


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 can’t believe you did this McFly. I can’t believe you loaned me your car without telling me it had a blind spot. I could have been killed!
2. If she can stand it, I can. Play it! (Sam) Yes, boss.
3. I went to the woods because I wanted to live deliberately. To live deep and suck out all the marrow of life.
4. You can destroy the Emperor. He has foreseen this. It is your destiny. Join me, and together we can rule the galaxy as father and son. Come with me. It is the only way.

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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


**Urbee Shomer**

So you want to know a little about me. Alright then—go ahead and pull a quarter out of your wallet. Why? Only because, like that coin, I actually have two sides. I could be relaxing with my closest pals, enjoying a frothy pint while watching “Hockey Night in Canada.” But flip that coin over, and you could very well find me practicing Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance form, in my basement at home. Born in India, I spent my early childhood there imbibing Indian traditions and customs. Although they’re ingrained in me forever, coming to Canada has broadened my perspective and shaped me into the person that I am.

Why do I say that? Well, for one thing, my horizons truly broadened through the quality education I was fortunate enough to receive here. My high school education at M.I.N.D. (Moving in New Directions) in Montreal prepared me well for my future studies. A degree in the Sciences from Marianopolis College in Montreal gave me several valuable tools with which to tackle my university education. My undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences from McMaster University of Hamilton, Ontario made the transition to graduate studies smooth and painless. I also learnt discipline and perseverance at Nrithyalaya, my dance school in Montreal. I truly believe they are both essential tools for attaining one’s goals.

Speaking about goals, I have seldom strayed far from mine. This has been due mainly to the patient guidance and boundless affection of the two most important people in my life—my parents. I would also not be complete without the inspiration of my academic mentors and my dance instructor. Together, they have fueled my many aspirations and values. In addition, whatever little I have achieved would not have been possible without the love and support of my many precious friends. All of these influences—combined with a strong love for nature and concern for the environment—have guided me into the Master’s program in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph. I am grateful for my time here under the careful supervision and guidance of extremely intelligent, kind and generous people. With their help, I hope to gain further insights into the field of science.

I will end with a quote from one of my favorite authors: “I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I intended to be.” ~ Douglas Adams ~

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**Kris Mahoney**

In 1992, I was a freshman at Lac qui Parle Valley High School near Madison, Minnesota. If my inept guidance counsellor would have said, “In 10 years, you will have already spent seven years in college and in the year 2002 you will be a Ph.D. student in a foreign country, attending a university on a scholarship, and living over 1000 miles southeast of the family farm near Appleton,” I would have thought that he was crazy, or possibly drunk. But, whether I thought he was insane or a stewed prune, he would have been right.

I attended North Dakota State University at Fargo, North Dakota for six years and earned a BSc in May 1999 and a MSc in December 2001. My Masters thesis was entitled: “Biology of Biennial Wormwood.” It was fun to write and, I assure you, equally fun to read. Stop by and check it out someday when it gets back from being bound.

Here at the University of Guelph, I am under the hawk-like eye of C. J. Swanton, weed science’s top dog this year. I am following my interest in weed biology and ecology by studying the effect of light quality on common lambsquarters. In October 2001, I was awarded the Mary Edmunds Williams Scholarship and am very grateful.

Currently, I am a board member in the GSA representing Plant Agriculture. My other activities include the Variety Club and the Canadianification of my backwards American English courtesy of the Weed’s Lab: learning the “correct” spelling of color, flavor, neighbor, labor, mold, program, center, and theater; pronouncing root like boot, not foot, and route like moot, not gout; and vocalizing question marks. Also, while I’m here, I want to know what’s this curling thing all about, eh?
I was born in Nanjing, a beautiful city along the Yangzhi River in China. Later, our family moved back to my father’s birthplace, a small town in Sichuan, traveling through the amazing Yangzhi Gorge. My childhood was full of happiness. I enjoyed everything I had: my family, my friends, local operas and books.

After high school, I finally made up my mind to study in Southwest Agricultural University on soil and agro-chemistry, a completely different subject than my original wish – to be a kindergarten teacher. My father thought I was too young to handle little kids. Therefore, saying goodbye to my family, I packed up and traveled to a new city for the next four years. I loved soil science. In Sichuan, there were lots of unique sites to explore on this subject. I did my BSc thesis work in a remote village in the west of Sichuan, quite close to Tibet. That was an excellent chance to apply what I’d learned. Of course, I didn’t miss the wonderful view of high mountains, crowds of sheep, primitive forestry and minority people there. I also became more and more interested in learning English, thanks to the encouragement of my English teacher. As part of my campus life, I was a basketball player on the department and university team.

After my graduation, I moved to Beijing, the capital city in China. I had a job of environmental monitoring. Beijing was a fascinating city. What I was touched most by was the old culture there. Whether I climbed onto the Great Wall, or walked in the Forbidden City, I would feel so proud of the ancient China. Occasionally, some foreign friends would ask if I’d ever been abroad. They thought I should see other places in this world because I could communicate in English.

So I moved again. This time I left for the Netherlands, a beautiful country in Europe. I spent two years in Wageningen University, doing a study on aquatic ecology. When I was in China, we monitored environment in a chemical way. In Holland, I was glad to learn to monitor the environment in an ecological way. I had a very good experience there. Besides, it allowed me to have a chance to travel around Europe and develop more friendships.

My curiosity about this world has not ended yet. I told my parents that I still wanted to go to North America, so I could have a close look at it. A good friend of mine invited me to come here to Guelph. The University of Guelph’s, Ontario Agricultural College has a very good reputation, and even my former supervisors in Wageningen liked the idea. So, I am here in Guelph, in the Department of Plant Agriculture, horticulture division. Currently, I am doing a MSc project with Dr. Danny Lee Rinker, on pesticide degradation in composting for mushroom compost preparation using recycled water. Environmental protection was the topic I selected all the time. I like to study here in our department, with excellent research facilities and study atmosphere. Together, I hope we will make progress everyday.
I was born in the land of the midnight sun and the northern lights, Iceland. I grew up on my parents' farm, Hólabak, which is a dairy and horse breeding farm. After finishing junior college in Akureyri, which is the largest town in northern Iceland, I went to Reykjavik for University. After a year of exploration at the University of Iceland I decided to join the Agricultural College at Hvanneyri, a small college in rural Iceland. In 1996, I received my agricultural diploma and in 1999 my BSc degree in agricultural sciences. In the spring of 1999, I received a one-year research grant to study agronomy management practices for dairy farms and was hired by the Hvanneyri College to teach agricultural chemistry and agricultural marketing.

In August of 2000, my fiancé, Elín Aradóttir, and I arrived in Canada to join the University of Guelph for our MSc studies. I started my program at the Department of Plant Agriculture in the fall of 2000 working on barley breeding with Dr. Duane Falk. In my project I am trying to improve lodging resistance in barley through indirect selection for straw characteristics.

It is a pleasure to study at the University of Guelph. Working with Duane Falk and other faculty members has proved inspiring and meeting students from all over the world has been very interesting. I have been very fortunate and received great financial support for my studies, the Bullick Scholarship in the fall of 2000 and 2001, and the Soden Memorial Scholarship in the fall of 2001.

In my spare time I enjoy all kinds of sports activities, reading and playing chess and bridge. Elín and I have also done a lot of traveling. Once in a while I get an opportunity to swing my fly fishing rod—usually with poor results.

My plans after graduation are to return to Iceland and work on agricultural research and extension. Eventually we hope to buy a small farm where we can enjoy the quiet rural life.

Karrie Thomas-Granger was born almost 24 years ago (a March baby) in the Honeymoon capital of the world—good old Niagara Falls. From a young girl, Karrie was interested in nature. Her dad used to take her ‘turtle hunting’ in the creek behind their house. Of course, they always let the turtles go (they were snapping turtles, mind you!!). Karrie also spent a lot of time nursing bunnies and birds back to health after her cat was finished playing with them.

In high school, Karrie’s interest in ecology and the environment grew. She was the coordinator of the environmental club where she organized earth day activities and developed educational programs for the elementary schools in the area.

Originally, Karrie came to Guelph to be a vet. All of the bunnies and birds she saved as a child inspired her. However, once she got here, she entered into another world that she found much more stimulating and rewarding. Changing her major from molecular biology to ecology, Karrie continued on the journey that had its roots back in turtle hunting—ecology. In her third year, Karrie entered Dr. Larry Peterson’s lab (Botany Department) where she became fascinated with mycorrhiza and endophytes. For her fourth year thesis, she spent a lot of time driving all over south-central Ontario, desperately searching for White Pine and “stomatal fungi.”

Karrie is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in the Department of Plant Agriculture with Dr. Glen Lumis and Theo Blom. She is working on a tropical plant from the Niagara Falls Butterfly Conservatory. Her thesis investigates flowering and nectar production in the plant used by the Conservatory to feed adult butterflies. Although her master’s is not in ecology, Karrie finds the interactions between butterflies and plants extremely interesting and exciting.

In her spare time, Karrie likes to ride horses and hike. Karrie hopes to pursue a career in education or research. Ideally, she would like a job that combines these two aspects.
Dr. Lewis Lukens will start his faculty position in Plant Bioinformatics in the Department of Plant Agriculture on April 1, 2002.

He is currently a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow in bioinformatics at the Department of Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin. He received his Ph.D. in plant biology from the University of Minnesota in 2000. He also received a B.A. in German literature in 1992.

He has a longstanding interest in computers and programming. When he was younger, his family lived in a university town in Connecticut, and he would write programs at the university's computer lab. His interest in biological research developed later. After an undergraduate career that was largely focused on the study of literature and history, an excellent biology class and independent research experience won him over to the sciences.

Lewis will move to Guelph with his wife Joannah O'Hatnick, whom he met in Minnesota. Joannah has an M.A. in education. She currently works at a local university in Madison as an instructor and administrator.

Outside of research, Lewis enjoys skiing and playing squash, tennis and basketball. He also races in marathons and hopes to continue running at Guelph. Joannah and Lewis enjoy traveling to both urban and sparsely settled destinations. Recent trips include hiking the canyons in southwestern U.S. and traveling to France, Bosnia, and Croatia. They look forward to exploring Canada.

In his current research, Lewis is developing PERL programs and statistical methods to compare crop plants to model plant species. This work has facilitated the transfer of biological information from a small number of intensely studied model species to crop plants. He has also published research on the characteristics of quantitative trait loci and the use of molecular evolution analyses to understand gene function. In addition, his research has a component in molecular biology and genetics. Currently, Lewis is using microarrays to examine flowering time variation in rapeseed (Brassica napus) and examining the molecular and genetic changes associated with Brassica polyploidization.

Both Joannah and Lewis look forward to moving to Guelph.

Lewis’ office is located in the Crop Science building on the Guelph Campus. He can be contacted by telephone at (519) 824-4120 ext. 3574 or by email at llukens@uoguelph.ca
From there Shirley and Gord went to Michigan State University. Three great years and many friends later he receive his Ph.D. This was in forest entomology and his research was on the variable oak leaf caterpillar, a major pest at that time.

Shirley and Gord were set to go to California when Freeman McEwen phoned to ask if he would be interested in a Guelph position in medical veterinary entomology. In August 1976, they arrived back and Gord was immediately immersed in St. Louis encephalitis research (a disease much like West Nile today). He proceeded through the ranks both in research and teaching with many excellent graduate students. Shirley and Gord bought an old house in Fergus where they have lived for twenty-five years.

Gord also did a considerable amount of research on veterinary pests and houseflies. In this venue he learned not to use problems as an excuse for good science but rather good science as a way to help producers. He spent many an hour with farmers understanding their day to day chores and both learned to respect their innate knowledge and he believes gain their respect.

He slowly became involved with OASCC committees and eventually became the Chair of the Ontario Pest Management Committee. Again, he helped convince government to provide dollars to solve problems. Gord became heavily involved in Food Systems 2002 to reduce pesticide use by 50%. It's now fifteen years later and they have nearly reached that objective and IPM is an integral part of management. The key was 100% elimination of needless use but defend proper use of quality products.

In the early 1990’s Gord was asked to chair the Environmental Farm Coalition. They now have over 20,000 farm families who have done an Environmental Farm Plan and 12,500 who have gone through peer review. Our farmers and governments are justifiably proud of this achievement.

In 1993, Gord was asked to consider being Plant Programs Leader for the OMAFRA agreement. He thinks one reason was that both horticulture and crop science wanted a "non bias" program chair. Gord served five years under some difficult budget constraints and amalgamations. He always felt that he was fair but blunt and made difficult decisions that had to be made.

During this time as Plant Leader, with considerable push from grower associations, they created Ontario Agri-Food Technologies and brought Dr. Murray McLaughlin (then Deputy Minister Agriculture – Saskatchewan) back to Ontario to head the organization. Gord was asked to serve as Chairman of the Board.

At the end of his terms as Plant Programs Leader he was asked by the newly formed Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology to lead as secretariat a biotechnology task force for Ontario. It was a hectic three months in which he got to know many from the medical and pharmaceutical communities. Recommendations were made that government did act on.

Dr. McLaughlin moved on the head Foragen a major investment fund in Guelph related to forestry agriculture and the environment. Gord was asked by the Board to become the President. With permission from the Dean of OAC and President of the University of Guelph, he served a two year secondment as President and is in his second two year secondment today. Gord finds the job exciting as he sees good science, excellent business people and still works with many farm organizations that are part of Ontario Agri-Food Technologies.

During his career Gord has received the T.E. Hilliard Award for Outstanding Agriculture Extension, OAC alumni teaching award and most recently a $1 million donation for the Surgeoner Chair in Innovative Life Sciences.

Gord has enjoyed teaching, graduate students, superb technical/secretarial assistance and dialogue with colleagues and farmers.

Throughout, his wife Shirley and family have made this possible and he is deeply indebted to them.

Gord's office is located in the OMAFRA building at 1 Stone Road. He can be reached by tel: (519) 826-4195 and e-mail: boaft@sentex.net.
The Soybean Lab in the Department of Plant Agriculture builds upon a long tradition of soybean breeding and genetics research at the University of Guelph. Several breeders in the past, Drs. Wally Beversdorf, Jack Tanner, Bruce Luzzi and Dave Hume have set the stage for the development of some of the most productive soybean varieties in Ontario and other parts of Canada in the past two decades. To mention but a few, OAC Bayfield, Bicentennial, OAC Vision and many others.

Currently, the soybean lab is headed by Professor Istvan Rajcan, who took over the breeding program in March of 1998. Istvan received his B.Sc. in Agriculture in 1988 from the University of Novi Sad in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. The University of Novi Sad is centered in one of the most fertile areas of south-central Europe, the Pannonian Plaines (once a seabed a long while ago), which spreads through most of Hungary and parts of what’s today Yugoslavia, Croatia and Romania. This location and attachment to the land, has prompted Istvan’s interest in agricultural research, despite growing up in a sizable city.

After graduation, Istvan worked as a research assistant in sunflower breeding (still the largest oil crop in Yugoslavia) in the Department of Oil Crops at the University of Novi Sad and moved to Canada at the end of 1991 to pursue graduate studies the following year at the University of Guelph. He started his project with Dr. Wally Beversdorf on canola breeding and biotechnology, switched from a Master’s to a Ph. D. in 1993 and defended it in August 1996, under the co-supervision of Drs. Beversdorf and Kasha. Toward the end of his Ph.D. project, he worked briefly as a post-doctoral fellow with Dr. Laima Kott on self-incompatibility based hybrids in canola.

From September 1996 to March 1998, he worked in industry as a specialty oilseed breeder at the Research & Development of...
the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in Saskatoon, Sask. While enjoying his short stint in the seed industry, Istvan decided that he missed the academic environment and interaction with students and faculty that universities offer.

Istvan joined the Department of Plant Agriculture as a soybean breeder in March 1998. Since then, 15 new varieties of soybeans have been released from his program, including OAC Clinton, OAC Kent, OAC Oxford and, most recently, OAC Champion. The breeding effort on these lines were initiated by his predecessors, who all share in their development.

Beside developing new soybean varieties for Ontario producers, Istvan is very interested in other aspects of basic and applied soybean research. His current research is centered around two major topic areas, disease resistance and seed quality traits in soybean. Intertwined in all this is his interest in using molecular markers to understand the inheritance of major agronomic and seed quality traits in soybeans, so that they could be more easily manipulated to produce highly productive, stable and/or value-added new varieties.

In this effort, he is very fortunate to have a large team of dedicated and hard working people, consisting of technicians Wade Montminy, Cal Klager, research assistants Julia Zilka, Yasenia Salazar and Vicky Godfrey, as well as six graduate students, whose projects will be briefly mentioned in this article. Some of these people have been around for almost two decades making a huge contribution to the soybean breeding program and ‘surviving’ a range of supervising faculty including the latest one.

As for graduate students, Jérôme Auclair (co-advised by Dr. Greg Boland) is a Ph.D. candidate in Istvan’s lab working on a project involving pathogenicity of Sclerotinia sclerotiorum (causing white mould) and molecular marker mapping of resistance genes to white mould; Guangyun Hou (co-advised by Dr. Peter Pauls) is a Ph.D. candidate working on the development of molecular markers for studying the effects of various fatty acid mutants altering soybean seed oil quality; Valerio Primomo is a Ph.D. student studying the genetics of isoflavonoid accumulation in soybean seeds to produce value-added functional food products; Elizabeth Trebovac (co-advised by Dr. Paul Goodwin) is working on a Master’s project involving the effects of genes from isoflavonoid pathway on resistance to two major diseases in soybean, white mould and Phytophthora rot; Aron Weir is working toward a Master’s degree in the area of genetic mapping of genes for high protein and high linolenic acid content in the wild progenitor of soybean (Glycine soja) to facilitate development of food grade (tofu, soy-milk) and industrial soybean products; and, Guying Zhao is a Ph.D. candidate (co-advised by Dr. Art Schaalma) who is interested in the variation of isolates of Rhizoctonia solani on Ontario soybeans and developing quantitative trait loci (QTL) for resistance to this increasingly important disease of soybeans. A visiting student from Austria, Heinrich Wohleser is also doing his Master’s project on the variation of minor components with nutraceutical properties in soybean seeds, which hewill be defending at Vienna University in May, 2002. This fine group of students provide a constant source of inspiration and new ideas for the soybean research in Istvan’s lab. Most of them are able to use the facilities of a molecular lab that he shares with colleagues Drs. Elizabeth Lee and François Tardif.

Overall, if there is one word to characterize Istvan’s work it is - collaboration. He collaborates with a number of faculty in his and other departments at Guelph, scientists at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, and industry in Canada and in the United States, Germany, Austria, UK, China, Turkey, and Croatia. He believes that the complexity of scientific endeavor calls for a sharing of ideas and resources to address many questions in a comprehensive way, which comes more readily by pooling of expertise and resources. An example is a group of 10 scientists from the University of Guelph, AAFC, and industry working on several aspects of isoflavones in soybeans, which Istvan is fortunate to coordinate. Istvan maintains a very close relationship with the Ontario Soybean Growers’, who are providing substantial funding to his research program along with SeCan, OMAFRA and a number of industry partners representing Ontario seed and fertilizer industries.
After attending St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School, Abe went right into helping out on the family farm along with his two older brothers. It was after the Second World War and the depression hit hard on many, including the Weier family. They were a family of eight children, five boys and three girls with Abe being the third oldest child.

In 1954, Abe moved to Manitoba where he worked on a grain farm. He thought he would like to try something different and changed the direction of his career for a while and drove truck. He moved back to St. Catharines in 1964 with his family and ultimately went back into the career he loved, farming.

