It’s been a busy (and wet) fall, yet the Guelph campus has blossomed with life, student life, and now I know the true value of a service vehicle parking pass. Much has been happening in the department and I would like to highlight a few of the notable achievements.

It is great to welcome Hugh Earl to the faculty in a new way. Hugh is not new to us but he was successful in gaining the full-time tenure track position of Oilseed Agronomist/Physiologist in the recent competition. Hugh will continue to develop his unique lab and field-based research program and he is looking forward to taking on new projects and new graduate students.

We are also celebrating the department’s distinction in being a fundamental part of the only two Ontario Research Fund (ORF) grants awarded to the University of Guelph. Congratulations to Larry Erickson who was instrumental in building the ideas and the network that lead to the successful BioCar grant along with Istvan Rajcan, Peter Pauls and Gary Ablett, and collaborating partners from the University of Toronto and the University of Waterloo. The other ORF was lead by Steven Rothstein in Molecular and Cellular Biology but would not have been possible without the inclusion of Liz Lee, Thys Tollenaar and Manish Raizada. The ORF grants are offered directly from the Ontario Premier’s own Ministry of Research and Innovation and they are a sign of our department’s strategic importance to the economic development of the province.

This fall we are interviewing for the Premier’s Chair in Bioproducts and Biomaterials research. This position is unique for the department and this new Chair is expected to act as a pivotal link between our traditional germplasm development strengths and industrial applications in the emerging bioeconomy. Interviews will end early in the new year and an announcement of a successful candidate following shortly after.

This fall we also welcome Dr. Peter Toivonen to the department. Peter comes to us on secondment from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Summerland, BC. Peter is playing a crucial role in rejuvenating our capacity in
post-harvest research, along with Dennis Murr, Gopi Paliyath, Gordon Hoover and Jennifer D’Ell (OMAFRA), there is a progressive effort to operationalize the new post-harvest facilities in Bovey and to help me to realize the opportunity to (hopefully) soon advertise for a new tenure-tracked full-time assistant professor position in post-harvest.

Congratulations to Al Sullivan who has been elected by the Senate to be the faculty representative on the University of Guelph Board of Governors. This is a very significant achievement and a reflection of Dr. Sullivan’s stature within the university community.

Congratulations to Helen Fisher on being awarded the prestigious OAC extension award in recognition of her extraordinary outreach efforts to the grape and wine industry and to provide valued advice and service to the growers. Congratulations also to Lewis Lukens for being awarded the prestigious Early Researcher Award from the Ministry of Research and Innovation.

The Vineland Centennial continues and Danny Rinker and Deb Hilborn are continuing to lead the celebration plans. Mark your calendars for January 27, 2007 the date of the Centennial dinner at Club Roma in St. Catharines, and perhaps the site of an announcement on the Vineland renaissance?

At Simcoe we continue to offer our best wishes to Al McKeown and we hope for his recovery and return to work. This year we will be hiring Sean Westerveld to continue some of Al’s research work in collaboration with Mary Ruth McDonald. Sean will be working at Simcoe come January.

Thank you to Lewis Lukens and the volunteers at all our locations for helping raise funds for the United Way Campaign.

Finally, we offer our congratulations to Peter Pauls, who will be taking on additional responsibilities as the associate Dean of Research for OAC while Craig Pearson is away on administrative leave next year.

So much happening, so little newsletter space. It has been a busy quarter and we will all look forward to a much deserved Holiday break. I wish you a safe, and fun holiday and a Happy New Year.
WELCOME NEW GRAD TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANT AGRICULTURE

Di Fan, PhD (L. Erickson)

Mayumi Acosta Bastidas

I was born in Bogotá-Colombia. I hold a BSc in Agronomy from the National University of Colombia. Currently, I am in my first semester of the Masters Program. My interest in plant breeding started last year in the University when I had the opportunity to be exposed to the full range of related coursework, all of which reinforced and solidified my interest in this field.

After finishing college, I was active in different levels of research. When I was a student in practice, I participated in the investigation of the propagation systems of some Amazon fruit trees with the Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research, CORPOICA. Later on, when writing my thesis, I was involved in research on germination and flowering induction of wild promising species with the objective of using them as parents in inter-specific hybrid development of Alstroemeria.

Soon after I finished my studies, I got a position as researcher in the Variety Program at the Colombian Sugarcane Research Center, CENICAÑA. I worked in genetic improvement projects which focused on the development of new sugarcane varieties with desirable agronomic characteristics for the sugar industry. Two years later, I joined the Tropical Fruits Program team at the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) located in Palmira, Colombia. In CIAT, I was working on a Project related to participatory selection with “lulo” growers in different regions of Colombia. The “lulo” (Solanum quitoense) is one of the most popular fruits in the Andes due to its unique delicious flavour. If you have the opportunity to visit the Andes region in South America, you should try it!

All of these experiences have allowed me to gain knowledge in the research field and have reaffirmed the idea that the most efficient way to increase the production and quality of crops with minimum cost is by using genetically improved crops. For that reason, I decided to pursue a master’s degree in plant breeding. In March, I had the fortune of being accepted in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph. My research project is focused on the validation of QTLs for soybean Cyst nematode resistant in two inter-specific soybean populations. I would to thank Dr. Istvan Rajcan, my supervisor, for giving me the opportunity to follow a master’s program at this excellent university.
“Students...you may be richer than you think!”

