MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I believe that 2006 is shaping up to be a very exciting and challenging year for the Department. By the end of the year and at various times throughout the year the Department will welcome a new Department Chair, Rene Van Acker, the new Chair for Post Harvest Science, the Premier’s Chair in Biomaterials and Transportation and a new faculty position in Oilseed Physiology.

By the end of the year, we should know if the very large proposals to the Ontario Research Fund and to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation were approved. We are hopeful and confident as these proposals are very compelling and very relevant. But even if these do not get approved, construction of phase one of the Bioproducts Discovery and Development Centre will begin this summer and this new facility should be open by October of 2006.

In Bovey, renovations will begin shortly for new post harvest facilities, a new potato quality lab and the addition of sophisticated growth chambers as part of the Biotron project with the University of Western Ontario. This is approximately a $1.4 million renovation which will provide modern facilities for broad scientific exploration.

In April, the research lands and buildings (Elora, Woodstock, Simcoe, Vineland, Kettleby, etc.) will be transferred to the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario and will be managed by the University of Guelph. This will unfold as a huge challenge but also a huge opportunity.

All throughout the year, the Vineland Station will celebrate its 100th anniversary, a tremendous milestone and one that the entire Department needs to share in. Sounds like a summer Road Trip to me!

The Agri-Food Innovation Centre at Simcoe is approaching reality and hopefully by year’s end will be a done deal. We haven’t heard too much about this, but stay tuned it could be a tremendous opportunity for Simcoe.

So, an exciting year indeed and this is just the beginning. I am very confident that the Department will make key fundamental progress towards achieving our goal “To become the Department that redefines Plant Agriculture by taking it to new frontiers in science and society.” It seems clear that many of these new exciting developments are doing just that.
Eric Shaw

I was born and raised in Hants County, Nova Scotia which is just outside of Halifax. My family has deep historical roots back in Nova Scotia as I am the 8th generation on my family farm. I grew up on a dairy farm which is where I first developed my interest into agriculture. Most of my high school days were spent at the hockey rink where I was a goaltender, or on the ski slopes. I was also a hockey instructor in which I had the privilege to teach hockey greats like Sydney Crosby. While traveling all over the U.S. and Canada with my hockey teams, I managed to pull off some outstanding academic accomplishments at King’s-Edgehill School, which is one of the top academic private schools in Atlantic Canada. With a keen interest in the sciences I decided to come to the University of Guelph after high school in which I enrolled into the BSc Honours (Agr) program.

I decided to take a job as a research assistant during the summer months in the department under Dr. Laima Kott in the canola breeding program. It was here where I developed a fascination with the breeding program, particularly with canola. Under some great advice and supervision from Dr. Kott, Alex Porter and Tom Smith, I decided that I wanted to further my education and decided to take my MSc. With such great experiences as an undergrad at the University of Guelph it wasn’t hard for me to decide that I would take my MSc here as well. With Dr. Kott as my advisor, the project we will be conducting is the Development of a Brassica napus germplasm resistant to Cabbage Seedpod Weevil.

In my spare time I love to play hockey and I am a huge gym enthusiast. I recently made the transition from years of goaltending to a right winger which is taking some time to get use to. I am looking forward to continuing my time here in Crop Science and can’t wait to see what future lies ahead.

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**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Your Graduate Student Liaison Committee is looking for more volunteers to serve on the International Student Working Group.

Come out to a meeting if you are interested in helping out.
Sarathi Weraduwage

I hold a BSc Honors degree in Botany from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. I also had the opportunity to work as an assistant lecturer at the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Colombo for about two years before arriving in Canada in 2004. As an undergraduate, I gained research experience in the field of plant micropropagation during my fourth year by conducting research to investigate the factors that affect the anther culture of chili peppers.