In 1978, Abe’s career with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs began at the then Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario (HRIO) in Vineland. His first position was that of an Agricultural Worker until 1984 when he became Assistant Foreman. When HRIO became part of the University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Abe took on more responsibilities and was made Farm Foreman at the Department’s Vineland Campus under the direction of Ray Kaczmarski, Station Manager.

Originally from Beamsville, only a stone’s throw from the Vineland Campus, Abe and the love of his life for the past 44 years, Liz, reside in St. Catharines. Abe and Liz have three children. The oldest, Kathy, lives in Saskatchewan and works for Federated Coop in Kelliher. Next is Charlene who resides in Penetanguishene, Ontario and works in a chiropractic office. The youngest, Keith, lives in St. Catharines and works for the Region of Niagara.

Abe and Liz have seen their family grow over the years to include seven grandchildren (Jennifer, Janet, Brent, Warren, Brad, Brianne and Rebecca), and one great grandchild (Aiden).

Abe spends his time away from work traveling, woodworking, and helping Liz out with her thriving craft business which she does above and beyond her full time position as head cashier at a local A&P grocery store for the past 27 years. They love to travel throughout Canada with a couple of weeks every year spent in Florida (gearing up for retirement no doubt).

When Abe retires in August 2002 he plans to spend more time with his family, travel more and keep up with those hobbies of his.

Abe has contributed greatly to the success of the Vineland Campus. The skill with which he performs his duties, above and beyond what is expected of him, along with his friendly and open personality, will be truly missed by us all.

Abe’s office is located in the Research Services Building in Vineland and he can be reached at tel: (905) 562-4141, ext. 191.

Current and back issues of this newsletter are available at: http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/news.html#Newsletter
So, you got that new computer for Christmas, congratulations! But did you buy any new furniture (i.e. desk, chair) to go with that computer? Whether your computer is in your office, the lab, or located at home, have you ever thought about "computer ergonomics"?

Do you experience physical discomfort when working at your computer for long stretches of time? By adjusting your workspace and work habits, you can ward off repetitive motion injury syndrome, back pain, and eye-strain before they start.

Here are a few simple things to check. Remember the saying “an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.”

Adjust your chair and monitor height

If your neck and shoulders hurt at the end of the day, take a look at your workstation. First, get yourself, keyboard and monitor centered! What needs adjusting may depend on restrictions on where you can have the monitor or even where your feet/legs can go. Make sure the center of the screen, the “GH” keys of the keyboard (not the physical center of the keyboard) and your chair are aligned.

Next:
• Your seat height should allow your feet to rest on the floor, hips slightly higher than knees. You should be able to lean slightly back against the backrest with your lumbar curve well supported with an inch of clearance behind your knees. If you have multiple users at the machine, then the chair may have to be adjusted for each user. Take the time to check BEFORE you are fatigued.
• The top of the monitor should be 10-20 cm (4-9") below eye level, tilted slightly upward. This allows your head to tilt slightly downward, alleviating eye and neck strain. Putting the monitor on a simple box or old telephone book may get you at the right height. Have you considered getting a larger monitor? Recheck the above if you do upgrade.
• Position your keyboard so that your forearms are comfortably perpendicular to the floor. Hunched shoulders and tightly angled elbows cause pinched nerves and inflamed tendons. Having the keyboard properly aligned with respect to the chair may mean some alterations to the desk and even adding a keyboard tray/drawer. Again, keep in mind multiple users and their body sizes.

Continued on Page 12...
The right keyboard makes a difference

If you spend long periods of time at a computer, then using flat keyboards and a mouse requires rapid repeated motions of many tiny muscles and other soft tissues, leading to inflamed tendons.

If you do a lot of typing, consider reconfiguring your keyboard. Conventional keyboards force your palms to face downwards and parallel. The newer “tented” keyboards, which are split and angled, allow your wrists to assume their neutral position: palms facing and turned slightly towards each other.

As you type, let your hands float over the keyboard, moving from your shoulder rather than wrist (another benefit of good keyboard positioning!). The keyboard surface and your forearms should be parallel, so that your wrists are extended but not bent. Also:

• Keep your hands centered on the keyboard; when you twist your hands to the side to reach certain keys, your wrist undergoes stress.
• Use fingers from both hands for uncomfortable key combinations (i.e. shift or control key combinations and of course ctrl/alt/del to reboot).
• Try the keyboard without its elevating feet extended (i.e. flat). This may turn out to be better positioning for your wrists.

Where’s the mouse?

The mouse should be positioned so your elbow is bent at 90° and the forearm is still 90° in front of your body. In other words: you shouldn’t have to reach forward or to the side to use the mouse. Keyboards with integrated “touch pads” are a good replacement for general mouse activity.

Use proper lighting

Proper lighting can alleviate eye and neck strain. A low, even distribution of reflective light is best, with the area around the screen darker than the screen itself and no glare on the screen. Set up task lighting to shine directly on paperwork with the same brightness as the screen. Be careful about the orientation of your screen with respect to a window. When positioning your monitor/computer take into account any glare from morning or afternoon sun or will you be staring at the screen with bright sunlight behind the monitor.

Even with optimal lighting, eyes get fatigued looking at the screen all day. To avoid eyestrain:

• Look away from your screen from time to time.
• Blink frequently so your eyes don’t dry out.
• Make sure to get periodical eye exams.
• If you wear glasses or contact lenses, keep your prescription up to date. Keep your eye glasses clean. Staring through a dirty spot or scratch all day will add to the eye strain.

Continued on Page 13...
**Stretch often**

Paradoxically, sitting still for a long time is as fatiguing as strenuous work, even with an ideal ergonomic workspace. Muscles are meant to move, so stretch and take breaks. Leaning forward for too long strains back and jaw muscles. Protruding your head in front of your body overworks neck muscles, pinching nerves that extend to the tips of your fingers. Throughout the day, breathe deeply to improve circulation and relax tight muscles.

**Final instructions**

If you are experiencing pain that you think could be related to computer use or if you require physiotherapy, call Gisele MacNeil in Occupational Health at the University of Guelph at (519) 824-4120, ext. 2133. Supervisors who would like training sessions, or employees who wish to borrow an ergonomics video or the book “Repetitive Strain Injury - A Computer User's Guide” should also contact her.

There is also an upcoming Human Resources Staff Development course: WORKSTATION ERGONOMICS: PROMOTING HEALTH AND PREVENTING INJURY offered Tuesday, April 9, 2002 (9:00 a.m. to noon). Refer to: [http://www.uoguelph.ca/HR/training/Booklet2.pdf](http://www.uoguelph.ca/HR/training/Booklet2.pdf)

**References**

- Remember how Mom always told you to sit up straight? You should have listened, Lisa Lisle, At Guelph, [http://www.uoguelph.ca/atguelph/96-11-13/ergo.html](http://www.uoguelph.ca/atguelph/96-11-13/ergo.html)  
- Computer Ergonomics: Living with computers, Dr. Charles Daniels, D.C. [http://www.klis.com/computers+health](http://www.klis.com/computers+health)  
- Computer Workstation, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) [http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/computerworkstations_ecat/](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/computerworkstations_ecat/)
CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Clarence Swanton on being awarded the Weed Science Society of America’s Outstanding Researcher Award!

CONGRATULATIONS to Henk and Mieke Wichers on the birth of a healthy, 9 lb 3 ounce baby boy. Stephan Joseph Wichers was born on Sunday, February 17, 2002 at 4:00 a.m. Henk, Mieke, and Stephan are all doing well.

HORTICULTURAL JOBS FAIR 2002

Here are some of the people responsible for this year’s Horticultural Jobs Fair:


The Horticultural Jobs Fair held on January 30, 2002 in the University Centre Courtyard was by all accounts a resounding success. Thirty-three employers attended. They were kept busy talking to a constant stream of students and other members of the community who had seen the job fair advertised in the newspaper. There were a wide variety of jobs available, ranging from golf courses to landscape construction, garden centres and greenhouse production. The Hort Club and University of Guelph’s Landscape Ontario Student Chapter did the majority of the organizing for this event along with Department of Plant Agriculture’s Rodger Tschanz and Deb Hilborn. Plans are already in the works for Horticultural Jobs Fair 2003!
CONGRATULATIONS to the faculty listed below for their URA and USRA awarded Projects.

**URA Projects**

**Dr. E. Ann Clark:** Weed Population Dynamics in Organic Grown Cereals in Southern Ont

**Dr. John Cline:** Regulation of Flowering and Manipulation of Fruiting of Prunus Species, with Particular Reference to Prunus Persica L. (Peach)

**Dr. Julie Dionne:** Integrating Biologically Based Strategies for Turfgrass Insect Pest Management

**Dr. Allan Sullivan:** Characterization and Introgression of Fragaria Species Hybrids into the Cultivated Strawberry

**Dr. Clarence Swanton:** Evaluation of New Weed Control Options for Ontario Corn Producers

**USRA Projects**

**Dr. Peter Pauls:** Evaluating the Role of Ethylene in Tomato Resistance to Disease

**Dr. Barry Shelp:** Biochemical Characterization of Three GABA Transaminase Isoforms in Tomato

**Dr. Judith Strommer:** Enhancing Antioxidant Production in Grapes

**Dr. François Tardif:** Diagnostic Tools for the Detection of Acetolactate Synthase-Inhibiting Herbicide Resistance in Weeds: Amaranthus Sp. as Model Species

**Dr. Thys Tollenaar:** Stress Tolerance in Corn

**Dr. David Wolyn:** cDNA-AFLP Analysis of Petaloid Cytoplasmic Male Sterile and Restored Lines of Carrot

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**WINNERS OF THE PROFAC WINTER OLYMPICS CONTEST**

Erika Ankersmit, Abe Weier, Carol Friesen

Profac is responsible for the maintenance of the buildings at the Vineland Campus.
Sakura Project

Plans are underway for a Sakura Garden at the Vineland Campus. A ceremony, that will be attended by the Consul General of Japan, will take place in Vineland on May 28, 2002.

Congratulations to Dr. Emil Andersen and his wife Anne for their continued contributions to horticulture and to their community.

Dr. Emil T. Andersen, retired Chief Scientist of the former HRIO, received the Resident of the Year Award at the annual conference of the Ontario Residential Care Association (ORCA) on March 4 2002. The inscription on the plaque presented to Emil reads, "In recognition of your life long achievements and contributions to the quality of life through continued involvement within your community and facility." In addition to his achievements in Alberta, Manitoba, Minnesota, and Ontario as a teacher and scientist, Emil was singled out for the work completed over the past two years in the development of the Millennium Forest on the Vineland Campus of the University of Guelph.

In addition to the plaque, Emil was presented with a basket of 'Honeycrisp' apples contributed by Dr. John Cline from our Simcoe Campus where this new cultivar is under test. Emil contributed to the development of this outstanding new cultivar while on the faculty of the University in Minnesota.

COMING EVENTS

Canada Blooms - March 13 to 17, 2002 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. Check them out at: 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/OMAFRA/ipmconference/


Canada's Outdoor Farm Show - September 10 to 12, 2002 at the University of Guelph Research Station, Woodstock, Ontario. Check them out at: http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com

The Learning Commons: Support for Students and Instructors

Like many good things in the library, the Learning Commons is not immediately visible to the casual visitor. Tucked away in the corner of the 1st floor to the left of the reference desk, the Learning Commons offers a comprehensive array of services to support student learning, writing, and research. These services are offered through the combined efforts of Student Affairs, the Library, and Teaching Support Services. If you or someone you know needs help with learning strategies, computer technology, exam stress, time management, writing skills, English as a second language, or if anyone has special needs due to a disability, this should be the first stop.

Staffed by library and education professionals, as well as student peer group helpers, assistance is provided in a confidential and non-threatening atmosphere through a variety of flexible programs. The peer group helpers staff the commons desk, provide computer technology support in the Library Forster Room Multimedia Lab, lead study sessions for selected courses and provide writing assistance for first-year students.

The Student Technology Consultant Program offered in the Forster Room assists students to learn to use computer technology effectively and improve their computer skills to support course work. The program also promotes effective use of electronic resources, the Web, databases and ejournals.

Supported Learning Groups allow students to be a part of a well-organized productive study group session led by trained peer helpers. SLG courses are listed at http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/slg/courses.htm. A series of weekly review sessions focus on courses that have historically been considered difficult such as Mathematics and Statistics.

The Learning Commons supports English as a Second Language services. The Conversation Partners Project provides opportunities for English language practice and cultural sharing. ESL graduate students and international teaching assistants are supported with a range of services, including writing skills and communication courses. Individual consultations to assess needs are available.

The examSMART Program offers courses and assistance to help counteract exam anxiety and to develop effective study and exam writing strategies. In addition to individual help the examSMART resource list suggests books and tapes to assist in reducing academic stress and anxiety.

The Library Centre for Students with Disabilities is also part of the Learning Commons. The Centre offers consultation and support through adaptive software, alternate format material, library and reference help, library book and article retrieval, tape player loans, and locker space.

Information literacy is provided by the library through the Learning Commons. Everyone, staff, students and faculty need to develop the ability to find, evaluate and use the information they need in a timely and effective manner. The information literacy coordinator is Janet Kaufman ext. 6802. Through this program the full capability of the Guelph University Library resources can be realized. Subject specific information classes for faculty to use in their courses can also be arranged.

For further information on the Learning Commons activities visit the home page. Browse the Fastfax handouts at this site or pick up paper copies at the office in the library for a quick review of what the Commons offers. Some Fastfax topics are: Concentration, Managing Nervousness in Oral Presentations, Making a Task List, Controlling Procrastination. Don't delay. Let the Learning Commons help you make the education experience and the academic environment positive and rewarding.
WEB SIGHTS

by Judy Wanner and Jeremy Friedberg

Potatoes are on the Web at the “Global Potato News” web site http://www.potatonews.com. This recently redesigned site is a major resource for the potato industry and potato researchers. Look for international potato market news, trends, and statistics, as well as PRO – Potato Research Online. Included in this site are potato discussion forums and access to a database of web pages relevant to potatoes.

For other commodities and international food industry links try “World Food-Net” at http://www.worldfoodnet.com. Described as the world’s largest virtual community and trade show for the food industry, this site has an impressive group of resources including “Industry Links” http://www.worldfoodnet.com/resources/links.asp that lists food and commodity associations, food industry magazines and journals and food related government agencies. This site also carries discussion forums, a job center, an event calendar, and a bookstore.

Jeremy Friedberg and Jeremy Murray have been continuing the development of a Department of Plant Agriculture web page collection of commonly used web resources. The web page is in its early stages. The page deals primarily with molecular information. There is a need to collect these resources in a common location, but if there is interest it can be expanded to other areas of web resources commonly used in the department.

Jeremy and Jeremy wanted to let all know that the page has been revised and updated and they are looking for some feedback on its layout, ease of use and anything that you feel you would like to see added. You can view the page at the following address:

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

Thanks to everyone,
Jeremy Friedberg and Jeremy Murray
The past few months within the Department has been highlighted by two major events. This past winter semester we launched the first ever Plant Agriculture seminar series. Dr. Manish Raizada was instrumental in working with our Departmental seminar committee to bring this series of lecturers together. This seminar series was very well attended and the response, particularly from our graduate student body, was very encouraging. It is my hope that we will be able to continue with this seminar series this coming year so that we can “make a difference” in the educational opportunities for our graduate students, staff, and faculty.

Despite the slow start to spring and our field operations for this growing season the Department has been very active in hiring summer students. We now have approximately 100 students employed by our Department working in jobs as diverse as maintenance of field operations to the isolation of gene promoters. Many of our faculty have been very successful in obtaining new grants and contracts which have resulted in numerous new employment opportunities.

Our Department’s web page is “under construction.” This is our window to the rest of the world and I am very pleased that Sara Deckert is using her computer talents to help promote our Department. Our new web page will be particularly useful in recruiting new graduate students. In addition, this page will include linkages to our undergraduate programs, faculty web pages, employment opportunities, Departmental news and more. This project will be completed by the end of this summer semester.

Rohit Makhijani is also working for the Department this summer. Rohit is helping to generate course outlines and lecture notes using Web CT. This is an interactive computer format which will help provide easier access to course material and enhance the learning opportunities for our undergraduate students.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to four new students who joined our graduate program for this spring semester: Karine Pare (MSc) with Dr. Julie Dionne; Chris Knight (MSc) with Dr. Art Schaafsma; Rebecca Harbut (MSc) and Ian Affleck (MSc) with Dr. Al Sullivan; and one student, Sean Westerveld, will be continuing with us and doing his PhD with Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald.

Best wishes to Cecilio Gregorio who retired May 1st after many years of dedicated service to this Department and the University.

On a final note, I wish to extend a special welcome to Dr. Jayasankar Subramanian. Dr. Subramanian is our new faculty member who will be working within the discipline of tree fruit genetics. He will join our faculty on August 15th.
... and where was I?
BY JEREMY FRIEDBERG

(Written during southern Ontario’s very cold mid-May.)

So here I am… not a cloud in the sky and its 35ºC or as the locals say, 90 something Fahrenheit. I asked for a pop and got a strange look and a soda. After trying to explain what a pint was I got a glass of beer. And nobody here has any clue what a bloody caesar is! Honestly… you give someone a centimeter and they take a kilometer! Yes, I’m writing from the United States of America, Gainesville, Florida to be exact. I’m here doing some collaborative research. But amongst my metric difficulties with the local dialect, the southern hospitality has been fantastic. I’ve tasted alligator tail, grits (which is still a mystery as to what they are) and the ever popular southern fried everything. Looks like I picked the wrong week to quit carrying my defibrillator!

I’m working here at the University of Florida for a couple of weeks and it’s a huge place. There are 45,000 undergraduates, 5,000 Grad students and the campus is easily 10 times the size of the Guelph campus. To top it off, there is a large artificial lake in the middle of the campus and it’s filled with alligators. Actually, there are alligators in little pockets all over campus. Really, it’s out of control! They have alligators like we have squirrels… and for some reason I’m the only one who has a problem with it. Oh look dear… there goes that crazy Canadian.

At any rate my experiences here have been great. I tasted the Atlantic, attended a conference, and visited Kennedy Space Center. All of which I highly recommend! Now, as Star Wars episode II begins today and seeing as I’m here… on behalf of a fan who’ll be seeing it the week after… I’d like to wish all those, and you know who you are, the very best on this joyous occasion.

I trust everyone will have a great summer and remember… beware of the Azalea Beaver!

Movie Line Contest:
The winner of the last movie line contest was Mary Jane Ash (correct answers: 1. Back to the Future, 2. Casablanca, 3. Dead Poets Society, 4. Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back)... Congratulations! There were several good guesses... keep it coming. Here are the new movie lines and again the first two individi-

als 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'll have the plumbing checked immediately. Be sure that you do... had I been drinking out the toilet... I might have been killed!
2. The other important joke for me is one that's, uh, usually attributed to Groucho Marx, but I think it appears originally in Freud's wit and its relation to the unconscious. And it goes like this-I'm paraphrasing: Uh... "I would never wanna belong to any club that would have someone like me for a member."
3. I have one simple request & emdash; sharks with friggin' laser beams attached to their heads, and it can't be done? Remind me again why I pay you people?
4. Every man dies... Not every man really lives.

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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
Cathy Bakker

Cathy grew up on a vegetable farm outside of Waterford, Ontario. Her experiences on the family farm sparked an interest in horticulture and she decided to attend the University of Guelph and work towards a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Horticulture. Since graduating in 1997, she has been employed by the University of Guelph as a research technician in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the Simcoe research station. Her work has involved the management of field vegetable crops and the development of non-traditional crops for Southern Ontario. Cathy started her MSc degree in Crop Science in 2001 and is investigating the effect of nitrogen fertilizer on growth, yield, and quality of broccoli. Her advisors are Dr.’s Clarence Swanton and Alan McKeown.