Since I started my MSc last January, I’ve met and spoken with many of you. As such, I decided not to write the general “get to know me” article. I try to be very open and involved, so if you’re interested in me or my past just stop me in the hall one day; I never have trouble talking about my favourite subject.

The annual OAC Awards Ceremony has come and gone. I was fortunate to participate in the event, and would like to personally thank the Bullick family for their contribution to my education. I was quite overwhelmed by the magnitude of support available to students in the OAC (~270 awards for ~ $750,000). Following this event I found myself engaged in numerous conversations concerning the tax regulations of scholarships. Various mature students spoke of their past experiences where the first $3,000 of scholarships were tax exempt, but the remainder was considered taxable income. I assumed this to still be the case, until I was enlightened by a politically inclined student from the weeds lab. He pointed out that there was a proposal in the federal budget that all scholarships be tax exempt. I found this quite intriguing and decided to do some investigating.

It didn’t take long to find this proposal was indeed in the budget, however I could not find out if it had been accepted, or if it would be in place for the next tax season. To find out more, I tried to contact Revenue Canada, but found it difficult to navigate the automated phone service with no live operators. I switched my approach to the university and exhausted those resources receiving a common response of “I heard about that proposal, but haven’t seen that it passed.” So I decided to call the Conservatives directly, and that’s where I found my answer.

As it turns out, the budget proposal was tabled and passed without certain provisions, which were to be re-examined and tabled again at a later date. The scholarship proposal was among these provisions and has since been re-evaluated. Bill C28, “A second Act to implement certain provisions of the budget...” was tabled on October 18 and is currently in review. It is assumed that this bill will pass before the new year, and if so the amendments to scholarship taxation will take effect for the 2006 tax year.

So what does all this mean? Potentially, all scholarships received for the first time this year will be completely tax exempt. However, this will not apply to any scholarships that are ongoing from previous years, and I am unsure of the effects to NSERC IPS. This means that students will be able to carry their tuition credits into later years, or transfer them to a partner or parent to use for extra tax benefits.

If anyone has any questions concerning this topic, feel free to send me an email dvandam@uoguelph.ca or stop me in the hall.
I grew up in Walkerton, Ontario, the middle child and only boy. I was always a curious kid and I still think I still am today, which explains why I am still in school. I came to Guelph in 1995 and finished my BSc in Biology with a specialization in molecular biology and genetics in 1999. I was introduced into the department in 1998 as a summer student and, except for a brief time at Agriculture Canada in Harrow, I have been here ever since. In 2000, I started my MSc with Dr. Peter Pauls on a project examining common bacterial blight resistance in cranberry beans. Dry beans are a nice crop to work with, as it isn’t like corn, wheat or soybeans. There really hasn’t been that much work done on it. A relatively clean slate. Dr. Pauls gave me and another student a lot of latitude to explore and I think that is why I enjoyed the project more than I thought possible. Not to mention, I got to go to Fargo, North Dakota for a conference.

Between then and now, I got married to my wife Angela who is a grade 4 teacher in Mississauga, where we live. So, what am I doing today? Dr. Duane Falk took me on as a PhD student in 2005 with the goal of creating a winter-hardy spring wheat breeding program. What’s that you say? Impossible! Not a chance. Previously, Dr. Falk planted spring wheat in the fall to see what would happen. To his surprise, the wheat (somewhat) survived the winter and the idea of a winter hardy spring wheat breeding program, similar to his RIPE system in barley, was born. My job is to examine winter hardiness and break it down into the major factors affecting the plant’s survival. Some of these components include: vernalization, photoperiod and cold tolerance versus freeze/thaw damage in the spring.

I am privileged enough to have been voted PhD representative for the graduate student liaison committee (GSLC). David van Dam (MSc rep), myself and GSLC members have been successful coming up with solutions to some of the common student problems in the department. We have worked on international student issues, NSERC/OGS scholarship seminars, improving new student orientation, lab equipment lists and improving graduate student communication with the GSLC webpage (http://www.uoguelph.ca/%7Epa-gslc/) and the GSLC weblog (http://www.gslcgradblog.blogspot.com/). Check out the blog, it is worth your while. We are currently working on several ideas including a teaching experience working group, a trip to a Guelph Storm game in January, and increasing departmental activities like intramurals or a skating party at the rink. If you have any concerns that you want addressed, please let me (jlarsen@uoguelph.ca) or Dave (dvandam@uoguelph.ca) know. Helping each other is what the GSLC is all about!

The position of PhD rep is a one year term position. In January a call for candidates will be made to find someone to take over as the new PhD rep. If you are interested and have some ideas to make a difference in the lives of Plant Agriculture students, this position is for you.
Adam A. Queen

My name is Adam Queen and I am currently in my fourth semester of a Masters of Science under the supervision of Dr. Bill Deen and Dr. Hugh Earl. The objective of my research project is to examine causes of non-uniform red clover establishment when underseeded to winter wheat.

I was born and raised in Brantford, Ontario. Although I was not raised on a farm, I spent a majority of my youth riding, training and showing horses. The most common question that I receive after people realize my apparent lack of agricultural background is how I actually ended up at Guelph in an agriculture program. The story is quite complex, but I will attempt to be brief. After completing a couple of high school science courses and being able to apply this acquired knowledge to life and the world around me, my decision to become an accountant quickly changed. At the same time, I was working at a golf course and my employer encouraged me to consider an agricultural degree at the University of Guelph in order to become a golf course superintendent. After hearing positive feedback from older peers about the University and the “Aggies” that attended the OAC, I decided that I should apply to the Agricultural program at Guelph.