In January 2006, I was accepted as a graduate student by the University of Guelph to do my MSc in the Department of Plant Agriculture, under the supervision of Prof. Barry Micallef and Prof. Bernie Grodzinski. My research is investigating the effects of carbon dioxide and temperature on the metabolism of Arabidopsis thaliana with altered respiratory patterns. The research is being supported through the newly-organized NSERC-funded Green Crop Network. The Green Crop Network is dedicated to examining the effects of global climate change on plant metabolism and development, and investigations of novel uses of plants in the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Presently, I live in Toronto with my husband, Danesh. I love traveling with my husband, especially to visit beautiful places in Canada. I also read, compose poems, watch movies and email my friends and family in Sri Lanka during my spare time.

CONGRATULATIONS

Lorraine D'Silva for successfully defending your MSc thesis in December entitled "The physiological basis for photoperiodic injury in tomato."

Lorraine is presently working in the lab of Dr. Barry Micallef as a Research Technician.

Check out all the Upcoming OAC Grad Student Social Events on page 7.
My name is Aaron Bowman and I am currently in my second semester of the Masters Program under the advisory guidance of Dr. Bowley. My area of interest is studying the effects of manure applications on established alfalfa stands. Yield, quality and nitrogen cycling are variables which I plan to use to determine the value and efficacy of this agricultural practice.

My story starts on a dairy farm just east of Oshawa in Enniskillen, Ontario. Dairy farming has been a part of my family (maternal/paternal) for three generations. My years of helping on the family farm have taught me responsibility and a good work ethic. My parents’ hard work and perseverance has always shown me that any goal is possible if you work hard enough for it.

My initial interest in research started at the young age of six when I planted my first “crop” of corn and soybeans. My field was a small plot of land in front of my father’s shed. This early interest in growing my own crops has cultivated my thirst for knowledge and I hope to take this acquired knowledge and apply it to improving agriculture practices for the future. For the past four years I have worked for Dr. Bowley and Donna Hancock in the fields at the Elora Research Station and the forage lab at the University of Guelph. These experiences have provided me with applied knowledge of research ranging from biotech to classical breeding.

In August 2005 I was fortunate to be accepted into the Masters Program, allowing me to pursue my goal of furthering my career in agricultural research. My passion for experimenting has moved from a small plot to the research lab and who knows what the future holds for me.

My philosophy in life is “to work hard, learn lots but always have fun doing it!!!”

Don’t forget...GSLC news on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.
Hi there! I was born in Fergus, Ontario, raised in Guelph, and remain to this day in beautiful Guelph, Ontario (I’m a real world traveler!).

Although not from an agricultural background, I followed in my parents’ Aggie tradition, and successfully completed my BSc(Agr) majoring in horticulture in 2004. I thoroughly enjoyed my undergraduate experience at Guelph – on this note, in my final year of high school, I knew I wanted to get into the sciences, but straight-up chemistry and biology never quite caught my attention. I wanted to apply scientific disciplines to something that was directly applicable to the real world – I found my calling in horticulture. Ornamentals and landscape plants fascinated me during my time as an undergraduate, and turfgrass became my passion over all others! I wanted to take some undergraduate courses on turfgrass, however, due to limited availability (one course which never quite meshed into my schedule), I was left unfulfilled. So, at the completion of my Aggie term I decided, based on some very helpful guidance from Dr. Eric Lyons, a new faculty member in Plant Ag. at that time, that I would take a brief hiatus from school, go out in the turf industry and work for a while to obtain some practical experience, and then return to Guelph to complete an MSc in turfgrass...eventually.

Surprisingly, this plan went off without a hitch, and after working the entire 2005 season at Victoria Park East Golf Club here in Guelph (my best job experience ever by the way!), and getting some great hands-on turf experience, an opportunity to work with our new turf faculty member, Dr. Katerina Jordan came along. After hearing that she was interested in taking me on as a grad student this January, I jumped (well, literally fell out of my chair) at the opportunity. To sum it up, I am back on campus, and my project is examining the establishment and early management of velvet bentgrass putting green turf. Call me crazy, but there is something addictive about the sweet smell of Toro Greensmaster exhaust and fresh cut turf at the crack of dawn – I am excited to be able to apply my practical work experience to my academic studies! I look forward to working with as many of you as possible!