Wendy Allan

I am Wendy Allan, a 7th (or is it 8th?) semester PhD candidate with Dr. Barry Shelp. You can find me on the 4th floor of the Bovey building, the best building on campus. I am working on GABA catabolism in plants, a very fun project. It involves a lot of biochemistry and some molecular biology. One of the best parts is I get to make transgenic plants – I feel like a mad scientist!!

I grew up in Kelowna BC. I received my BSc in Biology/Chemistry from Okanagan University College (in Kelowna) in 1992. I was the very first person to graduate with a degree from that institution and was given lots of attention for that. From there, I went on to the University of Victoria to complete my MSc in Forest Biology. My masters taught me how to hike through rugged terrain carrying dataloggers, weather instruments and very tall ladders. I learned how to climb very, very tall Douglas fir trees so that I could get those precious top needle tissues. I survived snow storms, thunderstorms, mud, and tick season without one scratch. The best part though was learning how to drive at 80 km/h backwards down steep narrow logging roads as logging trucks came barrelling down at you!! Exciting stuff!! Because all this excitement wore me out, I chose to do my PhD in a nice, safe, warm, dry, lab.

During my stint at Uvic, I lived on Saltspring Island, BC. Yes, it is as beautiful as it sounds. I took the ferry to school everyday…very romantic. I frequently saw Valdy play at the local pub for free on Friday nights, and regularly bumped into movie stars who liked to visit the place. It was a great experience!! From there, I returned to Kelowna, got married, had a baby and tried to “settle down.” It didn’t work well though. I just had to return to academia!

Since my time here, I have been honored with a few scholarships including the Mary Edmunds Scholarship, OGSST, Fred Ball Scholarship, Kasha Travel Award, and a few University graduate scholarships. I am very grateful for these. After my degree, I plan on pursuing a career in academia. I really love research and teaching. I will also keep up my interests in public speaking (Toastmasters), aerobics, belly dancing, knitting, and family life.
As a recipient of a Mary Edmund Williams Scholarship 2001/2002, a PhD level OAC entrance scholarship, I have been given the opportunity to express my gratitude for the funding and tell you all a bit about myself and my research project. Where to start?

I am one of several current graduate students in Plant Agriculture following a non-traditional career path. I have returned to the University of Guelph to undertake graduate studies after more than a few years living and working in the “real world.” I graduated from the University of Guelph with a BSc in Unspecialized Biology in 1986 and worked primarily in canola breeding and biotechnology research in both academic and industrial settings in Canada and the UK, until I began my MSc studies in this department in September 1999.

I did take a brief break from work to recover from the birth of my son, although as all parents know one never recovers to one’s former self. The onset of parenthood is a transformation which often results, as it did with me, in altered priorities. I left a challenging career that I loved to consolidate my family. This left me free to consider other possibilities in terms of a career and take on some shorter term projects. For instance, during this time period, I had a very interesting and subsequently quite useful introduction to plant pathology, perennial fruit production and molecular epidemiology. In the end, I decided that although I have a number of skills and interests that may have led to new career opportunities, I really do love research. I like the constant challenges and the continual learning. I don’t (really) mind being financially impaired.

My current research into regulation of anthocyanin and resveratrol biosynthesis in grapes excites me on a number of levels. First, I am working with a new crop, one you can eat and DRINK!, (although there must be some affinity between myself and species with 38 chromosomes). Second, the project is concerned in part with the functional food role of this ancient crop. The inter-relationships between humans and the plants we eat has been a topic that has been of increasing interest to me (and a lot of other people it seems) over the past few years. Third, this project allows me to develop skills and themes that have been of interest to me in the past, but certainly challenges me both technically and intellectually. Finally, I get to work with a great group of people - the Strommer and Wolyn labs, the Vineland crew, our wine industry collaborators, a brilliant advisory committee, and the faculty, staff and graduate students of Plant Ag as a whole. What more could you want? I’m looking forward to spending the next few years of my life with you guys.
Phil Snelgrove

Hi! My Name is Phil Snelgrove and while I am a relatively new grad student in the plant agriculture department, I am a veteran of life at the University of Guelph. I grew up in a rural area west of Lindsay, just south of Manilla for those of you familiar with the area. For the first years of my life our farm had a cowcalf operation, but my parents found that being farmers with jobs (a fire fighter and a nurse) was too much and the herd was dispersed. While we no longer had the cattle, we continued growing sweet corn, grain, and of course dreaded hay (square bales are worth more than the round ones, you know). In my teen years I became involved in showing Clydesdales and other heavy horses and I eventually talked my way into acquiring two horses of my own. Besides this down home country life I also had an artistic life playing the piano, violin, clarinet and singing, with varying degrees of ability.

Throughout high school I had an active interest in genetics starting with a project I did in grade 9 about a relatively unheard of subject; cloning. Four years later I made the decision to attend the University of Guelph in the molecular biology & genetics program. During my undergrad years I discovered that besides genetics I also had an interest in botany. My original interest in genetics together with my new interest in botany led me to plant biotechnology, Dr. Larry Erickson and a fourth year project that would evolve into a Master’s that deals with trying to encourage the expression of a pesky transgene.

SEMINAR SERIES: Frontiers in Plant Biology, by Jeremy Murray

Six leading plant biologists from as far away as Tucson Arizona and as nearby as the University of Toronto, visited Guelph in the Department of Plant Agriculture’s first seminar series entitled, “Frontiers in Plant Biology.” The series, organized by Dr. Manish Raizada, exposed attendees to diverse topics in plant biology, and beyond. This last refers specifically to Charlie Boone’s talk on systematic yeast genetics. While initially the humble but beloved fungi appeared out of place in the ‘model’ company of Dr. Zhu’s stressed-out Arabidopsis mutants and Dr. Sczyglo’s can’t-stop-nodulating legume, Lotus japonicus, Manish maintains that such interdisciplinary cross talk sows the seeds for researchers “10 years in the future,” when similar approaches might be possible with plants. Other talks in the series included Peter McCourt’s abscisic acid mutants and Sean Cutler’s real-time GFP transgenics that really did let us, “watch cells dance” (What was that, the rumba?). Dr. David Jackson from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY, had to work extra hard to earn his Plant Agriculture mug, as, in addition to his seminar, he held a filled-to-capacity crash course in plant development for graduate students.

Continued on Page 6...
Graduate students, up to six at a time, had the opportunity to meet with the speakers over lunch. Free food? Yeah, I’m there! This provided an opportunity to ply our esteemed guests with questions that ranged from the scientific to the personal, while we, of course, gorged ourselves on the Bookshelf’s excellent gourmet pizza and goat cheese sandwiches (Was it you that started that, Heather?). One of the most interesting lunches was with Peter McCourt, who was, as promised by Manish, a “Big Picture” type of thinker. He shared with us that he had been invited by the journal “Nature” to write a Concept article on a topic that he found compelling, but which may not be easily testable or possible to get funded. He then inquired if any of us had any such ideas. While most of us sat wearing expressions resembling that of dandelions about to be mowed, John Chan, after hesitation a full millisecond, launches into a theory involving programmed cell-death and plant organelles, sort of a Civil War Theory of organellar evolution. WAY TO GO John! Peter then shared with us his ideas on the evolution of the similarities that exist between plant and animal secondary metabolites. You can catch the details in Nature sometime this summer.

The talks were very well attended, not only by Plant Aggers but also people from other departments. It seems that people from other departments, especially those that happened to be running seminars concurrently with Plant Ag, were having problems attracting people. Even faculty from Laurier were spotted in the audience. Response from graduate students was overwhelmingly positive. Happily, we have recently heard from Dr. Swanton that the series will be continued next year. So the series was great, but where could it be improved? Someone did mention that there was a conspicuous absence of women Frontier Plant Biologists on the card. Also, we actually had some unfilled spots for some of the graduate student lunches. I guess you can lead a grad student to water but…C’mom people this is a free lunch we’re talking about! More importantly, this is a rare opportunity to talk to some really clever plant biologists in a very relaxed atmosphere. As a parting word, I would like to share Sean Cutler’s words of advice to us at lunch, “Never, EVER listen to your supervisor.”
WELCOME NEW GRAD STUDENTS

IAN AFFLECK (MSc) with Dr. Alan Sullivan
REBECCA HARBut (MSc) with Dr. Alan Sullivan
CHRIS KNIGHT (MSc) with Dr. Art Schaafsma
KARINE PARE (MSc) with Dr. Julie Dionne

CONGRATULATIONS to Geoff Waters, a grad student with Prof. Mike Dixon, for being awarded a prestigious NSERC PDF (Post Doc Fellowship) scholarship for the next two years. WELL DONE GEOFF!

CONGRATULATIONS to Colette McAuley and the rest of the Canadian Women's Rugby Team for placing 4th in the Women's Rugby World Cup that was held in Barcelona, Spain from May 13 to 26, 2002. The final standings were: New Zealand, England, France, CANADA, and Australia.

Colette told me that, “the rugby level played there was extraordinary. Canada beat Ireland 57-0 in their first game and had to beat Scotland to make it into the semi-finals. After a tough match, Canada was victorious with a score of 11-3. Colette is hoping to continue with the team for the next World Cup and to better their standing.”

Colette was not only preparing for the World Cup in May be also defended her MSc just before she left for Spain. Way to go Colette!

CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL CLASS OF 2002 GRADUATES
A FUTURE OF NEW BEGINNINGS!!!
The floriculture program at the Vineland Campus has been active since 1979. At that time the late Dr. J. Archibald, the director of HRIO, initiated the greenhouse floriculture program. The major issues in the greenhouse industry were energy losses/costs as well as production. In 1979, Brian Piott was hired as a technician to support the floriculture program. He remained with the program until 1994 when Brian switched to the viticulture program. The major projects, which were started in 1979, consisted of building and evaluating solar greenhouses, the use of low-intensity infrared heating, the use of warm water in greenhouses, energy curtains and the likes. In the mid 1980’s, the greenhouse complex was totally rebuilt at Vineland with modern facilities and computer control. The greenhouses were built to reflect single glazing and double glazing materials, which were common in the industry. The 20 compartments were either semi-commercial (200 m$^2$) or small (50 m$^2$). The idea was to have interchangeable greenhouses which could be used by either the greenhouse vegetable or floriculture program. In the early 1990’s, when energy prices became less of a concern, the program changed focus and started to direct efforts to mainly production management problems. Major issues were subirrigation systems, height control, substrate comparisons, disease management, etc. At the Vineland campus the floricultural extension specialists, namely Wayne Brown (production) and Graeme Murphy (pest management), contributed to the program as well and became part of the greenhouse team network. Near the end of the 1990’s, Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza was hired as a post-doctoral fellow at AAFC, Vineland, to focus on disease management of subirrigation systems. The latter contrib-
uted greatly in efforts to determine the risks of recirculating nutrient solutions for a number of floricultural potted crops. Today, the greenhouse facilities at Vineland are used to accommodate multidisciplinary studies using expertise from AAFC, OMAF and the University of Guelph.

Dr. Theo Blom, who started the floricultural program in Vineland, is the program lead. He is assisted by his capable technician, David Kerec, who joined the program in 1997. Cathy Gray and Joanne MacDonell (see team picture) have also been instrumental to the floricultural program, as they nurtured the basic needs of the plants in our projects, and sometimes have helped collecting data as well.

Theo received his formal university training at the Agricultural University of Wageningen, The Netherlands. He majored in soil physics and soil chemistry under the well-known Prof. G. Bolt. In 1973, Theo emigrated to Canada to pursue a PhD degree at the University of Guelph in soil physics (supervisors were Dr.'s D. Elrick and P. Groenevelt, LRS). This degree was granted in 1976. His first employment was as the mushroom and floricultural specialist with OMAF at Vineland. In 1979, Theo was asked to spearhead the floriculture program at HRIO, also at Vineland. In 1998, as part of the enhanced partnership between OMAFRA and University of Guelph, he became a member of the Department of Plant Agriculture.

At present, the major portion of Theo's time is devoted to research projects. Most projects are industry supported and cover both cut flower issues (irrigation, substrate, environmental issues, recirculation, post-harvest; etc.) as well as potted plants (height control, flower initiation, irrigation, storage, post-harvest, etc.). Also, there is a mix of both short-term and long-term projects.

After the amalgamation with the University of Guelph, Theo began teaching a degree course (Greenhouse Production, Hort 3280) during the winter semester at the University. He also remains involved with teaching industry groups (Flowers Canada Nightschool for Greenhouse Growers). The latter course is primarily geared toward young people who want to know more about greenhouse production. These courses are usually taught in the evenings in cooperation with OMAF extension personnel.

As for graduate students, Karrie Thomas (co-advised by Dr. Glen Lumis) is a MSc student working on factors effecting nectar production of Stachytarpheta franzii, a plant species which is used by the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens for their Butterfly Conservatory. Karrie started in September, 2000; Michael Ravensdale (co-advised by Dr. J. Gracia-Garza) is working on the transformation of Erwinia bacteria using the green fluorescent protein gene and the efficacy of bacteriophages on the control of Erwinia soft rot of calla lilies. Both students are using the Vineland greenhouse facilities as well as laboratories at AAFC, Vineland.

Theo is married to Anneke, who has been the background supporter in his work for the last 23 years. Together, they have four children (3 girls and 1 boy) in the age group between 15 and 20 years old. Theo is an executive member of the soccer club in Lincoln. After playing many years in Guelph and also locally, Theo now takes it easier by coaching the soccer team of his two youngest daughters during the summer. During the winter, his favourite sport is cross-country skiing while during the summer Theo enjoys gardening, hiking and biking.

Theo's office is located at the Vineland Campus. He can be contacted by telephone at (905)562-4141 ext. 160 or by e-mail at tblom@uoguelph.ca.
David is the greenhouse floriculture technician at the Vineland campus. He grew up on a hobby fruit farm not far from where he works now. His family grew mostly stone fruits and grapes.

Until his late teen years, David was actively involved in sports. He was a member of three provincial championship teams, two in softball and one in hockey. In 1987, he was the Niagara regional champion in the high jump at the senior boys high school level. His jump of 1.92 metres still holds today as a local high school track and field record at Beamsville District Secondary School. But perhaps his most memorable sports moment was defeating Tie Domi’s Bantam hockey team from Belle River en route to a provincial championship. David says that even at age 14, Tie was a very tough player.

In 1992, David graduated from the University of Guelph and received an honours degree in biology with a minor in biochemistry. Not long after graduation, David got a job as a benthic biology technician at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), in Burlington. He sailed out on scientific ships and collected bottom samples from Lake Ontario up through the Welland canal and into Lake Erie off Long Point. On his first voyage, the waves were about 8 to 10 feet high and David spent most of his day “green around the gills.”

The next year, he got a summer job as a pest management research assistant at AAFC in Vineland Station. There he worked with potted grape vines and different plant oils to determine their preventative and curative effects on powdery mildew.

After a few years of alternating contractual work at DFO and the former Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario in Vineland, David decided to try to land a job in the private sector. In 1995, he got a job as a research and development technician in quality systems at Canada’s only gelatin manufacturer. Although he knew gelatin was a collagen protein, he was a little surprised to find out that the source of the collagen they used was pork skin. Think about that the next time you have some “JELL-O.”

After a few years of urban employment, David realized that Vineland was the place he found the most rewarding and prestigious. So in 1997, he returned to the greenhouse floriculture technician position once again.

In 1996, he married his high school sweetheart Lori. The two of them currently live in Oakville with their two children, Cassandra, (4 years) and Tristan, (11 months).

David’s office is located at the Vineland Campus. He can be contacted by telephone at (905) 562-4141 ext. 120 or by e-mail at dkerec@uoguelph.ca.

Current and back issues of this newsletter are available at: http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/news.html#Newsletter
Lindsay Hainstock

Lindsay Hainstock is a new technician working with Dr. John Cline in the tree fruit physiology group at the Simcoe Campus. Recently, she successfully defended her MSc project regarding wild blueberry physiology at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Dalhousie University, under the guidance of University of Guelph alumni Dr. David Percival and Dr. J.P. Prive. Coming to Ontario is a step closer to her home in Manitoba where she attained her BSc in Plant Science in the Agriculture Department of the University of Manitoba.

A useful fact to know if you work with Lindsay is that she can easily be bribed with chocolate.

Elina Coneva, PhD

I was born in Jambol, a picturesque city in Bulgaria. It is situated in the Trakia Region where according to the myth Orpheus enchanted Eurydice with his magical music. I enjoyed a happy childhood filled with my parents' love. Their passion was traveling, visiting new places, and making new friends. Throughout my teenage years I imagined I would be a teacher like my father. Surprisingly enough, after high school I ended up going to the Plovdiv Agrarian University. Was this desire inspired by my interest in life and nature? I think so. Moreover, I admired the idea of living in Plovdiv - a city with ancient history and culture, where Medieval and contemporary architecture are amazingly blended.

After completing my BSc in Agronomy and MSc in Agricultural Economics I moved to the city of Silistra with my husband Rumen. At that time I established a strong professional interest in apricots - the second most economically important crop in the Silistra region. Later I became a research scientist at the Apricot Research Station in Silistra developing an extensive breeding program. An achievement I am particularly proud of is the fact that some of the promising selections I originated were requested for trial testing and further commercial development in Switzerland and France. In 2001 I was conferred a PhD degree in Plant Breeding. During my scientific career I participated in six International Symposia, presenting the outcome of my research work, establishing contacts with many researchers in the field and making new friends all over the world.

I always feel my daughters, Viktoriya and Plamena, are the sunshine in my life. Are you curious to know how old they are? Well, Viktoriya will graduate from High School this summer and this fall she will be joining the University of Guelph in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. Plamena's personality is more orientated towards the arts. She enjoys drawing, fashion designing, and listening to music. My hope is after two years she will continue to develop her talents at the University of Guelph's College of Arts.

Upon immigrating to Canada our family settled in Guelph, and in 2002 I experienced one of the greatest moments of my professional career when I was awarded with an NSERC Post Doctoral Fellowship. My research at the University of Guelph's Vineland Campus involves developing systems and techniques, which allow fruit producers to improve their management of the flowering process. While working under the supervision and encouragement of Dr. John Cline, I enjoy the excellent departmental research facilities and friendly atmosphere.
E-mail Tips and Tricks,
by Jim Hoare

Electronic mail (E-mail) has become an efficient and popular way of communication for business and personal use. But, with this new media do you follow e-mail “netiquette?” Have you been known to use e-mail to “flame” someone? How about those weird “emoticons” [combinations of characters that convey emotions when viewed sideways, e.g. a “smiley” = :-) ], will your reader understand them?

Organizing a message:
• Make your point immediately. Put in supporting details in subsequent paragraphs.
• Keep the message to the point and use lists or points if appropriate.
• Use sub-headings if you must send a long message so the reader can refer back to critical sections later.
• Proof read and spell check BEFORE the big send off.
• Check your e-mail addresses that you’re using for correctness and if ALL recipients really need to receive your message.
• Save your work in progress regularly! For Netscape Messenger, the message will be stored in your “Draft” folder until it is sent. Alternatively, use a word processor to compose the message (saving regularly there) and then copy/paste into a new message window.
• If attachments are being sent, indicate this in the body of the message. If you miss attaching the file(s) and need to resend your message, make sure you keep the same subject line (don’t use a subject “oops, here’s the file”). To maintain continuity, it’s good practice to copy and paste the original message body into the second message.
• Don’t add unnecessary responses as you reply or forward ongoing messages. Careful editing will maintain the “thread” of the message. Full signatures and expanded recipient lists, etc. are not necessary and just add clutter.