Upon arrival at the University and beginning studies in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture program, I decided that I should become directly involved in the agricultural industry. I was amazed at the diversity and the amount of change that was taking place in the industry and decided that it was something that I wanted to be a part of. In order to compensate for my lack of agricultural background, I have gained a wide diversity of experience through employment in several sectors of the agricultural industry. I now take great pride in my diversity of experiences.

After completing an undergraduate research project under the supervision of Dr. Bill Deen, I decided to compliment my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Agronomy Major) degree with a Masters degree. Upon completion, I hope to gain a research oriented role in the agricultural industry.

ATTENTION ALL GRAD STUDENTS

The Grad Student Liaison Committee (GSLC) is looking for people to submit their favourite scientific weblinks. A list will be compiled for all students to use.

Send your favourite scientific weblinks to:

pa-gsic@uoguelph.ca
A Message from the Co-ordinator for Graduate Studies
Professor Bernard Grodzinski

As 2006 winds down I would like to acknowledge my awards committee that consisted of Drs Duane Falk (Associate co-ordinator), Judy Strommer and Lewis Lukens all of whom very cheerfully spent many hours helping to distribute over $200,000 in awards and fellowships this last semester. But as the new Co-ordinator for Graduate Studies for Plant Agriculture, those who I really want to highlight and congratulate publicly are the many deserving graduate students in the department who during 2006 competed and received special awards and scholarships from the department, the college and the university. A few of the recent awards winners who were honored recently at the OAC awards banquet in the Fall, are listed below and on the following two pages.

This list is incomplete as more awards are to be announced in the coming weeks in Plant Agriculture. Thus to all winners, those already announced and those about to be announced, a hearty congratulations. On behalf the graduate committee, please accept our warmest and best wishes to each of you for a productive and prosperous 2007.

Cheers,
Bernie

CONGRATULATIONS

Mayumi Acosta Bastidas
Dr. O.M. McConkey Scholarship

Elizabeth Brauer
Soden Memorial Scholarship in Agriculture

Andrew Burt
SJ Smith Memorial Scholarship
Mary Edmunds Williams Scholarship

Rachel Campbell
Soden Memorial Scholarship in Agriculture

Continued on page 8...
Continued from page 7...

Andrea Chambers
Mrs. Fred Ball Scholarship

Mary Jane Clark
Marian Brennan & Hedley Harrison Memorial Scholarship
Major General LaFleche Memorial Scholarship
Jack Atkin Graduate Scholarship in Horticulture

Evan Elford
Monsanto Turfgrass Research Scholarship
Mrs. Fred Ball Scholarship

Allan Kaastra
Fred W. Presant Scholarship
John Bandeen Memorial Scholarship

Jamie Larsen
Kasha Scientific Research Travel Grant
Sue Chase and John Steckle Fellowship in Agriculture

Weidong Liu
Pride Seeds Scholarship

Jason McCallum
Canadian Vintners Association Scholarship
H.L. Hutt Memorial Scholarship
Ronald C. Moyer Scholarship

Eric Page
Mary Edmunds Williams Scholarship

Laura Palomeque
Dr. G.W. Friars Award

Greg Perry
Mrs. Fred Ball Scholarship

Adam Queen
Mrs. Fred Ball Scholarship

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**Cynthia Rougoor**  
Gerald R. Stephenson Scholarship

**Mohini Sharma**  
Hoskins Scholarship

**Danny Singh**  
Pioneer Hi-Bred Plant Breeding Scholarship

**Renuka Subasinghe**  
Manton Memorial Scholarship

**Ali Taheri**  
Hoskins Scholarship

**Cheryl Trueman**  
Arthur Richmond Memorial Scholarship

**David van Dam**  
Bullick Scholarship in Food Grain Research

**Tina Wambach**  
Kasha Scientific Research Travel Grant

**Sarathi Weraduwage**  
Mrs. Fred Ball Scholarship

**Heinrich Wohleser**  
Soybean Research Scholarship

A few pictures of students receiving their awards.
Visiting Scientist
Dr. Eustáquio Souza Dias

I’m a professor at the Federal University of Lavras, in the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil (located about 400 km northeast of São Paulo). I am beginning a sabbatical at the University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture-Vineland for one year with Dr. Danny Lee Rinker.

At the University of Lavras I teach General Microbiology for undergraduate students and Microbial Genetics for post graduate students. I have research projects in yeast taxonomy and in the genetics, physiology and cultivation of mushrooms. Currently, I am supervising four undergraduate students and three post graduate students (1 master and 2 doctoral).

My project at Vineland involves the Agaricus blazei mushroom that grows naturally in Brazil’s southeast region. The common name of this mushroom in Brazil is Cogumelo do Sol® (Sun Mushroom); but in other countries, this mushroom is also known as Royal Agaricus or Royal Sun Agaricus. This mushroom has become famous, mainly in Japan, because it has medicinal properties especially antitumor activity. Because of these medicinal properties, the Japanese people and others have become increasingly interested in using this mushroom as a health food. The mushroom can be used as a fresh mushroom in special dishes; however, the most common method is to prepare a tea from dried mushrooms. According to Brazilian Embassy data, Japan imported 250 tonnes of Agaricus mushrooms in 2005. China was responsible for 150 tonnes, followed by Brazil with 60 tonnes, of which 50 tonnes was Agaricus blazei. To increase the exportation of this mushroom, Brazilian mushroom growers need to increase productivity and reduce the production costs. Thus, during my sabbatical year, I will be seeking to increase productivity through changes in compost nutrition or supplements, through strain evaluation, through casing material choices and by optimizing the horticultural environment.