On a personal note, I enjoy golf, swimming, taking care of my truck, taking ‘er easy, and I must confess, watching Jeopardy. See you around campus!
Mohini Sharma

I was born and grew up in India. After completing my high school education with a science (biology) major, I received a BSc degree in biology (zoology, botany and chemistry) from Agra University in India. My interest in biology led me to earn a MSc degree in biotechnology from the School of Life Sciences at Agra University in India. I became interested in biotechnology due to recent advances and innovations in this area. After learning about biotechnology from technical literature, I realized that major breakthroughs in this field are inevitable in the next few decades. During my master’s studies, I had several opportunities to work with Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy (CJIL), a reputed institute of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The research experience at CJIL gave me excellent exposure to state-of-the-art techniques. During 2003-04, I also worked as a research assistant at CJIL.

In September 2005, I started my MSc with Dr. Gopinadhan Paliyath in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph. My current research is in enhancing the shelf life and quality of sweet cherries. Fruits and vegetables are perishable commodities. The implication of this research will be in enhancing the shelf life and quality of fruits and vegetables. I strongly feel that research in plant agriculture can solve several problems of the overpopulated developing countries by increasing their crop production. I am excited to work with plant biologists and to learn more about agriculture.

Update from the GSLC
(that’s the Graduate Student Liaison Committee)

The GSLC is an integral part of grad student life in the department and acts to facilitate communication between grad students, faculty and staff. Our job is to represent the interests of all grad students and to voice their (our) concerns within the Department of Plant Agriculture.

In December the PLANT AG GRAD BLOG was launched to help improve communication among grad students. It’s easy to use and we encourage any member of the Department to check it out at: http://www.gsicgradblog.blogspot.com/. If you have comments or concerns about the blog, let anyone on the ‘communications’ committee know. This blog has great potential as an information tool, so be sure to check it out and contribute postings.

We also welcomed Jamie Larsen as our new GSLC PhD rep in December. He and Brae (MSc rep) have been working hard at keeping everyone organized!

Continued on page 7...
Recently we arranged ourselves into small working groups. Here are the members in each working group and a description about what they hope to accomplish. If you have any comments or suggestions feel free to contact any member of the GSLC! Any grad student is welcome to join at any time.

- **Teaching Experience group**: Jamie Larsen, Andrew Burt, Dan Maclean, Cindy Rougoor, Tina Wambach, and Sarah Stephenson
- **Comprehensive Exam Preparation group**: Jamie Larsen and Andrew Montague
- **International Student group**: Khurram Sheikh **More people are needed for this group, contact a member of the GSLC or come out to a meeting if you are interested in helping out**
- **Grad Course Evaluation group**: This committee is dealing with any student concerns about grad courses. Members are: Shawn Clark, Greg Perry, and Renée Cloutier
- **Equipment group**: One goal of the equipment group is to compile a list of all available equipment for grad students in the department. It should be very useful for everyone when it is completed! Members are: Hussain Ahmad (1st floor Bovey), Chuthamat (Ju) Atnaseo (4th floor Crop Sci), Aaron Bowman (1st floor Crop Sci), Andrew Burt (2nd floor Crop Sci), and Scott Fife (3rd floor Crop Sci)
- **Communications group**: Covering all things communications from the blog, to new student orientation, to the newsletter write-up! Members are: Andrew Montague, John Watson, Mary Jane Clark, Brae Surgeoner, and Cheryl Trueman

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**Journal Club Anyone?**

To promote building relations and develop an atmosphere of scientific dialog the GLSC will be promoting a new journal club run by grad students for grad students. A journal club will only work with strong student participation so please watch for announcements and come out and support the initiative.