E-mail emotions:
• Never write anything in an e-mail message that you wouldn’t mind seeing on the evening news. Remember, that e-mail messages are never completely private.
• Capitalized words in a message may be interpreted as SHOUTING.
• If you have to reply to a negative e-mail, don’t respond hastily. Compose your response, save it, and then take a “time-out.” Come back later and re-read the original message again, then re-open your reply to determine if you are responding appropriately.

Junk mail and infected attachments:
Unfortunately, there is no magic way of eliminating all the junk messages (spam e-mail) we get. I can only refer you to Computing Services web page: http://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/email/junkmail.html that provides some simple tips and further references to assist in this problem.

Probably 99% of computer virus infections result from opening bad e-mail attachments. I can’t stress it strongly enough: BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT ATTACHMENTS YOU OPEN. Be cautious even if a message has come from someone you know and the subject heading and filename look legitimate. If you are not expecting any attachments from the sender, check back with them.

Those using Outlook/Outlook Express for their e-mail must be particularly careful. Not only are you just as vulnerable to getting a virus, but your address book could be used to propagate the computer virus to ALL your contacts once the virus gets loose on your system.

How do you send an e-mail to people without everyone seeing the other recipients’ addresses or names?:

When you put several e-mail addresses on the “To” line of an e-mail message, all the people who receive that message are able to see who else received the message. If this is a problem with either too many recipients being displayed or confidentially issues you should consider selecting the “Bcc” (Blind carbon copy) line instead of the “To” line. Only the individual reading the message will have their address displayed despite it going out to all that you had addressed it to.

When using the “Bcc,” the body of the message should contain a salutation indicating who you are sending the message to (i.e. to: all office staff). This way the message is read in the right context.
How to change Netscape Messenger's startup homepage:
(ref. http://knowledgebase.iplanet.com/ikb/kb/articles/2577.html)

When Netscape Messenger starts up, the message pane normally contains a page from Netscape Netcentre. The following describes how you can either disable this feature entirely, or have it load your favourite web page. This is somewhat technical and care should be exercised when editing your preference file.

1) Exit Netscape Messenger and/or the browser.

2) Locate your Netscape preferences file (prefs.js). Make use of the Windows Find/Search function (click on Start button/find(or search)/ files & folders and enter the file name. If there are multiple profiles/users on the machine, then make sure you check the folder names for the correct user name. The first profile is usually stored in the “default” folder.

3) While viewing the “find” results, right mouse click on the appropriate “prefs.js” file and select “edit” from the action menu. You can safely ignore the message, “This is a generated file! Do not edit.” displayed at the top of the file as long as any additions occur at the bottom of the file.

4) For a blank startup page, continue with 4a or use step 4b to define your own page.

4a) To have Messenger start with a blank window, add the following line to the bottom of the file:
user_pref("mailnews.start_page.enabled", false);

4b) To have Messenger start with your favorite web page, add the following lines to the bottom of the file (where “www.uoguelph.ca” is the desired page):
user_pref("mailnews.start_page.enabled", true);
user_pref("mailnews.start_page.url", "http://www.uoguelph.ca");

5) Save and close the file.

6) Close the “find/search” function window.

7) Start Messenger and notice the difference!

How to backup your Messenger e-mail folders and address book:

To be able to save e-mail folders to floppy disks or other storage devices, the folders need to be created in the “local mail” section. The folders can be copied by simply dragging the desired folders from the “staff.mail” (or “student.mail”) section to the “local mail” section. Note - this is a copy not a move with the original folder still in place.

There will be two files created for each mail folder under the “mail” subdirectory of your profile (i.e. C:\Program Files\Netscape\Users\default\Mail. Where “default” is the name for your Netscape profile, the “.snm” files are index files that keep track of the details of folders while the corresponding files with no extension are text files that contain all the actual messages. Once the folder(s) has/have been set up in the “local mail” area, the corresponding files can be copied from the user profile subdirectory in the usual manner to the desired backup device using either Windows Explorer or My Computer tools.

Your personal address book (pab.na2) and other address books (*.na2) can also be backed up once you find them in your profile subdirectory. Similarly, the “bookmark.htm” file could be copied to a backup device for safe keeping or to use on another computer.

Restoring address book(s), bookmarks and message folders:

Unfortunately, the address book is stored in a format that can only be read by Netscape Messenger. Therefore, it needs to be copied back to the same subdirectory and opened with Messenger. Bookmarks and folder files can be copied back into your profile area if needed.

If all of this sounds complicated, best have an expert guide you through it.
A twilight meeting and orchard tour featuring tree fruit research at the University of Guelph, Vineland Campus, will be held on Wednesday, August 28th, 2002. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a complimentary back bacon on a bun barbecue with refreshments and a special introduction of our new tree fruit breeder, Dr. Jayasankar Subramanian. Starting at 6:00 pm, there will be research updates on pear breeding and management (David Hunter), postharvest storage (George Chu and Lisa Skog), cultural management and physiology of stone fruit (John Cline and Elina Coneva), stone fruit breeding (Neil Miles), and tree fruit mineral nutrition (Maria Derkacz). Ken Slingerland (OMAF) will also provide an industry update as well as his latest extension activities.

Highlights will include an opportunity to visit our latest research plots and view/sample some of the new breeding selections.

Advance phone or email registration is necessary to anticipate food and beverage requirements for the evening. Please R.S.V.P. (by Friday, August 23rd) by contacting Ms. Deborah Hilborn at 905-562-4141 Ext 124, or by sending an email to dhilborn@uoguelph.ca.
CONGRATULATIONS to Paul and Cindy Splinter on the birth of their twin boys, Kurtis Martin (4 lbs. 15 oz.) and Robert William (5 lbs. 7 oz.), born April 30, 2002. Paul is the Agricultural Mechanic at the Simcoe Research Station. Mom, Dad and boys are all doing well.

CONGRATULATIONS to Guangyun Hou (grad student with Dr. Istvan Rajcan) on the birth of her baby son (7 lbs. 12 oz.) on May 9. Mom & son are doing well.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sheryl Lonsbary, (technician with Dr. John O'Sullivan) on the birth of a baby girl, Reagan Katherine, born on Wednesday, April 3, 2002 at 10:10 a.m. Reagan weighed in at 8 lbs. 4 ozs. Both Mom and baby are doing well.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Francois Tardif and his wife Jocelyne, on the birth of their daughter, Adélie (9 lbs. 15.5 ozs.) who was born April 1. All are doing well.

WELCOME to Mike Cowbrough, the new OMAF Weed Specialist in the Department. Mike grew up on a beef and cash-crop farm between Guelph and Kitchener. He obtained a BSc(Agr) in Agronomy from the University of Guelph in 1998. After graduation he worked as a Research Technician with Dupont Canada. In 1999 he was accepted into graduate school in Plant Agriculture studying weed science with Dr. Francois Tardif. Upon completion of his MSc, Mike was employed in sales and marketing for Dupont Canada. Mike is located in the Crop Science building, room 303, his extension is 2580, stop by and say hello.

GOODBYE to Cecilio Gregorio who retired May 1st. Cecilio was a technician in the Crop Science Building with Dr. Steve Bowley and the transgenic growth facilities.

DR. KEN KASHA spent the first two weeks of March 2002 in Vienna helping to edit a manual on ‘Doubled Haploid Protocols for Crop Improvement’ for the International Atomic Energy Agency/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

VISITING SCIENTIST - The Department of Plant Agriculture will be hosting a visiting senior scientist from NASA Kennedy Space Center in August of this year to collaborate and possibly run some small experiments with the hypobaric chambers as well as address some technology transfer issues surrounding the chambers and the International Advanced Life Support agenda.

FOOD SAFETY NETWORK was launched mid-March 2002 with Prof. Doug Powell as the network’s scientific director. The network provides the most up-to-date, international research, commentary, policy evaluation, and public information on food safety and safe food handling. For more information visit the Food Safety Network website: http://www.foodsafetynetwork.ca
CONGRATULATIONS to Oliver (Ollie) Bradt, retired Vineland scientist who was inducted into the Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame on Sunday, June 9, 2002. Ollie devoted his career to the improvement of the fruit industry in Ontario. After a stint in the Armed Forces and some work in Guelph as a pomology lecturer, Ollie became a full time researcher at the former Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario in Vineland in 1948. In his 30 years at Vineland, he distinguished himself in both tree fruit and grape research fields. Ollie’s contributions to the fruit industry have been recognized many times with various medals and awards.

CONGRATULATIONS to Prof. Ann Clark for being a recipient of the 2002 YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award which was presented on May 16 at the River Run Centre in Guelph. Dr. Clark was cited for her work as a scientist, scholar, and professor. Her nomination statement cites “her courage to challenge the status quo and discuss controversial new developments in genetic modification of food crops.”

CONGRATULATIONS - TOMATOSPHERE II PROJECT, headed by Prof. Mike Dixon. The Tomatosphere II Project was given a NSERC Award to provide elementary and secondary school students with learning opportunities in science and engineering.

COMING EVENTS


Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show - September 10 to 12, 2002 at the University of Guelph Research Station, Woodstock, Ontario. Check them out at: http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com/


Norfolk County Fair - October 8 to 14, 2002, Simcoe, Ontario. Check them out at: http://www.norfair.com/

VARIETY CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

PLANT AGRICULTURE SUMMER PICNIC

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2002 AT THE VINELAND CAMPUS

More information coming from your Variety Club in the days ahead.

It is always a great day with lots of food and fun for everyone! Mark this date on your calendar and come join in on the FUN!!!
Make your Scientific Life Easier - Use Bibliographic Software

Bibliographic software allows you to organize the references and citations you have been collecting on index cards throughout your scientific and student careers into digital formats and personal subject databases. Older references can be entered manually or sometimes transferred automatically from other electronic lists, while references resulting from current library databases searches can be downloaded (often with abstracts) and saved directly to the software program. Once this information is in digital form it can be manipulated in various ways.

“Cite while you write” features allow inclusion of references in the body of a scientific publication through linkage with word processing products and can produce an automatic bibliography at the end of the document. In some cases the citation can be a live link to an on-line abstract or full text paper if the final document is published in an electronic journal or posted on the web. Automatic format features allow the resulting bibliography to conform to a variety of standard bibliographic styles as well as styles required by specific scientific journals. Selected references could also be easily attached to web course information.

The three major bibliographic software products are EndNote, ProCite and Reference Manager. Through the magic of mergers and acquisitions these are all now owned by the same company, ISI, the people who bring you Current Contents and Web of Science. All three of these products do the same thing with a few differences in various special features. For detailed information on these individual products, including trial versions and a comparison of their features, visit the web site at http://www.isiresearchsoft.com. The major difference to note is that Reference Manager only works with PC’s while the other two work with PC and Macintosh platforms. EndNote limits the number of references held to 32,000 while the other two products will accept an unlimited number. In the past EndNote has been considered the easiest to use, ProCite the most sophisticated and Reference Manager in between. With each upgrade these products become more similar. For scientists I would recommend Reference Manager or ProCite because of their reference database capacity. For further comparative information see a recent study by Laurier University Library at http://www.wlu.ca/wwwlib/libinfo/more/bibsware.html. A complimentary ISI product, WebPoster, works with all three bibliographic managers and is used to share reference collections over the Internet.

These bibliographic products can be purchased and downloaded on-line or ordered through the ISI website given above. At the present time they are not available through the University bookstore. The full version prices are about $400 U.S. and the student version is about $100. EndNote is the least expensive. If you are considering downloading the products be aware that the manuals (200 + pages) will be in PDF format. In addition to the vendor’s manual there are many tutorials for these products on the library web sites of major universities. The University of Waterloo library has a report, “Keeping up with your research literature electronically: Notes about software to organize your references,” on the web at http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/user_ed/bib-software.html. This report has general information about bibliographic software, links to on-line tutorials, Reference Manager Course Notes and information on configuring these products to work with the TRELLIS library catalogue.

These products are very useful for graduate students incorporating numerous references into their theses and working with extensive bibliographies.
WEB 🌐 SIGHTS

by Judy Wanner and Jeremy Friedberg

CanSIS, the Canadian Soil Information System, has a web page at http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/intro.html. This site is the home of the National Soil Database and is an excellent source of soil information, digital maps and GIS products. On-line maps include soil landscapes, crop heat units, plant hardiness zones and many of the Ontario county soil surveys. A new generalized soil map of Canada is being developed and should be available sometime in 2002.

In addition to maps this site holds digital copies of many classic soil manuals and publications such as the Manual for Describing Soils in the Field, Land Suitability Rating System for Agricultural Crops, Analytical Methods Manual and other titles.

3D Café http://www.3dcafe.com is a good resource for general and 3D computer graphics. Parts of the site require registration but the section “Free Stuff” has a variety of interesting material to add to web pages and digital presentations. Included with the free materials are tutorials to assist with the creation of various special effects.

Jeremy Friedberg and Jeremy Murray have been continuing the development of a Department of Plant Agriculture web page collection of commonly used web resources. The web page is in its early stages. The page deals primarily with molecular information. There is a need to collect these resources in a common location, but if there is interest it can be expanded to other areas of web resources commonly used in the department.

Jeremy and Jeremy want to let all know that the web site is continually updated and they are looking for your feedback on its layout, ease of use and anything that you feel you would like to see added. You can view the page at the following address:

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

Thanks to everyone,

Jeremy Friedberg and Jeremy Murray
They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, the same could be said for the new organic course which was offered for the first time at Guelph in Winter 2002.

**CROP*3400 - Introduction to Organic Agriculture** - was officially taught by E. Ann Clark, Paul Voroney, and D. Peter Stonehouse, from the departments of Plant Agriculture, Land Resource Science, and Agricultural Economics and Business, respectively. But to an unprecedented degree, the course was also integrally dependent upon the expertise and generosity of the whole organic community.

The new course has a lengthy history. In fact, it owes its existence to a tradition of independent-minded Guelph students who just wouldn't take no for an answer. Twenty one years ago, the first Guelph Organic Conference was organized by a group of students dissatisfied with the coverage of organic agriculture in their production courses. Typical of the sector as a whole, rather than gripe about it, they undertook the task of educating themselves through informal seminars, farm visits, and independent research leading to that first, eventful conference. Who could have foreseen what that original group of motivated students would inspire?

The Guelph Organic Conference is now the largest in Canada, with attendance of 1200-1500 each year, due in no small part to the tireless, behind-the-scenes guidance of Tomas Nimmo, General Manager.

But Les Eccles, Thomas Elcome, and other students were still unimpressed with what Guelph had to offer those interested in organic agriculture - which is arguably the fastest growing sector in agriculture today. Once again, they took up the challenge, but this time with a petition ultimately signed by 350 students - demanding a course in organics.

When I agreed to help teach it, I soon realized just how little was actually available in the scientific literature about the practice of organic farming in Ontario. An email survey of every department in every Ontario university or college that might relate to organics revealed a rather scanty database. Alan Hall and Veronika Mogyorody at Windsor had conducted the most authoritative (SSHRC-funded) survey available (250 of then 500 certified organic farmers) in the late 90’s. D. Peter Stonehouse and colleagues had published the only refereed publications available, concentrating on comparative weed management and dairy economics. A few theses and undergraduate projects addressed primarily socioeconomic issues. And that was about it. How to teach a course drawing primarily from anecdotes and the European and to some extent American experience?

In the keynote address at the 20th Guelph Organic Conference in 2001, I made a pitch for funding to survey and collect data on farms that summer, for use in teaching the course. And the organic community responded. Thanks largely to the most welcome intervention of Michael Khoo, then of Greenpeace and now with the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington D.C., nearly $20,000 was promised and ultimately donated by a range of sponsors. In addition to funding from Teaching Support Services, Clarence Swanton (Chair of Plant Agriculture), Tom Michaels (Acting OAC Dean), and Hugh Lehman (ret.) at the University of Guelph, we were gratified to receive major support from Organic Advocates. This group has also graciously supported continued survey work for the 2002 season. Other funds were generously provided by the Canadian Health Food Association, the Canadian Organic Growers (Perth/Waterloo/Wellington), Greenpeace, OntarBio, the Organic Natural Food Cooperative, the Guelph Organic Conference.

In March of 2001, Karen Maitland and I conducted focus group meetings in Erin Township, Wroxeter, and Belleville to identify subject matter priorities for both lecture (Table 1) and lab (Table 2) coverage. We also sought guidance from the community regarding the level at which the course should be taught, appropriate background level to access the course, and expectations of the students leaving the course. Course design was mindful of the guidance offered by those at the focus group meetings.
In the summer of 2001, teams led by Karen Maitland worked on 1 sustainably managed and 11 certified organic farms to collect a range of yield, soil, and weed data, and to help farmers complete our detailed questionnaire on crop and livestock management practices, perceived weed, insect, disease, and wildlife problems, and crop and livestock genetics. Peter Kevan of Environmental Biology visited many of the farms, tabulating both pest and beneficial insect species.
Cooperating farmers, who allowed access to their farms and graciously donated their time in completing our questionnaire as well as our many supplementary questions, were:

1. **Buffalo Sunrise Farm**  Marney Cuff and Paul Eisenbarth
2. **The Farmers Dell**  Dan and Kathy Dell
3. **Hungry Hollow Organics**  Ike and Beatrix Enter
4. **Orchard Hill Farm**  Ken and Martha Laing
5. **Maranatha Farm**  Mike and Lynne Hubbard
6. **Maple Brae Farm**  Ken and Joan Marisett
7. **Meeting Place Organic Farm**  Tony and Fran McQuail
8. **Pfennings Organic Vegetables**  The Pfenning Family
9. **Poechman Family Farm**  Gerald and Marlene Poechman
10. **Pronk Dale Farm**  Martin and Corrie Pronk
11. **Richwood Organic Acres**  Karla, Brian, and Marion Rahn
12. **Deerfields Nursery**  John Sutherland

Results were provided to the students in the form of a 350 pp **Course Manual**, with each farm as a separate case study. Additional synthetic chapters were provided for soils, weeds, and insects. The manual will be annually updated with results collected in subsequent seasons.

The conduct of the course itself, which was completed by 32 students (picture courtesy of Diane Hurst and the COG-Perth/Waterloo/Wellington branch), relied on additional support from organic farmers and entrepreneurs. To begin their introduction to the organic sector, each student was required to visit 3 Trade Show booths and conduct interviews at the Guelph Organic Conference. Sincere thanks are due to the harried booth personnel who took the time to answer their questions with grace and patience.
To further enhance their real-world exposure to organics, teams of 3-4 students were assigned the task of going out to conduct on-site interviews within assigned members of the organic community. Detailed reports were submitted, with a copy going back to each interviewee. Nine farmers and other entrepreneurs - some of whom also served as case study farms the previous summer - were interviewed in the first round of interviews, followed by another 9 on the second go-around. Many students felt the exposure to organic practitioners was the highlight of the course. The 18 interviewees, to whom we owe a very special thanks, were:

- John Sutherland of Deerfields Nursery
- Lorenz Eppinger of Greenfields Organic Farm
- Heather Leks of the Ignatius CSA
- Gavin Dandy and Karen Campbell of Everdale Environmental Learning Center
- Laura Berman and Mary Lou Morgan of FoodShare in Toronto
- Mike Hubbard of Maranatha Farms
- Heather Kendall of Harmony Wholefoods
- Ike Enter of Hungry Hollow Organics
- Martin deGroot and Ineke Booy of Mapleton Organic Dairy
- John Pronk of Pronkdale Farm and practicing naturopath
- Victor and Anna Kucyk, open pollinated corn breeders
- Elisa Vander Hout, Circle Sun Farm
- George vanZeyl of Better Lawns Naturally
- Heidi Bateman and Kim Delaney of Hawthorn Farm
- Shelly Paulocik of Woodwinds Nursery
- Terry Ackerman of OntarBio
- Harro Wehrman of Wehrman Farms Ltd.
- Gayl Creutzberg and Will Tremain of Saugeen Country Lamb

And finally, we asked members of the organic community - again drawing in part from the case study farms of the previous summer - to come in to class and share their expertise with the students.