Since October 17, I have been living in Beamsville with my family (wife, daughter and niece).

If you wish to contact me I can be reached by telephone at 905-562-4141 ext. 185 or by e-mail at esouza@uoguelph.ca
Dr. Danny Lee Rinker was an invited speaker at the Third International Symposium on Mushrooms in Brazil and the Second National Symposium on Edible Mushrooms, September 14 to 16, 2006, Sao Paulo, Brazil. The title of the presentation “Insect, Disease and Weed Mould Management in Commercial Mushrooms: An Integrated Approach.”

The Field Guide to Grassy Weeds brochure won in the best Print Educational Material category at the Canadian Agri-Marketing Association (CAMA) Awards Presentation (Best of CAMA) in Winnipeg due to the efforts of Mike Cobrough (OMAFRA) and Plant Agriculture technician Peter Smith (Tardif). This was a collaborative effort between Bayer Crop Science, OMAFRA, and the Department of Plant Agriculture along with the support and endorsement of Drs Clarence Swanton and François Tardif.

Dr. Lewis Lukens received $100,000 in support from the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation’s Early Researcher Award Program for research “Investigating the Genomic Basis for Plant Growth Under Water Stress.” When plants sense low water conditions, growth quickly slows or ceases. This adaptation works well in nature, but limits the yield in corn and other agricultural crops. With the overall goal of improving crop yields and productivity, Dr. Lukens and his team of researchers at the University of Guelph are studying genetically pure maize plants that are resistant to water scarcity. Using a new technology, they will identify genes, clusters of genes and DNA sequences that could lead to greatly enhanced crop yields in Ontario.

Dr. Peter Pauls is receiving support for a new project delving into the potential of soybean protein as a raw material for biofibre production. Some proteins can be fashioned into thread, with extremely high strength and flexibility. As a result, they can be used in a variety of applications such as clothing, car seats and plastics. Introducing soybeans into the biofibre industry could help increase market opportunities for soybean growers and decrease dependency on fossil fuel-derived materials, such as synthetic fibres.

Dr. Peter Sikkema received a CFI award of $380,282 for equipment that will support an extensive research program for sustainable pest management in field and horticultural crops at Ridgetown campus.
“This award recognizes effective extension efforts used outside the classroom by OAC faculty members. Recipients have demonstrated accomplishments in extension with emphasis on relevance to Ontario or Canadian agriculture.”

Helen was nominated by the Department of Plant Agriculture Awards Committee (Praveen Saxena, Jay Subramanian, Dennis Murr and Angela Hill) on the basis of her exemplary outreach activities. Among several of Dr. Fisher’s outreach activities the following are some of the highlights:

2. Demonstrating the benefits of tile drains for ‘Concord’ vineyards.
3. Use of waste paper products as potential soil amendments for vineyards.
4. Rehabilitating some old quarry sites with premium red wine vineyards.
In 2006 the Green Crop Network (GCN), a new NSERC network, was formed to address sustainable greenhouse gas (GHG) management in agricultural production systems. Drs Bernie Grodzinski and Barry Micallef head a team of researchers that will be participating in the first annual meeting of the Green Crop Network in Montreal in early December 2006. A report of the initiatives and activities of this new Canadian network and the involvement of Plant Agriculture students will be provided in the next department newsletter. Let it suffice for the moment to introduce the new web site of the GCN, www.greencropnetwork.com/index.html from which the following brief overview was extracted.

“The Green Crop Network (GCN) is a unique Canadian nation-wide research network for sustainable greenhouse gas (GHG) management in agricultural production systems. This network is a composite of the world-class expertise of 50 respected Canadian scientists and more than 46 graduate students in 14 universities across Canada.

Professor D.L. Smith, Chair of Department of Plant Science at McGill University, is the scientific director of this national research network. The headquarters of the network is located at the Department of Plant Science, McGill University.

With support from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the federal government and the Quebec provincial government, Canadian universities, and three industry partners (Syngenta Inc, Reductase Consortium, and Agribiotics Inc.), the network focuses on advancing the scientific insights and technologies needed to develop high performing crops ideally suited for the Canadian climate, that in addition:

1. Lessen emissions of N₂O through reduced nitrogen requirements and altered root physiology;
2. Aid in enhancing soil carbon stocks;
3. Optimize yields and performance under conditions of increasing CO₂; and
4. Increase production of plant oils suitable for biofuel production.

Each of these four goals are addressed by a team of researchers working on targeted projects designed to enhance understanding in the theme areas of N₂O Emissions, Soil Carbon Stocks, Plant Response to Elevated CO₂ and Biofuel Crops. All four themes are integrated by a flow of information

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relating to the carbon or nitrogen cycles within, or external, to the study plant. Adjusting one cycle invariably induces a response in the other, and full understanding is not solely achieved through the collaboration of experts working in an interactive milieu. The network also provides many opportunities for the training of students and technicians, further strengthening Canada’s leadership capacity in climate change research.