- Tom Hutchison of Trent University and Marney Cuff and Paul Eisenbarth of Buffalo Sunrise Farm spoke on the contribution of rare breeds to organic livestock production
- John Rowe of Rowe Farm Meats and Dan Dell of The Farmers Dell gave their perspectives on serving a health-conscious clientele without being certified organic
- Wolfgang Pfenning of Pfennings Organic Vegetables spoke about his experience with biocontrol agents for vegetable production
- Ray Rivers of the OCIA outlined the process of organic certification
- Tony and Fran McQuail of The Meeting Place Organic Farm and Ken and Martha Laing of Orchard Hill Farm shared the realities of ecologically sound farming and living
- Joe Omelian, a research associate in Plant Agriculture, presented an outline of disease management using organic practices, and
- John Slack of Agricultural Mineral Prospectors Inc. introduced a range of rock mineral supplements approved for use on organic farms.

As a teacher, I have seldom taught a more diverse group of students. Yet despite their differences in academic major and background, they were united in their keen enthusiasm for learning about organics. It was a genuine pleasure to work with such a promising and collegial group of students. This new and dynamic area of learning will now be offered as a regular part of the Guelph curriculum, annually in the winter term. While currently available only in lecture format, consideration is being given to a Distance Ed offering at some point in the future. Given the interest in this field, faculty are also meeting to consider offering a wider range of specialized organic courses. For further information, contact E. Ann Clark (or 519-824-4120 x2508).
The summer of 2002 is moving on quickly as we begin to prepare for the onset of the fall semester. Teaching assignments have been reviewed, sessionals hired and graduate TA's are being distributed to our graduate students. I wish to express a very warm welcome to the following graduate students who will be joining the Department this September: Shawn Clark, MSc, (B.J. Shelp), Shawn Winter, MSc, (I. Rajcan/B.J. Shelp), Rosa di Leo, MSc, (B.J. Shelp), Lisa Mathiasen, MSc, (D.A. Powell), Amal Roy, MSc, (B. Deen), Jeff Huber, MSc, (M.A. Dixon), Robin Little, MSc, (F. Tardif), Rosa Aiello, MSc, (B. Miccalfe), Andrew Weisman, MSc, (A. Schaufsma), and Beth Reichert, MSc, (M.R. McDonald).

This summer was highlighted by several very important events including a summer picnic, Plant Ag Grower Day, a Tree Fruit Research Twilight Meeting and Orchard Tour, a graduate student hospitality suite at the International Horticultural Conference held in Toronto and finally our graduate student annual poster day. If you missed our summer picnic- you missed a great time! Over 170 people were in attendance at our Vineland campus. There was plenty of food, and tours and games for kids of all ages. A real family event. On behalf of the Department I want to thank the Variety Club for the excellent day. David Kerec and his colleagues at Vineland deserve a special note of thanks for all of their efforts.

Abe Weier, Farm Foreman from our Vineland campus, retired from the Department on August 31st. Abe, on behalf of the Department I want to thank you for the many contributions you made to our research programs, the Vineland campus in general and for your help and support in building this Department.

On July 25, 2002 the first “Plant Ag Grower Day” was held for the Flower Trial Garden on the site of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. This event which was organized by Rodger Tschanz, was attended by representatives from seed companies, the media, greenhouse growers, grower organizations and golf courses. Over 245 ornamental varieties of annuals were on display in three different trial plots. The day was very well received by all in attendance. Rodger, I want to thank you and your summer students Trina Alix and Jeff Huber for the very professional manner in which these gardens were displayed.

On August 15th, the Department hosted a very successful hospitality suite for graduate students who were in attendance at the International Horticultural Congress held at the Convention Centre in Toronto from August 11 to 17, 2002.
Perhaps I’m reaching, but how I spent my summer vacation… I’ve been living in the Lab (against my better judgment) trying to complete the last of my major experiments. Albeit, I did get the chance to speak at a conference in Sacramento which was a pleasure! But my big discovery this summer was not some inner truth about genetics or the reverse outer reality of the existential underlying metaphor of life, but simply… meat! Yes, I’ve rediscovered meat… strange meats… wonderful meats and at the risk of offending some vegetarians out there, I now apologize in advance.

My experiences began several years ago at the Woolwich Arms pub. In a world full of pizza and subs, they serve bison… in burgers, in chili and on nachos. It was fantastic… like eating for the first time all over again! Its texture was similar to beef but with a tremendous flavor and pep, yes pep… if meat can have pep!… and to top it off… it has less than 5% fat. I could feel the conflict within me. Fantastic… I was hooked. I now visit the pub regularly for my fix of bison, with only vague memory of my former love for the beef burger. But my personal discovery of bison peaked my curiosity about other meats… and thus I found myself on a trip to St. Lawrence Market in downtown Toronto. Built in 1901 this massive 19th century style brick building is home to a variety of vendors selling cheese, fish, bread, fruits and vegetables and of course meat. It’s really a wonderful place and definitely worth a visit to really enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the market. Not to mention the world renowned back bacon sandwiches.

I returned to Guelph with moose, bison and my newest favorite, ostrich. I love it… tasty healthy meat. And for those who are at all curious, definitely try it out but I heed you this one warning, about which I speak from experience. Ostrich and these other so called game meats are very low in fat and its the high fat content of beef that allows the average Bar-B-Q to completely burn a steak without turning it into shoe leather. Yes, over cook these meats and they’ll become chewy like my shoe.

My quest to eat new and strange things continues… so write me and let me know your suggestions. Remember… from paint chips and mayonnaise to deep fried ditch pig… I’ll try anything once!

Keep well, welcome back and remember… I’m hungry!

Movie Line Contest

I couldn’t believe it… nobody got the correct answer to the last movie line contest. (correct answers: 1. Ace Ventura Pet Detective, 2. Annie Hall, 3. Austin Powers, 4. Braveheart)… 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 know what you’re thinking. Did he fire six shots or only five? Well, to tell you the truth, in all this excitement, I’ve kinda lost track myself. But being as this is a .44 Magnum, the most powerful handgun in the world, and would blow your head clean off, you’ve got to ask yourself one question: ‘Do I feel lucky?’ Well, do ya punk?"
2. "Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you’re gonna get."
3. “Gentlemen. You can’t fight in here. This is the War Room!”
4. "Dogs and cats living together! Mass hysteria!"

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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
Geoffrey Waters, a Ph.D. candidate in our department, was recently awarded an NSERC Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Geoff's award will allow him to continue his work in environmental physiology and modeling. When asked about why he pursued doctoral work in the field of closed environments, Geoff said "I used to be fascinated by the air raid sirens going off near my house and when I saw the work of Dr. Dixon I immediately thought of fallout shelters in space."

Your Student Representatives:

**UNDERGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVES** - Jennifer Dick. Jennifer is a member of the Plant Agriculture Teaching Committee and is in her fourth year working towards an honours degree in B.Sc.Agr. (Agronomy). Jennifer is available to speak to undergrad students about questions, problems, or concerns they may have. You can reach Jennifer during school hours at the Job Shadow office ext. 4797, 519-829-2887, or by e-mail at jdick@uoguelph.ca

- Ryan Boverhof. Ryan is currently studying in his fourth year of the B.Sc.Agr. Program majoring in Horticultural Science. Ryan is available to speak to undergrad students about questions, problems, or concerns that they may have. You can reach Ryan at 519-827-1134 or e-mail at rboverho@uoguelph.ca

**GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVES** - Heather Shearer. Heather is in the second year of her Ph.D. program. She is available to speak to grad students about questions, problems, or concerns they may have. Heather can be reached at extensions 417, 419 or 8185, and by e-mail at hshearer@uoguelph.ca

- Karrie Thomas Granger. Karrie is currently studying for her Master’s degree. She is available to speak to grad students about questions, problems, or concerns they may have. Karrie can be reached at ext. 8695 or by e-mail at karrie@uoguelph.ca
Well, the story starts when Deb Hilborn first approached me a few weeks ago, requesting an autobiographical submission for the graduate student profiles section of the Plant Agriculture newsletter. Having agreed, I felt compelled to write something interesting about the daily events of my life. After contemplating, I soon realized that there was nothing interesting about my life, so I panicked, then attempted to retract my offer of acceptance. I decided I would use the upcoming International Horticultural Conference as my convenient excuse for execution of Plan A - Operation code name: 'bail-out.' I will not divulge the embarrassing details of Plan B. Unfortunate for me, Deb is a kind soul, and a compassionate offer for an extension of the submission deadline until after the conference was her only reply. Of course, true-to-form of anyone wishing to extract services from any graduate student, Deb sweetened the pot further by seducing me with food. More precisely, a 2.26 kg chunk of pure Alberta 'AAA' grade hip of beef. Deb must have done her research, because this offer was particularly tantalizing for me, and I will attempt to explain why in the following excerpt (bare with me).

You see, I am a terratarian. Now, this is not a confession that one needs to make in a closed room while surrounded by a help-group. I was raised in Calgary, where wheat and cattle are scenery, and aquatic environments are not, therefore my diet soon became restricted to anything that could be derived from the land. Thus, I propose the term ‘terratarian’ to describe anyone who has been sufficiently exposed to aquatic foods to know that they never wish to be exposed again (e.g. octopus and nuclear fallout). Thus, when Deb approached me with an offer of a) food, b) food from home, and c) food from home that I could never afford, how could I refuse?

As mentioned previously, I was raised in Calgary. Due to the city's proximity to the mountains, I soon found myself engaged in numerous activities that involved steep slopes, and worried mothers. In order to celebrate Y2K, I decided to attempt to climb the three highest mountains in North America. In ascending order, these are El Pico de Orizaba (Mexico), Mt. Logan (Yukon), and Mt. McKinley (Alaska). The trip to Yukon and Alaska required the enlistment of my 'ocho' (that’s my car, the one with the new water pump, see. PlantAg Newsletter, 2(3): 6), and my derelict 1972 VW van, aptly named 'winnie' for Winnipeg, its last known whereabouts. After the successful climbs (i.e. summits were obtained and nobody died), I eventually made my way back to Guelph, via Mexico, to commence graduate school. It was at this point that I decided to take on a postharvest physiology project with Dr. Murr, investigating the cause of superficial scald development in apple, a problem that has plagued and baffled scientists for 81 years. After researching the topic, I have now successfully convinced myself that I know the answer. Don’t laugh, naivety can go a long way, hopefully a Ph.D. in my case.

Since the mountains are far from Guelph, I have now 'upregulated' other activities in my life to fill the void. These include mountain (i.e. hill) biking, escarpment rock climbing, and I am now attempting to supplement my income with another hobby, wilderness photography. In my two years at Guelph, I have also been very fortunate to receive a few awards. I would like to thank everyone who had anything to do with receiving these awards, I am very grateful. These include the Mary Edmund Williams, OGSSST and the University Graduate Scholarships. I would also like to thank Deb Hilborn for extending this opportunity to me, and for being a good sport.
Welcome New Grads to Plant Agriculture

Rosa Aiello, M.Sc. with B. Micallef
Shawn Clark, M.Sc. with B.J. Shelp
Rosa di Leo, M.Sc. with B.J. Shelp
Jeff Huber, M.Sc. with M.A. Dixon
Robin Little, M.Sc. with F. Tardif
Lisa Mathiasen, M.Sc. with D.A. Powell
Beth Reichert, M.Sc. with M.R. McDonald
Amal Roy, M.Sc. with Wm. Deen
Andrew Welsman, M.Sc. with A. Schaafsma
Shawn Winter, M.Sc. with I. Rajcan/ B.J. Shelp

Department of Plant Agriculture

POSTER DAY
Friday, September 6, 2002
Location: Bovey Greenhouses
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The POSTER DAY is a time to show everyone some of the work that is being done in our Department. The posters may be from present or past years and are meant to represent the scope of our departmental activity and interest. It is also a chance to meet everyone and get to know them in an informal setting.

The SECOND ANNUAL COOKIE baking contest will also be held. Our Variety Club will be selling Plant Agriculture clothing at the event.

10:00 am to 11:00 am         Set-up time for the posters
11:00 am to 12:00 noon       Visit posters
12:00 noon to 1:30 pm        Lunch (with some fun activities!)
1:30 pm to 2:00 pm           Introduction of new staff members (C. Swanton)
                             Introduction of new graduate students (A. Sullivan)
2:00 pm to ???               Social activities

Mark this date on your calendar, bake some cookies, grab your latest poster (receive a $wanton good at the grad lounge), and have a great lunch and some cookies.

To register your abstract contact Jeremy Friedberg at jdberg@uoguelph.ca or to submit the title of your cookie recipe, volunteer to help out, or for general inquiries contact your Variety Club at pavclub@uoguelph.ca
Dr. Jayasanker Subramanian (Jay) will start his faculty position in tree fruit breeding at the Vineland campus of Department of Plant Agriculture on August 26, 2002.

Before coming here he was an Assistant-Instructor in the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, Apopka, a research station belonging to IFAS, University of Florida. He is from the southern state of TamilNadu in India where he obtained his B.S. and M.S. [Hort]. He received his Ph.D. in Horticultural Sciences from the University of Florida in 1995. He came to the US on a Rotary Foundation Freedom From Hunger Scholarship in 1992. He worked on somatic cell genetics of mangoes for his Ph.D. and later extended the same in grapes during his post doctoral years.

He will be moving to St Catharines along with his wife, Sivagama Sundhari (Siva) and six year old daughter Varsha. Siva herself has a Masters’ in horticulture and was the top student in her batch. She worked for UF till 1995 and then spent most of her time with Varsha and handling immigration matters for Jay and other friends. She loves to garden. Varsha likes to do art work and enjoys her swimming lessons. At present she is trying to learn her mother tongue. She loves fruits, especially peaches and nectarines and she is more excited than her parents to come to Vineland. She has visited six countries so far.

Jay was an active cricket and table tennis player in his school days and has captained the university in both. After coming to North America he misses them both dearly, but has developed interest in watching football, basket ball and golf, thanks to his decade long stay in Florida. Besides both Siva and Jay are avid philatelists and like to collect coins as well.

In his current research, Jay will be using the extensive germplasm of fruit species at the Vineland station to understand the genetics and inheritance using some of the contemporary approaches. His research will be mainly applied, trying to answer the needs of the tender fruit industry. He has mastered the technique of in vitro selection and will try to use it as a complement for genetic improvement of tree fruits. He was trying to land in University of Guelph – as a graduate student in the late 80s and later as a postdoctoral fellow- unsuccessfully. Finally, he is here as a faculty member.

Jay’s office will be located in Room 123 of the Administration building in Vineland. His telephone number is 905-562-4141 ext. 134 and his e-mail is jsubrama@uoguelph.ca.
Dr. Conev has recently joined the Fruit Tree Team at Vineland Campus as a research associate within the Fruit Breeding Program. He is originally from Bulgaria, a country which is associated automatically with the Plum Pox virus (PPV). Indeed, Sharka disease was first described in Bulgaria 85 years ago, and later on the viral nature of this disease was revealed again by a Bulgarian scientist, but folks, the disease was not “created” by Bulgarians! They were only observant enough to detect this eccentric phenomenon, to analyze it, and to warn the world that it was faced with a new, strange, and dangerous creature.

Rumen will not forget his first Christmas and New Year “holidays” 2000/2001 in Canada – feverishly preparing a project for establishing the base for a domestic PPV certification system, and solving the industry’s problems of immediate concern. During the summers of 2001 and 2002 Rumen continued his “battle” at the PPV front as a Coordinator of the Domestic Research PPV Survey with AAFC and AgriCorp. When he came upon a couple of ornamental Dwarf flowering almonds showing PPV symptoms, it was clear that not only farm trees could serve as reservoirs of infection.

Rumen earned his Ph.D. degree in fruit growing in the Agricultural University, Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Between 1984 and 2000 he was working at the Apricot Research Station, Silistra as a Specialist in Innovations, Research Scientist, Senior Research Scientist, Project Leader, and Vice Director. He also served as a Member of the National Specialized Scientific Council to High Academic Degree Committee. In 1995 Rumen was awarded with an STA Fellowship, which was a great opportunity to implement a series of interspecific crosses and to conduct postdoctoral studies on Far-East Prunus germplasm in Japan. As challenging as this sounds, it is nothing compared to being faced with an “appetizing” pop-eyed, half-living sea creature in the company of proud Japanese eager to know his opinion regarding the “specialty”. During 1998 and 1999, which were not filled with as many food adventures, Dr. Conev conducted a breeding project as a Visiting Scientist in the Volcani Center, Israel, and worked on inheritance of chilling requirements in apricot. The results of Rumen’s studies on stone fruit germplasm, whole-plant physiology, resistance to biotic and abiotic stress, and his breeding achievements were presented in seven International Fora and published in more than 40 scientific papers.

Rumen and his wife Dr. Elina Coneva (a NSERC Post-Doc Fellow at Vineland) have been a family and a research team for.. (well, seems I’m running out of both fingers and toes). They settled in Guelph with their two daughters: Viktoriya – a first year student at the University of Guelph, Molecular Biology and Genetics, and the baby of the family – Plamena – a grade 11 high-school student. Rumen enjoys gardening, listening to music, and spending time with his family and friends, but the data in Fig. 1 show the obvious negative correlation between the activeness of Rumen’s hobbies since age 16 and his body mass:

![Graph showing the correlation between Rumen's hobbies and body mass](image-url)
The Vineland Campus made a big switch to a new wireless Internet Service Provider (ISP) in July 2002. A company called World Without Wires based out of Kitchener, Ontario provides the Internet service with a bandwidth of 1.54mb/s, which is a giant leap from their old 56 Kb/s bandwidth. For the users at Vineland Campus, this means accessing the internet is 27xs faster.

Here is how it works. A dish antenna installed on top of the building receives encoded data signals from a satellite. A descrambler box converts the incoming signals into usable data signals. The data is further scrutinized by a Private Internet Exchange (PIX) box, which was supplied by CISCO systems. The PIX box uses NAT (Network Address Translation) and high-level encryption for the ultimate in firewall protection. The University of Guelph’s Computing/Networking Services at the main campus can even control this box remotely.

This PIX box is also interfaced with a logging machine. This logging machine is basically a desktop computer that monitors all the traffic going through the PIX box. It monitors the system, keeps track of every connection and how it passes through the firewall.

Finally, to distribute the Internet connection to individual computers, the PIX box is connected to the 55-port hub that the Vineland station already had from their old system.

Many thanks to Rohit, our summer student/computer expert, for his assistance with this project.
Dr. Manish Raizada would like to let the department know how fortunate we have been to have two excellent computer students this summer, Rohit Makhijani and Sara Deckert. Among Rohit’s responsibilities, he has helped faculty to create 20 online courses for undergraduates and diploma students using WebCT, interactive student-teacher internet software. Rohit has also done a lot of work to help integrate the old Plant Agriculture website server with the new website server. For the new website, he has written novel Javascript programs to help the new website become more user-friendly, with searchable databases. Sara has been the Web-designer responsible for creating the new look of the Department of Plant Agriculture website. She has created 50 new Faculty and Research Scientist web pages and has single-handedly created most of the pages of the new website with faculty and staff supervision, an enormous undertaking. The new department website will be launched in late August of 2002; thereafter, Mike Peppard will take over as the permanent webmaster. The entire department should be grateful for all the hard work and creativity of Sara and Rohit, two summer students whose impact will be felt around the department and the many constituents we serve, for many years to come.