The mission of the Green Crop Network is to engage the best microbial, soil and plant scientists in Canada in a collective research program designed to enhance understanding of the genetic, physiological and ecological processes of crop plants, and to discover ways that these processes may be exploited in order to reduce net GHG emissions. If a “crop” is considered to include both the crop plant and the system of water, nutrients and air that supports its growth and development, then a “green crop” is one that has been developed to produce food, feed, fibre or biomass for biofuel production or carbon sequestration under current and future CO₂ conditions with a minimal environmental impact. The vision of the GCN is to develop the insights necessary to breed or engineer crops and cropping systems that will manage GHG emissions and contribute to an alternative and sustainable energy supply.”

Optimizing Word and PowerPoint file size
by Jim Hoare, IT Tech.

A plain text PowerPoint file containing five slides starts off at 12KB in size. By inserting five different 2048 x 1536 pixel image files that are approximately 1.2MB each, the PowerPoint file expands to 6.58 MB. It doesn’t matter what the scaling of the images is set to or if portions of the original image are cropped within PowerPoint, the file size remains the same. For example, if these images are only taking up a quarter of each slide, the file size remains at 6.58MB.

However, Microsoft allows the user to reduce the file size by ‘compressing’ the images within PowerPoint (and Word). This does not affect the original images that were inserted nor does it affect the way the images look when viewed as a slideshow or printed. You don’t need to create a second file of that image which is reduced in size prior to inserting the image.
Continued from page 14...

To compress images, follow the steps below and refer to the screen shot shown on the right:

1. Insert the images into your presentation/document in the usual manner.
2. When finished, point to one of the images and right mouse click on it and choose ‘format.’ (Note - there is also a ‘compress’ button available on the ‘picture toolbar’ if displayed.)
3. On the ‘picture’ tab click on the ‘compress’ button.
4. Select ‘apply to ALL pictures in document’, use a resolution for ‘web/screen’ to apply the most compression or choose ‘print’ if there is a possibility that a hard copy is required.
5. Ensure both the ‘compress pictures’ and ‘delete cropped areas of pictures’ is checked off in the ‘options’ section.
6. Click on the ‘OK’ and ‘Apply’ buttons to make the change.
7. Finally, resave the document.

To check the file size you can click on ‘file’ on the main menu bar and choose ‘properties’ from the sub menu. The file size is shown on the ‘general’ tab.

When this ‘compress’ is applied to the example file, it reduces it from 6.58MB down to 218 KB. This not only speeds up the loading of the file for presentation, but is much easier to send someone via e-mail as an attachment.
Ed Gamble, who died on October 5th, 2006, was a former faculty member and Chair of the Crop Science Department at the University of Guelph. He was born and raised on a mixed farm near Guelph and was one of the youngest faculty to ever be appointed, joining the faculty in 1956. He obtained BSA and MSA degrees from the University of Toronto (OAC) and a PhD from Iowa State University in Corn Breeding, Genetics and Statistics.

Early in his career, Ed conducted an active research program in corn and grass breeding and genetics and gradually became more involved in Administration. He was Department Head or Chair for 10 years, from 1966 to 1976. Two of his notable contributions were shepherding the transition from the old Textiles Building next to MacDonald Hall to the new Crop Science Building and the development of the new Elora Research Station at a time when a rapidly-expanding University needed more space and facilities.

At the end of Ed’s term as Department Chair, Lyn Kannenberg was the corn breeder and Ed developed an effective research program in seed quality, including environmental effects, germination and vigour, seed protectants and related effects on yield. In recognition of his contributions, he was made an Honorary Life Member of the Canadian Seed Growers’ Association.

Ed Gamble made major contributions to International Agriculture throughout his career. He assisted agricultural programs in Jamaica, Taiwan, the Philippines, India, Colombia, China, Mongolia, Japan, Germany and Australia. Ed, along with Neal Stoskopf and Rick Upfold, were recognized for their contributions to increasing wheat yields by 25% in China’s wheat belt. All three received China’s Friendship Award, which is the highest award given in China to foreign researchers.

Dr. Gamble is survived by his wife, Mary, five children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. A private family service has already been held. A tree will be planted in his memory in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest at the University of Guelph on September 23, 2007.
The first annual Plant Agriculture Retreat and Conference is scheduled for Thursday and Friday of Break Week (February 22 and 23). We will have the run of the Hockley Highlands Conference Centre, previously a perk for Ontario Hydro employees. Faculty are sponsoring their lab members, the Chair is supporting the administrative staff. We will have a pretty full 26 hours, but there is an option for staying over at a special price. We will be organizing the talks and poster session shortly.

Day 1
Check-in after lunch, welcome and report from Rene, short science/agriculture talks, introductions to some department members you may not know, poster session with wine and cheese, banquet and party.

Day 2
Short science/agriculture talks, and a moderated open forum.

The full price for private room and board is $139; the Department will provide transportation from Guelph. A partner can share your room and get the full meal package for $72. For an extra $55, participants who have not relied on the bus, can remain a second night allowing time for skiing at Hockley Valley. The Conference Centre is on the Bruce Trail. It has a game room, swimming pool, and cross-country skis and snowshoes available for borrowing.
UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

The Department of Plant Agriculture’s United Way Goal for 2006 was $17,000. Our goal was reached with many generous donations. Thank you to everyone that contributed with both their time and money. Funds raised provide assistance to many community programs.

- Food and shelter to all those living in poverty.
- Programs and services for seniors to keep active, stay healthy and remain socially connected.
- Provide stable housing initiatives for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.
- Help for children and youth to achieve their full potential.
- Job training, literacy, and career development opportunities.
- Support for victims of violence and abuse.
- Bereavement support.
- Independent living opportunities for individuals with disabilities and chronic health problems.

Our United Way Lunch Fundraiser was a great success. Over $300 was raised for the United Way! It was a great turnout with around 70 people attending. Katerina Jordan made NINE, yes...NINE lasagnas. Word was that the lasagnas were absolutely delicious! The organizing committee (Lewis Lukens, Beth Livingstone, Katerina Jordan and Danny Singh) would like to thank everyone who attended and those that made dishes for the event. Their help was truly appreciated.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT AGRICULTURE
HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 15th, 2006
Cutten Club, Guelph

Cocktails at 6:00 pm
Dinner at 7:00 pm

Cost:
Faculty - $40 per person
Staff - $30 per person
Plant Ag Students - $20 per person
Tuesday, August 1, 2006, the OAC Weeds Team arrived at the DuPont Crop Protection’s Stine Haskell Research Center near Newark, Delaware. Coached by Dr. Clarence Swanton and assisted by Eric Page, two undergraduate and two graduate teams of University of Guelph students on the OAC Weeds Team competed in the 2006 Northeastern Weed Science Society’s Collegiate Weed Science Contest. The purpose of the contest is to provide an educational experience for students in northeastern Canadian and U.S. universities by broadening their applied skills in agriculture and to test what they’ve learned. A total of 43 graduate and undergraduate students participated from six universities. The universities represented were Guelph, Nova Scotia Ag College, Cornell, North Carolina State, Penn State, and Virginia Tech.

All students participated in weed identification, herbicide identification, farmer problem solving, and sprayer calibration. For weed identification, the students had to identify a particular species and also choose a correct biological characteristic of that weed. In herbicide identification, students were shown injured crops and weeds and had to identify the herbicide that caused the injury, name its chemical class and mode of action, and choose a chemical or physiological property of the herbicide. During the farmer problem solving event, students were presented with customer complaint scenarios in invasive weed management in a riparian zone, Christmas trees, perennial

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weed control in orchards, turfgrass, vegetable crops, or agronomic crops like corn and soybean. Sprayer calibration had two components for the students, a written math test and the assembly and calibration of a backpack sprayer.

For the third year in a row, Guelph’s undergraduates won the Weeds Contest and, for the second time in a row, swept the top awards. The first place OAC Weeds Team members were Jim Burns, Andrew Chisholm, Gerard Pynenburg, and Chrissie Schill and the second place OAC Weeds Team members were Joel Hemingway, William Judge, Adam Pfeffer, and Blair Scott. Pfeffer, Schill, and Burns were the top three undergraduate individuals at the Weeds Contest. Chisholm had the top marks in herbicide injury identification; Schill received top marks in weed identification; Pfeffer was the top student in sprayer calibration; and Schill earned the highest marks in both of her farmer problems. The graduate student teams performed well and placed fourth and fifth out of 11 teams. The fourth place graduate student OAC Weeds Team members were Allan Kaastra and Eric Page and the fifth place graduate student team was comprised of Evan Elford, David van Dam, and Daryl Vermey.

Guelph undergraduate teams have dominated the Northeastern Weed Science Society’s Collegiate Weed Science Contest with 12 wins since 1983. Special thanks go to Peter Smith and Kris Mahoney for their contributions to the success of the 2006 OAC Weeds Team. Congratulations and good luck in 2007!

CONGRATULATIONS to Bahman Bahramnejad (grad with L. Erickson) on the birth of his second child, a boy named Arad who was born September 18 at 11:52 pm weighing 8 pounds and 4 ounces. Mother, father and older sister are all excited about the new arrival.

“Where’s the computer?”

Master Carpenter Jim Hoare working on the set for the Sound of Music presented by the Royal City Music Productions Inc. The production was held at the River Run Centre from November 22 to 28, 2006.
HEY, HEY, BLUE JAYS, LET’S PLAY BALL!

In late September a busload of Plant Agriculture students, staff, and faculty hopped aboard a school bus and headed to Toronto for a Tuesday night baseball adventure. Special guests included several new grad students who were welcomed to the event with free tickets and warm smiles! The Jays were up against the infamous New York Yankees, and Plant Ag was ready for overpriced beer and baseball.

As the bus fought rush hour conditions through Toronto, Jen Kingswell and Jean Wolting entertained the crowd with trivia games. Luckily prizes were distributed to everyone; the conservative chose chocolate and candy while the wild ones in the group opted for oversized sunglasses and furry tiaras.

Upon arrival at the dome, the group climbed 1,000 feet to the upper bowl, invested in snacks and beverages, and took to their seats. There was an excellent view of the diamond and a great time was had by all. Thankfully, the Yankees broke the tie in the 8th inning and everyone returned to Guelph in time to hit the sack to rest before another day of hard work at the university.

Thanks to GSLC masters rep David van Dam for organizing the event.

‘Tug for Tots’ tractor pull for charity took place on Tuesday, November 28 and raised $12,000 for Sunshine Dreams for Kids.

The Department of Plant Agriculture’s team ‘Plant Aggies’ consisted of Jamie Larsen, Aaron Bowman, Adam Queen, David van Dam, Scott Fife, Daryl Vermey, Travis Coleman and John Watson.