**Rohit Makhijani** - I am a third year student at the University of Guelph in the Computer Science program. For those of you who are in the Crop Science building, I am that troublemaker who tinkers around those computers.

Working for the department of Plant Agriculture this summer has given me the opportunity to work on different projects in different areas of computing. I have been working on the WebCT project; introducing and implementing this new interactive online learning technology for students within the department. The other part of my duties involves hosting the new department website. Working closely with Sara Deckert, my part of this project deals with setting up the server end of things as well as implementing most of the site’s automation. Invariably I also help the IT duo (Jim Hoare and Mike Peppard) with any challenging hardware issues that they may have.

Nowhere does one get the opportunity to be able to work in such a wide spectrum of areas. It’s truly been an excellent learning experience and most of all I have had great time!

**Sara Deckert** - I am a recent graduate from the B.A. program with a major in Studio Art. This has meant that I have spent the greater part of the past four years drawing, painting and learning a bit about computer graphics and web design. Because of my university education and my plans to attend college this fall to study web design and multimedia related issues I was very excited to be offered the job of redesigning the Department’s new website. Designing the website has been a great opportunity to practice some of the skills I learned in my studio classes. In addition, it was a fantastic learning experience. I would like to thank the faculty and staff who have been helpful and cooperative in providing information and feedback throughout the whole design process.
The team from the University of Guelph has recently won CropLife Canada’s 50th Anniversary Commemorative CD-ROM competition. Graduate students from the Department of Plant Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Biology worked together to create the multimedia project which was distributed to delegates at the 50th Annual CropLife Conference in Calgary this September.

As winners of the competition, members of the team have been invited to attend the conference and the University of Guelph will receive a $20,000 scholarship.

The team was directed by Gerry Stephenson and included Jason Cathcart, Cheryl Corbett, Kris Mahoney, Mark Hanson, Cezsaria Kora, Diane Stanley-Home, and Laura Van Eerd.

The team would like to thank the OAC Dean’s office, the Departments of Plant Agriculture and Environmental Biology, the OAC GSC, and the GSA for their financial assistance. The team is also grateful to Carye Mahoney for her illustrations and Athena Software for web design and technical assistance.

Former University of Guelph graduate student, David Percival (Ph.D. 1996) and Department of Plant Agriculture faculty members, Dr.’s John Proctor and Alan Sullivan, received the Shepard Award from the American Pomological Society (APS). The Shepard Award was instituted to recognize outstanding research and to promote the publication of good research in the official publication of APS, The Journal of the American Pomological Society.

The Shepard Award for the best paper published in 2001 in the Journal was presented to Percival, Proctor, and Sullivan for their paper, “Cultivar differences in carbon assimilation and partitioning of primocane fruiting raspberry,” published in Volume 55, pages 82 to 89.

David Percival is presently an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and holds the Wild Blueberry Research Chair.
DR. GLEN LUMIS RECEIVES THE DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR NURSERY CROPS

Mike Schnelle of Oklahoma State University, and Chair of Nursery Crops Working Group of the American Society for Horticultural Science, announced that Glen Lumis was the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award for Nursery Crops at the International Horticultural Congress held in Toronto, August 11 to 17, 2002. Dr. Schnelle provided the following citation.

Glen P. Lumis was born and raised in rural Chester County in south-eastern Pennsylvania. Glen received his B.Sc. in 1964 from Penn State University in the Department of Horticulture. He then went to Michigan State University, completing his M.S. in 1966 and his Ph.D. in horticulture in 1970. He joined the Department of Horticultural Science (now part of the Department of Plant Agriculture), University of Guelph in 1970 as an Assistant Professor and went through the ranks and became a full professor in 1990.

Five supporting letters for this award were sought and all were uniformly strong in their support of this nomination. It is appropriate to indicate that these letters were all from highly qualified people in Dr. Lumis’ chosen areas of research, teaching, extension and industry involvement who were able to comment with authority on his nomination.

A professor and former Chair of Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell University stated “Dr. Lumis has distinguished himself as a teacher, researcher, and extension educator.” One of Glen’s graduate students and now Director, Crop Diversification Centre South, Alberta Agriculture wrote, “Dr. Lumis is committed to teaching every course with passion, effectiveness and a sense of humour.” The State Extension Specialist for Nursery and Landscape, Ohio State University, claimed that “Dr. Lumis has a great relationship with the industry and is nationally and internationally recognized for his accomplishments. His contribution to nursery/landscape teaching through undergraduate and graduate programs is probably unparalleled by any of his peers.” The Director, Independent Study @access, University of Guelph, summarized “Glen Lumis has been tireless and enthusiastic in serving the extension/continuing education needs of the landscape horticulture industry.” The Executive Director, Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, stated, “Glen is one of those individuals who is a true perennial and an overwhelming contributor to the quality of life of all those he comes in contact with. He has a quiet, unique ability to enrich, share and instill enthusiasm and to do it in an unassuming way.”
DR. CLARENCE SWANTON
AWARDED THE CANADIAN
SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY (CSA)
FELLOW - 2002

Dr. Clarence Swanton is a native of Ontario and obtained his BSc in Botany from the University of Toronto in 1975, MSc in Agrometerology from the University of Guelph in 1977, and PhD in Plant Ecology from the University of Western Ontario in 1986. He was employed by Campbell Soup Company as a Research Assistant from 1977-78, Ridgetown College as a Weed Biologist from 1978-85, and joined the Department of Crop Science at the University of Guelph in 1985.

Many weed scientists and agronomists would consider Clarence to be the authority on integrated weed management in Canada and internationally. He has provided leadership in weed control in Ontario and eastern Canada by sharing ideas and developing research based on his contact with growers, industry representatives, other researchers and policy makers. He is in demand as an invited speaker around the world, in recognition of his ideas and expertise.

Dr. Swanton has an excellent track record as a university teacher, reflecting his ability to communicate ideas clearly and motivate students. As a result a large number of the undergraduate students that he has taught have chosen to pursue graduate studies under his supervision.

In 1998 Clarence was appointed the first Chair of the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph, an amalgamated department combining the former Departments of Crop Science, Horticultural Science and the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, a former provincial government research institute. Throughout this time as Department Chair Clarence has maintained an active research program. Dr. Swanton is known for challenging his students with research projects that expand the theoretical horizon of weed science, but also have an applied end product.

Dr. Swanton has been recognized for his contribution to weed science with several awards, including Outstanding Journal Article Award, (Honourable Mention)- Canadian Agricultural Economics and Farm Management Society (1993); the Weed Science Society of America – Outstanding Weed Science Paper (1994); Ontario Agricultural College Distinguished Research Award (1996); The Tenth Annual David W. Staniforth Lecturer, Iowa State University (1997); Dow AgroScience Excellence in Weed Science Award for Canada (1997); Invited reviewer of the Cooperative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems in Australia (1999); and the Weed Science Society of America’s Outstanding Researcher Award in 2001. Clarence served the Canadian Society of Agronomy as eastern Canada director from 1997-2000.
Production of Cultivars and Hybrids using Haploid Methods  - by Dr. Ken Kasha
(Article to appear this fall for use by IAEA/FAO for their plant breeding courses.)

In a recent unpublished (in press) survey of crops cultivars produced using haploidy methods, WTB Thomas, BP Forster, Scottish Crop Res. Inst., Dundee and B. Gertsson, Svalof Weibull AB in Sweden found a total of 201 cultivars or hybrids have been produced covering 12 different crops. This list is not expected to be complete as results from developing countries and industry are not easy to obtain. The methods used have been wide hybridization, anther culture, isolated microspore culture and spontaneously arising haploids. The crops with the total numbers in brackets are: Asparagus (7), Barley (96), Brassica juncea (2), Eggplant (5), Melon (3), Pepper (8), Rapeseed or Canola (45), Rice (7), Tobacco (6), Triticale (3), Swede (1) and Wheat (18). Ovule culture is used in sugar beets and onions but no information on cultivars was available. Out of the 201, a total of 58 of these were produced in Canada, mainly in barley and Canola with one in Asparagus and one in Wheat (the latter two produced at Guelph). Barley got a head start due to the wide hybridization with Hordeum bulbosum system that was initiated at Guelph and which has led to the production of 58 barley cultivars around the world. Anther culture has led to 35 and isolated microspore culture to three of the barley cultivars, and the latter systems will likely be the main sources in the future due to much higher frequencies. The vast majority of those in rapeseed or Canola have come through isolated microspore culture with five coming from spontaneously arising haploids from seed. Those in Eggplant, Melon and Pepper are F1 hybrids made from doubled haploid (DH) parents. The number in rice is most likely low while those from wheat are expected to increase quite quickly in the future. At present, 11 of the 18 cultivars in wheat are from anther culture while six are from wide hybridization with maize pollen (one is unknown).
**FOOD SAFETY NETWORK UPDATE:** The Food Safety Network recently moved from its cramped quarters in several offices on the 4th floor of the Crop Science Building to the former departmental library in Room 202. After sending 65 boxes of books to the Canadian Book Exchange in Ottawa, we are in the process of settling in. There are currently eight full-time staff members, eight part-time and six graduate students falling under the umbrella of the Food Safety Network. Scientific Director Dr. Doug Powell’s goal is to make the Food Safety Network the number one resource for farm-to-fork food safety, nationally and internationally.

The cornerstone of the network is the four listservs that are distributed daily to more than 10,000 direct subscribers in 65 countries (and tens of thousands of indirect recipients). Last year, the lab collected approximately 25,000 stories for these listservs, and almost 16,000 were distributed to subscribers. In addition, work is being done on risk analysis and consumer issues surrounding genetically engineered foods and food safety.

Recently, four papers were read by Food Safety Network members at the International Association for Food Protection Annual Conference in San Diego, CA. Dr. Powell gave an invited colloquia address at the International Horticulture Congress in Toronto regarding on-farm food safety, and is currently chairing the food safety committee for the Canadian Horticulture Council.

The latest offering from the Food Safety Network is a national, toll-free food safety information telephone line, to be launched this fall. Visit our website at [http://www.foodsafetynetwork.ca](http://www.foodsafetynetwork.ca) for more information.

**PRUNUS BREEDERS MEETING:** A short workshop for Prunus Breeders (tree fruit breeders specializing in peaches, nectarines, apricots, cherries, plums) was held during the International Horticultural Congress in Toronto (August 11-17, 2002) and was attended by about 45 participants. Following the Congress, the Prunus Breeders met in St. Catharines, Ontario, August 17-19, 2002, for a round table open discussion of topics pertinent to tree fruit breeders specializing in Prunus. Each participant provided a brief report of current activities, and discussions developed on the progress and challenges in Prunus breeding. The group toured the facilities of the University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, at Vineland Station, where samples of new and interesting selections from the University of Guelph breeding programs and also from the former AAFC-Harrow tree fruit breeding programs were on display for sampling, evaluation and discussion. Dr. David Hunter, Tree Fruit Breeder, AAFC-SCPFRC and University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Vineland Station, organized the Prunus Breeders meeting which was attended by 19 participants from Canada, the United States, Taiwan and China. If you would like further information contact David Hunter at 905-562-4141 ext 154, fax 905-562-3413 or by e-mail at dhunter@uoguelph.ca or hunterda@agr.gc.ca

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Plant Agriculture website picture submission contest. Each winner receives two free movie passes.

*Jenny Van de Kamer* for “Cherries”; *Frey Garabagi* for “Passion”; *John Cline* for “Pear”
SOY 2002 - the 9th Biennial Conference of the Cellular and Molecular Biology of the Soybean was held from August 11-14, 2002 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. More than 250 people attended the conference, which was a great success in showcasing the most recent advances in molecular biology, genetic mapping, transformation and other current technologies applied to soybean. Among them were five Dept. of Plant Ag. faculty and graduate students, who gave 4 graduate student oral presentations representing soybean research at the University of Guelph. The whole group (Dr. Gary Ablett, Jerome Auclair, Elizabeth Trebovac, Aron Weir and Dr. Istvan Rajcan; unfortunately Guiying Zhao could not be with us) enjoyed this educational conference entirely and the many interactions that we had with other scientists in the field in the beautiful setting of the University of Illinois campus. Our students’ presentations were very well received by the participants. We hope to see some of you at the next conference to be held in August 2004 at the University of Missouri.

Dr. Istvan Rajcan and with his collaborators (Drs. Gary Ablett, Tom Bruulsema, Mark Gijzen, Paul Goodwin, Chung-Ja Jackson, Vaino Poyya, Tom Welacky, Lorna Woodrow, and Tiequan Zhang) have received a grant from the New Directions in Agri-food and Rural Research Program with OMAF for the project entitled: "Development of Isoflavone-rich Soybeans, a New Value-Added Functional Food Product for Ontario". It is valued at $96,400 over two years.

Soybean Breeding Program was pleased to host an exchange student, Joanne Todd, who studies agriculture at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Joanne was working in the program during June and July 2002, through the IAESTE organization. If any other faculty is interested in hosting an international student through IAESTE, feel free to contact Istvan Rajcan at irajcan@uoguelph.ca. Our two-year experience with exchange students has been very positive.

Maria Derkacz hosted Dr. Piet Stassen, professor from the Department of Horticulture, Stellenbosch University, South Africa between August 7 to 10. During that time Dr. Stassen met with the key peach producers to discuss the newest methods of orchard management including tree pruning, training and tree nutrition. On the evening of August 08 Dr. Stassen visited with the Tender Fruit Industry representatives at the Rittenhouse Hall in Vineland. The event started with a BBQ dinner followed by his seminar on Peach Growing in South Africa. On August 09 Dr. Stassen presented another seminar also at Vineland. This time he talked about deciduous tree fruit production as affected by the microclimates of South Africa. The participants represented the Department of Plant Agriculture, OMAF and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada.

Between August 14 and 28, 2002 Maria Derkacz will be visiting Universities in Thailand. She will be lecturing on the importance of organic matter for nutrient availability in orchards and vineyards. She will be the guest of the Department of Soil Science at the Ksetsart University in Bangkok and the Department of Horticulture in Chang Mai University. During her visits she will also meet students interested in the postgraduate programs of the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph.
2002 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

The 2002 United Way Campaign is fast approaching. Mary Jane Ash will be the co-ordinator this year and will be in contact with everyone with more details on the campaign in the near future. Along with Mary Jane Ash (Crop Science) other canvassers will be Lewis Lukens, Tom Smith, Liz Gomes, and Jen Young (Crop Science), Theresa Rondeau Vuk and Dean Louttit (Bovey), Mary Lisa Kurtz (Elora Research Station), Mary Ruth McDonald (Bradford Research Station), Donna Hill (Vineland), and Wally Andres (Simcoe).

COMING EVENTS

Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show - September 10 to 12, 2002 at the University of Guelph Research Station, Woodstock, Ontario. Check them out at: http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com/


Norfolk County Fair - October 8 to 14, 2002, Simcoe, Ontario. Check them out at: http://www.norfair.com/

Royal Winter Fair - November 7 to 16, 2002, Toronto, Ontario. Check them out at: http://www.royalfair.org/

Message from the Chair continued from Page 1...

This was an excellent opportunity for our graduate program to be profiled. I wish to thank Dr. Al Sullivan and members of the graduate committee who organized and hosted this “evening with Plant Agriculture.”

A Tree Fruit Research Twilight Meeting and Orchard Tour was held at the Department of Plant Agriculture, Vineland Campus on Wednesday, August 28. The evening included a BBQ, research updates and wagon tours of the orchards. Sixty-eight people attended representing fruit growers, OMAF, AAFC, and the media. This was a great opportunity to profile our new tree fruit breeder Dr. Jay Subramanian and the tree fruit team consisting of Neil Miles, Bill Lay, Rumen Coneva, David Hunter, Neva Greig, Maria Derkacz, Deb Norton, John Cline, Rocco Guaranci, Elina Coneva, George Chu, Lisa Skog, and Wei-Hang Liu, our farm operations crew, Ray Kacmarski, Kevin Smith, Don Moyer, Mike Neamtz, and Ken Slingerland and Neil Carter from OMAF. Also part of this team are research scientists from AAFC stationed at Vineland. Our collaboration with AAFC and OMAF is an essential component of our Departmental strategic plan to build our tree fruit research program into one of the best in North America.

Continued on Page 17...
Message from the Chair continued from Page 16...

As well, the members of the graduate committee organized our annual "graduate student poster day" held on September 6th. This event celebrates the contributions made by our graduate students to our Department. As a Department our present and future are defined by the quality of our graduate students. Many posters will be available for viewing, and after many serious academic discussions the day will conclude at the grad lounge where liquid refreshments will be supplied for the mere purchase price of "one $wanton". A special thank you to Chris Horvath, Liz Gomes, Wendy Shearer, Ian Affleck, Jeremy Friedberg, David Kerec, Theo Blom and John Cline for their leadership in organizing this event.

Our Department is now beginning to experience the implications of the budget cuts to the U of G/OMAF Partnership. These cuts will have a direct impact on our Department and will result in significant changes that will provide future stability for our Department. Each decision has been based on a consultative process with industry stake-holders and thought through with respect to the strategic plan of the University, OAC, and the Department. Each decision has been difficult. These decisions have been guided by the following principles:

• to consolidate research, avoid duplication, and enhance collaboration
• to reduce infra-structure costs
• to provide an opportunity to reinvest in research programs of highest priority

On Tuesday, August 20th, I met with faculty and staff at our Vineland campus to announce the first phase of changes resulting from this new partnership with OMAF. The following programs will be relocated from Vineland to Guelph:

• greenhouse floriculture                  • greenhouse vegetables
• ornamentals                               • postharvest physiology
• mushroom research facility               • library

Programs remaining at Vineland include:

• tree fruit breeding, physiology and management       • viticulture

Faculty and staff involved with these programs were met with individually and provided with options available to them. The goal is to have these programs relocated to Guelph by January 1st, 2003 but no later than April 1st, 2003. The mushroom program will be relocated at a later date. The logistics surrounding these changes will be dealt with as we move forward. We have and will continue to work very closely with Human Resources to provide alternative employment opportunities for all staff affected by these changes. By late September we expect to have the details of changes at all of our locations including the main campus. Once all changes are finalized, I will be meeting with all staff, graduate students and faculty.

On behalf of the Department, I would like to congratulate Deb Hilborn on her appointment to OAC as the Communications Co-ordinator. Deb will be splitting her time 60/40 between OAC and Plant Agriculture.

On another positive note, I hope you will take the time to read about the many awards won recently by our faculty and graduate students.
2002 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Science Contest on August 6th, 2002 - in North Rose, New York. The undergraduate and graduate teams that represented the University of Guelph made their presence felt at the competition with a strong showing in a number of events (weed identification, herbicide injury identification, grower problems and sprayer calibration). Our congratulations go to all of this year’s participants (graduate: Kris Mahoney, Cheryl Corbett, Jamshid Ashigh, and undergraduate: Adam Gamiss, Joanna Wallace, Stephanie Serran, Kevin Dufton and Shawn Winter). Special recognition goes to the team of Kevin Dufton and Shawn Winter who placed second overall at the undergraduate level. Accompanying the team to North Rose were coaches Jason Cathcart, and Darren Robinson (Ridgetown College).