We placed 6th out of 28 teams.
The Department of Plant Agriculture participated once again this year at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The 10 day extravaganza was held in Toronto November 3 to 12, 2006 at Exhibition Place.

Plants such as soybean and corn are being delivered to the Fair Grounds for Friday’s big opening.

Many of the Plant Agriculture faculty and staff will be present for judging and chairing events being held throughout the 10-day event. Donna Hancock, a plant technician, is the Chairperson for the 4-H Field Crops Competition. She is being supported by faculty member Professor Duane Falk and Master Degree student Aaron Bowman.

“The department of Plant Agriculture involves itself every year with the Royal Fair. We support all efforts made to encourage students to be involved in agriculture. If we want to have agriculture in the future we need to promote agriculture to the youth. Everyone should come out to the Royal and see the wonderful and interactive displays...,” commented Donna Hancock.

The Giant Vegetables display is a big draw at the Royal. Professor Mary Ruth McDonald was one of the vegetable judges. Professors Istvan Rajcan and Elizabeth Lee also were prominent judges in field crops.

In addition, Peter Hannam of Guelph, ’62 Argonomy Graduate from U of G is one of two 2006 recipients to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.

“Our department is thrilled for Peter. He has made significant contributions to the Agriculture industry and is continuing his quest to strengthen the relationship between farmers and industry with innovative ideas such as bioproducts,” said Rene Van Acker, Chair, Department of Plant Agriculture.
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SUNDAY

The annual Science and Engineering Sunday was held on November 12, 2006. This event attracts high school students and their parents to the University to get a feeling for the University so the students can start forming an interest in what they want to study.

The day started with a great welcome by a number of hand-waving students (ambassadors) in Red T-shirts on the different corners of the campus to direct them to the parking locations and then to Rozanski Hall. In Rozanski Hall, the different programs such as BSc (Agr) etc., were explained by the different program coordinators. Melinda Vanryn provided the introduction to the BSc (Agr) and BBRM programs. Then, there were 13 locations on campus set-up with displays. For our Department, there were tours scheduled at four different time slots in 30 minute intervals (11:00AM to 1:00PM). One of the student ambassadors would bring the group of students and parents over to the Bovey building, where they were greeted by Rene Van Acker and Theo Blom. They provided an explanation of the educational opportunities and a tour of the facilities. A display was set-up showing the breadth of the different programs within our Department in the potting shed. Vanessa Currie, who had come ‘in’ during the morning, had prepared fresh batches of potato chips, which were very popular with the visiting students. The tour was concluded by Youbin Zheng, who showed the involvement in the Mars mission by touring them in the Controlled Environment System facilities. All in all, the day was successful as we had about 30-40 students and parents showing an interest in visiting the displays showing the wide variety of research projects/educational programs that we are involved in.
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT AGRICULTURE

HOLIDAY PARTY

When: Friday, December 15, 2006

Where: Cutten Club, Guelph

Time:
Cocktails at 6 pm
Dinner at 7 pm

Cost:
Faculty $40 (Faculty guest $40)
Staff $30 (Staff guest $30)
Students $20 (Student guest $20)

Tickets can be purchased at the main offices of the Crop Science and Bovey buildings or e-mail pavclub@uoguelph.ca

Donations of non-perishable food items will be collected for the Guelph Food Bank
CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Al Sullivan who has been elected by the Senate to be the faculty representative on the University of Guelph Board of Governors.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Peter Pauls who has agreed to accept a 40% position as Acting Associate Dean, Research and Innovation in OAC from November 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006 with continuation to May 31, 2006, if necessary.

Vineland Centennial Celebration Dinner
Saturday, January 27, 2007
Club Roma, St. Catharines

You may download a Dinner Ticket Order Form at:
http://www.uoguelph.ca/vcc2006/pdf/VCCDinnerOrderFormweb-Guelph.pdf
CONGRATULATIONS to Istvan Rajcan and Wade Montminy for finishing the Chicago Marathon on October 22nd. The race was run by close to 40,000 people of whom about 34,000 finished. The weather was terrible but both Istvan and Wade completed the marathon. Istvan finished in 4 hours and 19 minutes and Wade finished in 4 hours and 22 minutes. This was not their personal bests but they said that..."the experience was awesome."

Stats:

Istvan Rajcan: (pictured)
Overall Placed - 16,472
In Gender Category Placed - 11,287

Wade Montminy:
Overall Placed - 17,267
In Gender Category Placed - 11,696

Chicago Marathon:
40,000 Marathon entrants
289,826 Marathon finishers since 1977
1.5 million spectators
10,000+ volunteers
420 course marshals
225 massage therapists
50,000 bananas
41,780 gallons of Gatorade
42 trucks
3 helicopters
25 cheering squads
20 bands
etc.

Wade said, “My and his mistake was to start out too fast. By the three quarter mark, ie 30 km mark, I was fatigued and that's with 12 km to go. I've never experienced fatigue like this before and this is in spite of all the long training runs required to run a race like this. In some respects my time was disappointing but the experience of running a world class race like Chicago was something I'll always cherish.”