CONGRATULATIONS to Kevin Vander Kooi and his wife on the birth of their son, Noah Mark, June 8 weighing in at 8 lbs 6 1/2 oz. All are doing well.

Dr. Ken Kasha will be receiving the Golden Jubilee Medal which was authorized by Queen Elizabeth II to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Her accession to the Throne. The medal will be awarded to approximately 46,000 citizens who have made a significant contribution to Canada, to their community, or to their fellow Canadians. Dr. Kasha was previously honoured for such service to Canada by being made an Officer of the Order of Canada (OC). When or were the medal will be presented has not been determined yet. More information in a future issue of this newsletter. CONGRATULATIONS Dr. Kasha!!!

Jamie Duran receiving an award for the best student poster in his section at the ISHS meeting in Toronto at the IHC2002 Congress. (The section: S16: Protected Cultivation and the poster is entitled, Primary Gas Exchange and Leaf Pungency of Leeks Grown in CES - Controlled Environment Systems.)
Each new academic year brings changes to the library and this year is no exception. **Renovations** to the library during the summer saw the construction of new offices and meeting rooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors, the addition of 80 more computers, the removal of the current paper journal display area and improved handicapped accessibility in the washrooms and elevators. The new work-spaces provide for math and statistics help rooms on the 3rd floor, expanded meeting room capacity, and space for sessional lecturers on the 2nd floor. The additional computers bring the number available in the library to almost 300. New software includes Microsoft Office XP with Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

The latest issues of the paper journals are now housed with the back issues in the 2nd floor journal stack area. This change was made to respond to the reality of the growth of electronic journals and the decline of hard copy subscriptions. Of the 7000 journals the library subscribes to fewer than 1600 are still received as paper copies. For more complete details on these renovations and changes visit the library home page or better yet visit the library and take a quick tour to see what's new.

**New books, journals, and journal index databases** are constantly being added to the library holdings. You can monitor these additions by going to the top of the library home page and selecting the journal and database lists. The new journals are listed monthly and arranged by broad subject categories. There is also an archive of new titles going back to 1999 and any journals that have been discontinued are listed as well. The new journal indexes and trials section is important to check every semester. Index publishers frequently change the way their suites of journals are offered which means your favorite index may appear with a different search protocol if the subscription is changed to a new provider. The library lists these changes, provides trials of the new indexes and changed search protocols, and invites your comments to assist the library staff in choosing the most useful information resources and usable formats. In August 2002 new platforms for BIOSIS and CAB abstracts are there to try. New book titles are available from the Information Resources section of the library web page [http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/About-the-Lib/IR/index.htm](http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/About-the-Lib/IR/index.htm). The new book lists can be viewed for all three TUG libraries together or for individual collection. The list is arranged with weekly accumulations and can be sorted by author, title or call number.

**Library service** is also constantly being reviewed and improved. The familiar paper Pathfinders that were displayed in the 1st floor Reference Area are gradually being revised and made available electronically with online links to subject resources. Go to [http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/pathfinders](http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/pathfinders) to see these new subject and course support tools. The subject Pathfinders are works in progress and your suggestions for improvement are welcome.
WEB SIGHTS

by Judy Wanner

Integrated Pest Management is a topic that is very well covered through Internet information. For a global perspective on IPM the Consortium for International Crop Protection (CICP) http://ipmwww.ncsu.edu/cicp/brochure.html, a non-profit organization formed by a group of U.S. universities, provides links to IPM research and researchers around the world. One project that the CICP and the University of Minnesota have cosponsored is Radcliffe’s IPM World Textbook http://ipmworld.umn.edu. The purpose of this online textbook is to provide state of the art IPM information that can be continually updated by IPM experts. This information may be freely downloaded for use by educators and researchers anywhere in the world. The ebook, edited by Edward B. Radcliffe and William D. Hutchison, is used in the University of Minnesota “Insect Pest Management” course http://ipmworld.umn.edu/ent5211/2001descrip.htm. Also available from Minnesota is VegEdge http://www.vegedge.umn.edu, a vegetable insect and IPM resource created for the upper Midwestern states and including Ontario. This site provides vegetable production recommendations and pest fact sheets, information on corn, soybean and bean pests, degree-day forecast maps, and many links to other IPM and biological control sites http://www.vegedge.umn.edu/intro/ipmother.htm. The University of California is also a member of CICP and maintains UC IPM Online – http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu, another useful resource that includes phenology models of plants, pests and beneficials, a weed photo gallery, special web IPM projects such as an aphid ID key, and links to IPM educational materials.

Some of you may have seen the scifi farm movie “Signs”, currently playing in area theaters, which tells the tale of a farmer – Mel Gibson – who discovers a mysterious message carved in his corn field with crop circles and lines. Should you wish to know more about crop circles or learn how to create your own (why wait for aliens to do it for you), the Internet is the place to go. A popular topic since crop circles hit the news around 1996, a recent GOOGLE search turned up 74,500 hits. Some suggested sites are http://www.cropcircleradius.com (circle patterns, photos, articles and links), http://www.croppcircleconnector.com, and the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network http://www.geocities.com/cropcirclecanada (crop circles close to home – sites in Hagersville). Finally, for anyone truly interested in this topic, the 1st North American Conference on Crop Circles will be held on November 22-24, 2002 in Tempe, Arizona http://www.chetsnow.com/signs.html.

VARIETY CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT:

PLANT AGRICULTURE CLOTHING

COMING YOUR WAY SOON!!!

Find out more about Plant Agriculture clothing at the Department’s POSTER DAY.
The fall semester of 2002 has been a difficult semester for our Department. I announced and implemented the cuts to our Departmental budget. This has resulted in a strategic downsizing of our Department. All of these decisions were made with care and respect for the individuals affected by these changes. Now that these changes have been completed, it is my hope that we can now start to move forward as a Department.

I wish to thank all members of this Department who participated and contributed to our United Way Campaign.

This year the Plant Agriculture United Way campaign was a wonderful success with a goal of $10,000 being surpassed and reaching $10,691. It is very apparent that we are a caring Department and appreciate the critical service agencies provided by the United Way in each of our communities. 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, participating in the silent auction, playing BINGO, or purchasing a raffle ticket. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Mary Jane Ash, Wally Andres, Jessie Reid, Mary Ruth McDonald, Jen Kingswell, Mary Lisa Kurtz, Dean Louttit, Theresa Rondeau Vuk, Lewis Lukens, Liz Gomes, and Jen Young 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 up and above their own personal donations for various events.

On Tuesday November 17th, we held our first Departmental Awards appreciation evening. This event was organized by the Awards Committee chaired by Istvan Rajcan. The purpose of this event was to recognize graduate students, staff and faculty who have received awards over the past two years. In addition, recent retirees Abe Weier and Glen Meatherall were honoured. Abe retired August 31st of this year and his many efforts on behalf of our Department were acknowledged in our September newsletter.

Glen Meatherall retired on November 1st, 2002. Glen has been a valued member of the Cereal Program for 35 years. He started as a young kid, never dreaming that he would one day be the wise ‘old man’ of the technical staff in the Department. He worked for many years with Ernie Reinbergs and more recently has kept Duane Falk out of trouble on many occasions. He had the sense of ‘ownership’ of the program which adds that personal involvement that it takes to make an applied research program in a crop program succeed. His knowledge of how to manage research plots to

Continued on page 3...
As many PhD students have done before me… I have now begun the task of summarizing the last four years of my life into some sort of book. I am trying very hard to suppress my creative writing tendencies… ahh the thesis I never did! But as I begin to write, I find myself reading every book I’ve ever wanted to read in the past four years, which oddly enough has nothing to do with my research. That…and rearranging my apartment, alphabetizing the cutlery and finally… I even cleaned my bathroom. I actually chiseled the stalagmites from my bathtub. Strange… historically, my policy was to move when the apartment got too disgusting.

There is however one distinguishing element that has come out of all this reading and writing. I love going out for breakfast. I mean it… there’s nothing better… almost nothing but that feeling. I had almost forgotten but somehow right there between RNA extractions and reverse protein blots there was… eggs… over easy… home fries, well done… bacon, extra crispy… a side of pancakes and a decaffeinated coffee. Fair enough, in my fantasy world there still isn’t any caffeine, but… like a thunderbolt it hit me… off I went to Dianna’s restaurant for breakfast. Believe it or not… Guelph has some of the best breakfast spots in any city I’ve ever been to. Places like the famous Apollo 11, Angels, Squirrel-Tooth Alice’s, Doug’s Place and Cornerstone (email me for a complete list and reviews of my favorites). Of course I cannot afford to go out for brekkky every day, so I’m learning to do it myself.

This thesis will be as much a part of my breakfast, as breakfast is a part of a chicken. I don’t know babs… but I do know this. I’m not alone in my love for breakfast. So for those who are interested… please send your donations to “Foundation Breakfast” I accept eggs, bacon and I’m looking for a great pancake recipe.

Enough of my babbling!… It is 1:30 am Sunday night (or is that Monday morning?) and all I can say is… five more hours till breakfast!

**Movie Line Contest**

Well done to Jason Deveau who answered all the movie lines correctly… and in under 10 seconds (correct answers: 1. Dirty Harry, 2. Forest Gump, 3. Dr. Strangelove, 4. Ghostbusters). 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. “It’s not the years… it’s the mileage.”
2. “How do you do… I see you’ve met my… faithful handyman.”
3. “I love ya Clarence… always have… always will”
4. “My name is pronounced Fron-kon-steen!”

***************

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
Welcome New Grads to Plant Agriculture

Ahmad Hussain (Praveen Saxena)
Marc de Wit (Duane Falk)
Danny Singh (Liz Lee)
Harmander Pal Singh (Dennis Murr)
Jennifer Wilker (Peter Pauls)
Heinrich Wohleser (Istvan Rajcan)
Shuhua Zhan (Lewis Lukens)

Stefan Richard - a masters student, won a poster prize worth $1,000 at the CRESTech Innovation Network 2002 Graduate Student Poster Competition in October. CONGRATULATIONS Stefan!!!

Message from the Chair continued...

produce a highly uniform, very productive crop in all kinds of conditions, both on and off the research station, have been a major contributor to the successful development of new cultivars in winter barley, oats, and spring barley over the years. His respect for those he worked for and for those working for him have made him a friend to many people who have come and gone. He provided true leadership in the program and in the Department. We all wish him the best in his new responsibilities of managing to keep busy without the little, daily emergencies that are a common feature of the Cereal Program.

I wish to extend a very warm welcome to the following graduate students who will be joining our Department in the new year: Shuhua Zhan, (Lewis Lukens), Danny Singh (Liz Lee), Ahmad Hussain (Praveen Saxena), Marc de Wit (Duane Falk), Harmander Pal Singh (Dennis Murr), Heinrich Wohleser (Istvan Rajcan), and Jennifer Wilker (Peter Pauls).

Congratulations to Dr. Mike Dixon who was selected to Chair the Department of Environmental Biology. He will be assuming his new responsibilities as of January 1st, 2003.

I would like to thank Dr. Danny Lee Rinker and everyone involved with the Graduate Student Seminar Day which was held on November 29th for their help in making it such a success. This is a great opportunity for us to support and challenge our new graduate students as they present their research proposals.

There is a “blaze” of Departmental Christmas festivities scheduled in December. Our Department Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 12th. Christmas lunches will be held at Vineland and Simcoe on December 13th and at the Guelph campus on December 20th 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 safe and happy holiday season.
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Over the past two years, and in many years before, members from all groups in the Department of Plant Agriculture have been making efforts to do the best job they can at what they do. This hasn’t gone unnoticed and many of them have received prestigious awards, scholarships and honours attesting to the quality of their work and efforts as individuals or as part of teams. These awards are evidence primarily of the excellence of the people that our department is fortunate to have and of their dedication, hard work and good results they have achieved for their efforts.

Glen Meatherall and Abe Weier, both retired in 2002. They were recognized for their valuable contributions to the Department of Plant Agriculture through their dedication, hard work, knowledge and attention to detail.

(Pictured: Dr. Clarence Swanton and Mr. Glen Meatherall. Mr. Abe Weier was not able to attend the ceremony.)

Elora Research Station and Department of Plant Agriculture have been awarded by the Master Brewers, as follows:

The year 2002 marks the 50th anniversary of the Master Brewer’s Association of Canada meeting with the crop scientists and microbiologists from the Ontario Agricultural College/University of Guelph for a research overview and update. The Field Day at the Elora Research Station has become a ‘must do’ on the calendar of all the brewers and maltsters in Ontario. The talks by graduate students and professors on the research that is carried out at Elora have always been very good public relations for the University and the Department, and educational for the Master Brewers.

In recognition of the value of this ‘cross fertilization,’ the Master Brewers have presented a plaque to the Elora Research Station to mark the significant event. They have also created a scholarship fund of $1500 to be given in $500 increments over the next 3 years to a graduate student with a high academic standing in the Department of Plant Agriculture doing research on cereals. Ingvar Bjorndal was the first recipient of the Master Brewers’ 50th Award.
Faculty:

Professor Calvin Chong, together with co-recipient Professor Glen Lumis, received in 2000 the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science Plant Products Co. Ltd. Award. This award is given by the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science in recognition for the best horticultural paper on ornamentals published in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science in 2000.

Professor George Chu was selected as the Distinguished Speaker to deliver a lecture at the "Agriculture Biotechnology - Business and Education" international conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Professor Adam Dale has received a Distinguished Award for the best OMAF publication in 2002. He won it for his OMAF publication #513 entitled “Growing Strawberries in Ontario.”

Professor Mike Dixon received a NASA sponsored Resident Research Associateship under the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. As such, he spent six months at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida collaborating on their “Mars Greenhouse Project.”

Prof. Helen Fisher recently was awarded a distinguished researcher award by the Grape and Wine Society of New York (2000) for her many contributions to grape research. It was the first time this distinction has been granted to a researcher outside of New York State.

Professor Dave Hume was honoured by being named a Fellow of the Agricultural Research Institute of Canada and the Canadian Society of Agronomy at the annual meeting of these organizations in Guelph in 2001. The Fellow awards recognized a (then) 35-year career in agronomy and some specific accomplishments. With the help of a whole lot of people, including Jack Tanner and Harvey Voldeng at ECORC in Ottawa, Dave organized a strip trial demonstration program for soybeans in 1972 that involved all the counties in southern Ontario. Dave has provided leadership to the soybean inoculant industry, to the establishment of canola as a crop in Ontario, and to the understanding of soybean and canola physiology and management. He is the author or co-author of over 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers and has mentored 37 graduate students. He has also served as the Chair of the former Crop Science Department, as the President of the Canadian Society of Agronomy, as the Chair of the Ontario Oil and Protein Seed Crop Committee, and as an Associate Editor for the Canadian Journal of Plant Science and the Agronomy Journal. He is also a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America. Dave is currently the Associate Vice-President for Research for Agri-Food and Partnerships at the University of
Professor Ken Kasha has been selected as the recipient of the Golden Jubilee Medal. As you may be aware, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has approved the creation of a Commemorative Medal in honour of the 50th anniversary of Her accession to the Throne. The medal will be awarded to approximately 46,000 citizens who have made a significant contribution to Canada, to their community or to their fellow Canadians. As a member of the Order of Canada, Ken has already demonstrated the exceptional qualities and outstanding service to our country for which the Golden Jubilee Medal was created.

Professor Glen Lumis was the co-recipient of the Plant Products Co. Ltd. Award with Professor Calvin Chong for the best scientific paper in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science in 2000. He was also honoured as the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award for Nursery Crops at the International Horticultural Congress, held in August 2002 in Toronto. A professor and former Chair of Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell University stated that “Dr. Lumis has distinguished himself as a teacher, researcher, and extension educator.” One of Glen’s graduate students and now Director, Crop Diversification Centre South, Alberta Agriculture wrote, “Dr. Lumis is committed to teaching every course with passion, effectiveness and a sense of humour.” The Executive Director, Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, stated: “Glen is one of those individuals who is a true perennial and an overwhelming contributor to the quality of life of all those he comes in contact with. He has a quiet, unique ability to enrich, share and instill enthusiasm and to do it in an unassuming way.”

Professor Peter Pauls was selected as the recipient of the University of Guelph President’s Distinguished Professor Award in 2001. It is no secret to anybody here how much Dr. Pauls has contributed to research, teaching, curriculum development and extension in our department and the University of Guelph.
Professor Doug Powell has received several awards over the past 2 years.

1. In 2000, he was invited to give the Ivan Parkin Lecture by the International Association for Food Protection at their meeting in Atlanta, GA. This award was given to honour his distinguished contributions and dedication to the field of food safety.
2. In November 2002, on behalf of the entire Food Safety Network, Doug received the Canadian Agricultural Award of Excellence for education and awareness from the Honourable Federal Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Lyle Vanclief.

Professor Clarence Swanton was the recipient of the Weed Science Society of America Outstanding Researcher Award at the annual meeting of the WSSA in Reno, Nevada in Feb. 2002. He was also elected as a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy (2002) at the annual meeting of the society in Saskatoon, SK. The awards committee of the Canadian Society of Agronomy unanimously supported his nomination, outlining an exemplary list of career achievements. Among them, he has mentored over 40 graduate students, 10 post-docs and research associates and several visiting scientists. Over the years, Dr. Swanton has maintained an active and very broad research program in integrated weed management. His research on weed thresholds and the critical period of weed control has resulted in a more judicious use of herbicides in Ontario and beyond. Dr. Swanton has challenged many weed scientists around the country to think “outside of the box” in respect to new approaches to weed management. The true value of Dr. Swanton’s weed management research program, however, will likely never be fully appreciated because of the subtle influences he has had on so many other weed scientists nationally and internationally.

Professor Rick Upfold received in 2001 the University of Guelph Faculty Association Distinguished Professor Teaching Award. This award is given to only one faculty member in each college at the University of Guelph each year. These awards are intended to provide tangible recognition for excellent contribution toward teaching and learning, broadly defined. The classes that Rick has taught generally tended to be large, creating another challenge in teaching. Rick has been able to meet that challenge very successfully by offering an inspiring learning environment for many students that he taught, most of whom remember him as one of their favorite professors during their undergraduate program. This is especially true of many generations of students in the B.Sc.(Agr.) program. As one student puts it, Rick’s “dynamic teaching style coupled with his wealth of experience results in a learning experience unparalleled in the undergraduate agriculture program.”

Staff

Mary Lisa Kurtz was selected as the Staff Member of the Year 2000.

Jean Wobling was selected as the Staff Member of the Year 2001.
Graduate Student Awards for 2001 and 2002

*Ardeshir Ahmadzadeh*, PhD University Graduate Scholarships (W01 & F01)

*Wendy Allan*, PhD Kasha Scientific Travel Fund (F01)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)

*Andrea Armstrong*, MSc University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
Pride Seeds Scholarship (F02)
Sharon Marshall Memorial Prize (Undergrad Award)

*Chuthamat Atnaseo*, MSc University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
Royal Thai Government Scholarship

*Jerome Audair*, PhD Mary Edmund Williams (F01)
University Graduate Scholarship (F01)

*Ingvar Bjornsson*, MSc Soden Memorial (F01)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
Madame Vigilis Finnbogadottir Scholarship (tuition differential - Iceland)
Master Brewers’ Association of Canada
Bullick Scholarship in Food Grain Research (F01)
Best student poster award - CSA Meeting (2001)

*Erin Bullas*, MSc Jack Atkin Graduate Scholarship (F02)
Entomological Society of Canada Presidents Prize
Title: An investigation of varietal preferences exhibited by the potato leafhopper, *Empoasca fabae*

*Cynthia Campeau*, MSc Mrs. Fred Ball Scholarship (W01 & F01)

*Jason Cathcart*, PhD University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
CropLife Canada’s 50th Anniversary Commemorative CD-ROM competition

*Cara Chamberlain*, MSc University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
Jack Atkin Graduate Scholarship (F01)

*Renee Cloutier*, PhD H.L. Hutt Memorial Scholarship (F02)
Silas Smith Memorial Graduate Scholarship (F02)

*Cheryl Corbett*, MSc Bandeen Memorial Scholarship (F01)
OGS ST (W02)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
CropLife Canada’s 50th Anniversary Commemorative CD-ROM competition

*Jane Coventry*, PhD Mary Edmund Williams (F01 & F02)
OGS ST (W02)
Ronald C. Moyer Scholarship (F02)
University Graduate Scholarship (F01)
Martha Cunningham, MSc Ball Scholarship (W02)
SERC Postgraduate Industrial (May 2002 - April 2004)

Jason Deveau, PhD OGS ST (W02)
H.L. Hutt Memorial Scholarship (F01)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)

Rosa DiLeo, MSc Ball Scholarship (F02)

Jamie Doran, PhD Tommy Thompson Scholarship (F02)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
Major General LaFleche Memorial Scholarship (F01)
Crestech (F02-S04)
Best Poster in symposium section - International Horticultural Congress (2002)

Jeremy Friedberg, PhD NSERC PGS B (S02, F02, W03)
Kasha Scientific Travel Fund (F01)
University Graduate Scholarship (F01)
Special Dean's Award (W02)

Joanna Gils, MSc University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
NSERC Industrial (May 01-Apr 03)

Liz Gomes, MSc OGS ST (W02)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
Ontario Association of Food Protection Travel Grant
Davidson Memorial Grant

Ramiro Gonzalez-Matute, MSc Department of Horticultural Science Faculty Award
(last one) (W02)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
Rebecca Harbut, MSc Soden Memorial Scholarship (F02)
Ball Scholarship (S02)
OAC Centennial Graduate (S02 - undergraduate)

Chris Horvath, MSc OGS ST (W02)
Major General LaFleche Memorial Scholarship (F02)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)

Guangyun Hou, PhD OGS (S01, F01, W02)

Ken Janovicek, PhD Mary Edmund Williams (F02)
Pride 5 (F01)
University Graduate Scholarship (F01)

Justin Kastner, PhD Ken Murray scholarship for graduate work in food safety (part of OGS matching)

Bonnie Lacroix, PhD OGS (S02, F02, W03)
Mary A. Clarke Memorial Scholarship (Canadian Home Economics Assoc.) (F01)
Mary Edmund Williams Scholarship (F02)
OGS ST (W02)
University Graduate Scholarship (F01)

Jamie Larsen, MSc University Graduate Scholarships (F01)

Guy Levesque, MSc Manton Memorial Scholarship (F01)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
Arthur D. Latomelle Graduate Travel Grant (W02)

Robin Little, MSc F.L. McEwen Scholarship (F02)

Jun Liu, MSc Ball Farm Services Ltd. and Agrico Canada Ltd. Scholarship (F02)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)

Weidong Liu, MSc University Graduate Scholarships (F01)

Shun-yen Luk, MSc OGS ST (W02)
Soybean Research Scholarship (F02)

Dan MacLean, PhD Mary Edmund Williams (W02&F02)
OGS ST (W02)
Hoskins Scholarships (F02)
University Graduate Scholarship (F01)
Keith R. Collver Scholarship (F02)
Hoskins Scholarship (F02)
Kris Mahoney, PhD Mary Edmund Williams (F01 & F02)
CropLife Canada’s 50th Anniversary Commemorative CD-ROM competition
University Graduate Scholarship (F01)

Karine Pare, MSc NSERC PGS A (S02, F02, W03)
Soden Memorial (F02)
Arthur Richmond Memorial Scholarship (S02)

Valerio Primomo, PhD Mary Edmund Williams (F01)
University Graduate Scholarship (F01)

Heather Shearer, PhD NSERC PGS B (S02, F02, W03)
Kasha Scientific Travel Fund (F02)
University Graduate Scholarship (F01)
Mary Edmund Williams (F01)
(NAAIC) Graduate Student Travel Grant (2002)

Wendy Shearer, MSc Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CFIA President’s Graduate Assistantship

Youn-seb Shim, PhD Kasha Scientific Travel Fund (F02)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)

Urbee Shome, MSc OGS ST (W02)
Hoskins Scholarships (F01)
Manton Memorial Scholarship (F02)
Plant Agriculture Research Scholarship (W02)

Danny Singh, PhD Pioneer Hi-Bred Plant Breeding Scholarship (W03)

Philip Snelgrove, MSc McConkey Scholarship (F01)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)

Karrie Thomas-Granger, MSc Hoskins Scholarships (F02)
OGS (S02, F02, W03)
Tommy Thompson Scholarship (F01)
Elizabeth Trebovac, MSc Ted McGrail Memorial Scholarship (F02)

Justine van den Heuvel, PhD Ronald C. Moyer Scholarship (F01)
Arthur Richmond Memorial Scholarship (S01)

Ezequiel Villanueva-Ruiz, PhD ConAcyt Tuition Scholarship (9 semesters)

Aron Weir, MSc Soden Memorial (F01)
Soybean Research (F01)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
OGS-ST

Sean Westerveld, PhD Mary Edmund Williams (F02)
Soden Memorial Scholarship (F01-MSc)
University Graduate Scholarship (F01-MSc)

Melissa Wheeler, MSc Bandeen Memorial Scholarship (F02)
Bruce M. Cohoe Prize (undergrad)
Grant Woronuk, MSc University Graduate Scholarships (F01)

Jianhui Yang, MSc University Graduate Scholarships (W01 & F01)
Hoskins Scholarships (F01)

Jennifer Young, MSc OGS ST (W02)
Sue Chase and John Steckle Scholarship (F01)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)

Jiazhen Yuan, PhD G.W. Friars Award (F02)
University Graduate Scholarships (F01)
MAKING YOUR PRESENCE KNOWN ON THE WEB, BY JIM HOARE

Well, the new web site for the Department is functional thanks to Rohit, Sara, and Mike. There is still a lot of fine tuning to be done and the constant updating to keep it fresh will be keeping Mike busy. Any comments, changes, additions, etc. to www.plant should be directed to the webmaster at http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca

Many grad students and staff have been asking if they can have a web page like the faculty/scientists do on our Department’s web site. I would like to reply to that inquiry with this article which outlines the steps involved in using your central computer account for web content. The URL (universal resource locator) for your personal web site would be: http://www.uoguelph.ca/~userid where “userid” is the name of your Central Login Account. By doing it this way you get to update the content when ever you want. When/if you leave, your account will be deleted and thus your web site automatically disappears without our involvement.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

1. Do you have enough space?
   Faculty, staff and grad students at the University of Guelph have a maximum disk quota of 70 MB on their central account which is mainly used for e-mail folders. However, if you can keep this area thinned out, there should be room to store a few HTML and graphic files that make up your personal web site. You can check your available space using the disk quota utility under Web Central utilities: https://wws.uoguelph.ca/webcentral/

2. Initialize your account for web content
   You will also find a personal web site publishing tool under the Web Central utilities that will initialize your personal site, and create a very simple home page. If you have not set up a directory to contain your web site...it will create one for you. The directory will be called “public_html.” If you have not put a home page on your site...it will create one for you, called “index.html.” If you have uploaded new web pages, images or scripts to your web site, or created new subfolders in your web site...it will publish them, so that they are visible on the world wide web.

3. Create your home page
   Once you have your account initialized as a web site, get started with building the content/pages. Your first page should always be called “index.html.” This will be your home page: the page that a visitor sees by default. You could simply use a word processor like MS Word or Word Perfect to create the initial text and even insert some graphics (JPG or GIF files only). By saving it as HTML instead of the usual word processor format this will get your HTML file established locally.

Continued on page 14...
You can get more creative using other HTML editors, like Netscape Composer, Dreamweaver, MS Front Page, etc. The bottom line is: get at least an “index.html” file created on your local machine with or without a bit of graphics included. There are lots of other books and web sites describing ways of “jazzing up” web pages that won’t be covered in this article.

4. Move the file(s) up to your central account:
   OK, you have got a local version of your homepage. Use a file transfer program, like WS_FTP, to upload web page files from your local machine to your central account. You can get this software free from the CCS software distribution site:  
   http://elms04.e-academy.com/guelph/ Use WS_FTP to log in to “general.uoguelph.ca.” Provide your Central Login Account user ID and password. You will be connected to your home directory on the server. Your web pages must be stored in a directory called “public_html.” If you’ve initialized your site with WEBcentral (as mentioned in step 2), this directory will already be there, and it will contain a file called “index.html.” Locate the folder on your local machine that contains your version of “index.html” etc. and upload those web pages and image files to the “public_html” folder of your central account. You will need to use the web publishing tool again to set the permissions so the “world” can access those new files and folders.

5. Test your site
   Your web site should now be visible on the Internet. Assuming you have your home page called “index.html” and say your Central Login Account userID is “jsmith”, your URL will be: http://www.uoguelph.ca/~jsmith/

6. Adding a secure folder
   For advanced users: you can add a password to a folder if you want to restrict who has access to certain material. Refer to instructions at CCS’s site: http://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/web/personal/password.html

7. Want to make a Powerpoint or another non HTML file available via the internet?
   Just use the FTP program to move the file to your “public_html” folder of your central account. Once it is there, right mouse click over the file and choose the “CHMOD” option and set the permissions as shown in the diagram. Then send someone an e-mail message indicating they can find the file at: http://www.uoguelph.ca/~userid/demo.ppt Where “userid” is your central account and “demo.ppt” is the desired file.

   When the reader of the e-mail message clicks on the above link, they will get the option to “save the file,” therefore allowing them to download your file to their local machine.

Ref: “Personal web sites: publishing to your site”  
http://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/web/personal/publish.html
NEW COMBINES!!!

The corn crew headed by Prof. Liz Lee received a brand new combine that can harvest two plots at once.

Prof. Bill Dean's crew received a revamped combine for Soybeans and corn.

The Soybean crew purchased a new Almaco combine that will now allow them to do moisture and weight as they harvest.

Some History:

During and after World War II, 1939-1946 there was a demand for more labour saving devices. Many of Ontario's youth had served in the armed forces and often did not return to the farm. The years 1946-1949 marked the start of the rapid change over from an agriculture powered by horses and heavy use of labour, to tractors and the mechanization of many field tasks.

This included:
- Soil cultivation by tractors, with ploughs, disks and cultivators
- Hay balers powered by gasoline engines that picked hay out of the windrows and baled it doing away with the man killer-the hay loader and pitchforks.
- Combines that harvested the standing grain and delivered it into wagons or trucks that eliminated the grain binder and threshing machine.
- Forage harvesters to make corn silage that displaced the corn binder and cutting box

PLANT AGRICULTURE CHRISTMAS PARTY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2002 - GUELPH COUNTRY CLUB

This year we are going to try something a little different and have a cocktail party with lots of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres served throughout the evening (including vegetarian).

Details
Date: Thursday, December 12th, 2002
Time: 7:00 p.m to 1:00 a.m.
Location: Guelph Country Club (on Woodlawn between Woolwich and Victoria)
Price*: For Variety Club Members: $10 for students; $15 for staff; $20 for faculty & Post docs. * If you are not a Variety Club Member the cost of each ticket is $2.00 more ($12, $17, $22). The price of each ticket includes a free drink at the bar (alcoholic or non-alcoholic)

Ticket Sales:
Bovey building - December 2 to 6 from noon - 1:00 p.m., location - main floor lobby or from Jean Wolting
Crop buildings - December 2 to 6 from noon—1:00 p.m., location - 3rd floor lobby or from Jen Kingswell
Vineland - David Kerec
Simcoe - Cathy Bakker
Science & Engineering Night 2002 was attended by over 800 guests. Deb Hildborn co-ordinated the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) and Department of Plant Agriculture participation in the event. The OAC departments that participated were: Animal & Poultry Science, Environmental Biology, Food Science, Land Resources Science, OAC Recruitment, Plant Agriculture. A special thank you to Dr. Peter Pauls, John Chan and Jeremy Murray for demonstrating that “Plants Have DNA Fingerprints Too!” Thanks also goes out to Dr. Clarence Swanton for volunteering to staff the booth.

Potential students were given the opportunity to use some of the equipment on display. It was a hit!

Environmental Biology

Food Science

Land Resource Sc. and Animal & Poultry Sc.
**Prof. Theo Blom** - received the 2002 Canadian Greenhouse Conference Award at the Canadian Greenhouse Conference held October 9 and 10, 2002 at the International Centre, Mississauga.

Each year the Canadian Greenhouse Conference honours an individual who has made significant contributions over the years to the success of the conference. This year the Conference executive honoured a great friend and colleague, Dr. Theo Blom. Theo has been involved since the inception of the Conference in 1979; in particular with planning meaningful and timely educational programmes by encouraging leading floricultural researchers from Europe and the USA to speak to Canadian growers. Over the years, Theo has himself been a speaker, updating the industry on his latest research on Easter lilies or the influence of twilight to name just two topics of interest. More recently, Theo has joined the Executive Committee representing the University of Guelph, one of the founding organizations of the Conference. Theo was awarded a gift of native art.

**Prof. John Proctor** was an invited speaker at the 8th International Ginseng Symposium which was held from October 28 to November 1 at Seoul National University, South Korea. John gave a Plenary lecture entitled “Production practices for North American ginseng: challenges and opportunities.” In addition, he presented, with Cindy Campeau, Chungja Jackson and Vasantha Rupasinghe (Lab Services), Jan Schooley (OMAF) and Dean Louttit, three posters.

Before, and following the symposium, John was able to visit with colleagues at the Korean Tobacco and Ginseng Central Research Institute in Suwon. Included in this group were several people who had worked with John in Guelph. Another highlight of the visit was a trip to Daejeon to Chungnam National University to see Dr. Jae Chang Lee who worked with John in Guelph in 1984 and hosted John in Korea in 1980 and 1988.

John’s visit to Korea was made possible by Al Sullivan, Rebecca Harbut, David Hunter and John Cline who looked after his teaching responsibilities while he was away!

**Prof. George Chu** was invited as a distinguished speaker for “Agriculture Biotechnology - Business and Education” international conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October. He presented a paper entitled “Post-harvest technologies - Delivering food from farm to table.” During his visit, he met the Minister of Agriculture, Director General of the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority in the Ministry of Agriculture, Director of Malaysia Agriculture Research Institute, university faculties, industry leaders, and agricultural specialists from the government. Information about the conference and exhibition can be found at [http://www.agritechmalaysia.com.my/home.html](http://www.agritechmalaysia.com.my/home.html)

**Glen Meatherall** has decided to take early retirement effective November 1st, 2002. Glen has had a distinguished career of 35 years as a cereal breeding technician. We wish Glen a very rewarding and well-desired retirement. Good luck Glen!!!
Prof. Manish Raizada - has been awarded a $123,462 Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant. Manish says that “this money will allow my lab to purchase unique equipment which I hope will also benefit the wider Guelph research community as well. With this equipment, we hope to more efficiently create large-scale plant genomic resources useful to many researchers around the world.

Project Description
We are developing two large-scale genetic technologies for international plant researchers. First, our farmer ancestors adapted their crops to a wide variety of environmental conditions during the past 10,000 years. These seeds are now deposited in large seed banks around the world. We are attempting to create a technology to be used to decode the genes of varieties of corn to understand why they are now different from each other.

Second, because plants cannot move, their genes switch on and off to respond to changes in their environment (for example, to respond to cold or insect attacks). We would like to visualize each gene switching on and off under different conditions. To do this, we have inserted the gene that makes fireflies glow into 27,000 plants of Arabidopsis, a small, fast-growing plant. We hope that we can now visualize individual genes turning on and off by taking videos of glowing plants. We will use this technology to understand how the environment controls plant genes. Funds from CFI will help us to purchase the highly-sensitive equipment we need for this project.

Finally, we are applying these technologies to understand a fascinating feature of plants. When a plant is mechanically wounded by an herbivore, individual leaves of certain species have the ability to regrow new shoots and roots. This would be equivalent to humans regrowing a new torso from a severed hand. This process involves the formation of new stem cells. We are trying to understand this process, and isolate the genes responsible for wound-induced stem cell regeneration in plants.”
New Arrivals In The Library

The University of Guelph Library has recently announced the following new resources. Some are of general interest and others will be useful for agriculture and food research. This is just a sample of new acquisitions. Don't forget to check the “What's New” section of the library web page on a regular basis.

New Databases —
THe Toronto Star's Pages of the Past is the newspaper's digital archives going back to 1894.
The Canadian 2001 Census of Agriculture, Statistics Canada online resource.

New Reference Resource — The Encyclopedia of Life Sciences developed by the Nature Publishing Group. Described as “the most ambitious reference work ever to be published in the biological sciences” this well known publication is now available as a regularly updated electronic resource.

New Books — In the Guelph McLaughlin book stacks


New Journals – Electronic resources unless otherwise noted
Turf grass trends. Wilmington, DE : Turf Information Group, 1992-
AgBioForum. University of Missouri / Illinois Missouri Biotechnology Alliance, 1998-
Bioinformatics. Oxford University Press, 1998-
Food Science and Technology International. Sage Publications, 2002- (Includes post harvest physiology articles)
**WEB SIGHTS**

*by Judy Wanner*

The Ontario government has recently passed legislation regarding nutrient management on farms. The following web sites address aspects of this issue:

Bill 81, the Nutrient Management Act and Regulations, is described in detail with links to relevant resources on the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food web page at [http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/agops/index.html](http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/agops/index.html). University of Guelph faculty have many research projects, course components, publications, computer models and other initiatives and resources already in place to support this legislation. An internal search of the University of Guelph web site will bring up references to the work presently being done at Guelph. Choose the search option on the home page and the keywords “nutrient management” to review these activities. A general GOOGLE search using the same keywords will bring up a wealth of information that can be refined by adding more focused concepts such as water quality, swine manure, or a particular crop. Many of the U.S. states have passed similar legislation and have good web resources on this topic. The University of Delaware has an agricultural extension page that includes worksheets and PowerPoint presentations – [http://www.rec.udel.edu/nutrient/index.html](http://www.rec.udel.edu/nutrient/index.html). The University of Minnesota has a Manure and Odor Education and Research Program described at [http://manure.coaes.umn.edu](http://manure.coaes.umn.edu), and Ohio has the Ohio Livestock Manure and Wastewater Management Guide web page at [http://ohioline.osu.edu/b604/index.html](http://ohioline.osu.edu/b604/index.html). A good general site of nutrient management links can be found at [http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/agron/nutrient/Links/Links.html](http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/agron/nutrient/Links/Links.html). A sample link is the U.K. “Nitrogen Crop Response Model” [http://www.qpais.co.uk/nable/nitrogen.htm](http://www.qpais.co.uk/nable/nitrogen.htm) which simulates the growth response of 25 crops to applications of nitrogen fertilizer.

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**VARIETY CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**PLANT AGRICULTURE CLOTHING**

*YOU ASKED FOR IT...and so we listened!* There is a huge demand for department clothing that could be worn to conferences (golf shirts, oxfords) and your Variety Club is responding by holding another clothing sale in the New Year. More to come...stay tuned.

*UPDATE...thanks to Chris Horvath, Cathy Bakker, David Kerec, Garth Munz, Liz Gomes, Wendy Shearer, Heather Shearer, and Jan Brazolot for their time and help in making our clothing sale (on Poster Day) a huge success. The money raised from the sale will be used towards our upcoming Christmas Party and other events.*