A quote provided by Istvan:

"Given the level of my condition, this was the hardest thing I've ever done. Considering all my Tours, even the worst days, nothing was as difficult or left me with such a sense of fatigue and so much soreness as the marathon today." - a quote from Lance Armstrong after finishing the New York City marathon on November 5th.
COMING EVENTS

2007

**Landscape Ontario Congress** - January 9 to 11, 2007, will be held at the Toronto Congress Centre, Toronto, Ontario. For more information go to: [http://www.locongress.com/](http://www.locongress.com/)

**Guelph Organic Conference** - January 25 to 28, 2007, will be held at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. For more information go to: [http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/](http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/)

**Centennial Celebration Dinner** - January 27, 2007, at Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Road, St. Catharines. Tickets cost $75 each. For more information go to: [http://www.uoguelph.ca/vcc2006/](http://www.uoguelph.ca/vcc2006/)

**Canadian International Farm Equipment Show** - February 6 to 8, 2007, will be held at the International Centre, Mississauga, Ontario. For more information go to: [http://www.torontofarmshow.com/](http://www.torontofarmshow.com/)

**Plant Agriculture 1st Annual Retreat and Conference** - February 22 and 23, 2007 at Hockley Highlands Conference Centre.

**Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Conference** - February 21 and 22, 2007, will be held at Brock University, St. Catharines. For more information go to: [http://www.fruitandveggie.com](http://www.fruitandveggie.com)

**Canada Blooms “Garden Party”** - March 7 to 11, 2007, will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building, Toronto, Ontario. For more information go to: [http://www.canadablooms.com/](http://www.canadablooms.com/)
An Invitation - for faculty and graduate students to meet with representatives of Elsevier Publishing

When: Thursday, December 14

Where: The Library, Florence Partridge Room, 3rd floor

10:15 – 11:15 Publishing with Elsevier

Come and find out how to get published with the world’s largest publisher of scholarly journals. And, if you are already an Elsevier author, learn about all the resources available to you.

11:30 – 1:00 Using Elsevier’s Electronic Resources

Learn how to use Elsevier electronic resources, from ScienceDirect (the platform for more than 1400 scholarly journals) to reference works and online books. And enjoy lunch provided by Elsevier!

1:30 – 2:30 What’s new with Elsevier

Find out the latest news from the world’s largest publisher of scholarly journals. Elsevier is constantly looking for new ways to provide information to the academic world. Come and find out about their newest products and platforms.

For details and registration see--
http://www.uoguelph.ca/tss/registration/index.cfm

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**A Reminder** for faculty and graduate students planning to reserve library material for the winter term.

Faculty and teaching assistants can submit E-Learning and Reserve requests for the winter semester the paperless way. Try the library online [course reserve list manager](http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/resources/course_reserve/list_manager/index.cfm?fuseaction=authorize.start) Materials placed on Reserve for courses are listed in the [course reserve area](http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/resources/course_reserve/list_manager/index.cfm?fuseaction=authorize.start) of the Trellis catalogue. Please note that Reserve lists for future semesters will not be visible until the current semester is over.

In addition to traditional Reserve services, **E-Learning Operations and Reserve Services** provides the following services to faculty and teaching assistants who wish to make course materials available online:

- Converting traditional course reserve lists to electronic formats for online use
- Obtaining and paying for copyright permission so that book chapters, articles and other print course materials can be used in electronic formats
- Providing electronic content that can be integrated directly into WebCT, D2L or on course web sites
- Providing stable links to full text articles in electronic journals or e-books
- Organizing and storing electronic course content for use in future courses
- Assisting with copyright and licensing issues for both teaching and research

To find out more about these services, contact E-Learning Operations and Reserve Services staff at extension 53621 or [libres2@uoguelph.ca](mailto:libres2@uoguelph.ca).

**Announcing a New RefWorks Release**

RefWorks issued a new release in November. Program enhancements include:

1. **RefGrab-It** - Now you can easily capture web page data with a single click! RefWorks new feature, RefGrab-It, works with your browser to capture bibliographic information from web pages. RefGrab-It also searches the web for additional information related to your web page [based on book ISBN numbers, PubMed IDs and Digital Objects Identifiers (DOIs)] working behind the scenes to get you the most complete bibliographic information. You have the option to seamlessly import any of the data RefGrab-It locates into your RefWorks account.

2. **EndNote 10** - libraries can now be directly imported into RefWorks.

3. The **Term Assistant feature** - (used when entering or editing references) can now be disabled from the Tools, Customize area.
WEB SIGHTS

by Judy Wanner, Liaison Librarian

The USDA Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center (BHNRC) web site features the work of seven research units devoted to research into the role of food and its components in optimizing human health. http://www.ars.usda.gov/ba/bhnrc

One of the units, the Phytonutrients Laboratory, is developing a Phytochemical Database searchable by name or alphabetical list, including chemical structure, formula, molecular weight, synonyms, and biological activities. http://www.pl.barc.usda.gov/usda_chem/achem_home.cfm Laboratory researchers are especially interested in compounds in fruits, vegetables, soybeans, nuts, grains and tea that appear to promote health.

Another unit, The Nutrient Data Laboratory (NDL) has the responsibility to develop USDA's National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, new release no. 19 is available at http://www.ars.usda.gov/ba/bhnrc/ndl This searchable reference includes foods and their nutrient content.

The NDL also has other special interest databases for Flavonoids, Isoflavones, Proanthocyanidins and other food components. http://www.ars.usda.gov/Services/Services.htm?modecode=12-35-45-00

Next issue: MARCH 2007

Submission Deadline: February 16, 2007

Please forward items and announcements for publication to the editor, Deborah Hilborn at email address: dhilborn@uoguelph.ca

We are on the WEB!

Check us out at:

http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca

"Research, Education & Service"

Happy Holidays