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**Upcoming OAC Grad Student Social Events!**

The OAC-GSC is organizing the following grad student events for the winter semester:

- **Aggie Pub**, March 1 @ Denim... Beach Party Theme!
- **Movie Night**, details TBA
- **Curling Bonspiel**, March 18th, 4pm to 8pm... no experience necessary!

Contact your Plant Ag reps, Adam A. Queen (aqueen@uoguelph.ca) or Cheryl Trueman (ctrueman@uoguelph.ca) for more information.
Dr. Islam EL-SHARKAWY

I am an Assistant Professor at the Department of Pomology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Alexandria, Egypt. I was born and grew up in Alexandria, which is located in the northwest of Egypt. My father was an Agriculture engineer and my mother a high school teacher. My family includes two little boys, seven and two years old and my wife, Eman FARAHAT, who works as an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Physical Education, University of Alexandria, Egypt after obtaining her PhD degree in sport psychology in 2004 from Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, France.

I earned a BSc degree from the Department of Pomology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Alexandria, Egypt with honors in June 1992. My academic excellence provided me the qualifications to work as a Research Assistant at the same faculty in which I obtained my MSc degree in post-harvest physiology. For my MSc thesis I worked on grapevine physiology.

In 1996, I obtained a scholarship from the Egyptian government to do my PhD in France. In 2001, I received my PhD in Plant Molecular Biology from the National Institute of Polytechnics, having performed experimental work in the research centre UMR990 INRA/INP-ENSAT, Castanet-Tolosan, France, under the direction of Prof. Jean Claude Pech. My thesis work was an investigation of the molecular mechanisms of the cold-dependent acquisition of a competence to ripen in the Passe-Crassane pear fruit. My work essentially involved the determination of interactions between the cold requirement and the expression of genes involved in the biosynthesis and perception of the plant hormone ethylene (results published in the Journal of Experimental Botany and Plant, Cell & Environment).

Between February 2002 and September 2004, I worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the research unit UMR990 INRA/INP-ENSAT, Toulouse, France. My PostDoc research was on isolation and molecular characterization of novel genes coding for alcohol acyl-CoA transferases and alcohol dehydrogenases implicated in the biosynthesis of aroma volatiles in the Charentais cantaloupe melon. Four genes coding for alcohol acyl-transferases and two coding for alcohol dehydrogenases have been isolated. Studies included expression by real time PCR, sequence alignments, phylogenetic analysis, heterologous cloning in yeast, and the study of enzymatic activity. To further the analysis, site-directed mutagenesis in the different proteins was performed to discover the essential amino acids that control the activity and specificity of the proteins (Results published in Plant Molecular Biology 2005 and 2006). In another project, I isolated

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two tomato cDNAs homologues to the *Arabidopsis* Hookless 1 (N-acyl-transferases). The aim of this work was to study the expression of these genes in genetically modified tomato that has over-and under-expressing DR12 (an auxin response factor) to investigate the interaction between the two hormones ethylene and auxin using a Hookless-GFP gene fusion construct. During this period in France I obtained my permanent residence in Canada.

With the help of Dr. Jay Subramanian and Dr. Dan Brown of AAFC, London I was selected as a NSERC-visiting fellow to work on projects associated with the Plum Pox virus. Though I am officially an employee of AAFC, I will be working with Jay at the Vineland Station on PPV as well as ripening related genes of tree fruits. I am very happy and excited to be a part of the Vineland team and I hope to make significant contributions to the Niagara fruit industry. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family. I also like reading, fishing and walking.

Islam is located at the Vineland Campus and can be reached by telephone at 905-562-4141 ext. 141.

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**What is Skype?**

by Jim Hoare, IT Technician

Skype ([www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)) uses next generation peer-to-peer (P2P) networking protocols to allow users to make FREE calls over the Internet to anyone else who has the software. Skype calls itself “free Internet telephony that just works” but it’s much more than that.

Skype was launched back in August 2003 from the people behind KaZaA file-sharing network. In a similar manner, Skype works on a decentralized model, with the only centralized service providing login servers that keeps track of Skype users and their online status.

Software can be freely downloaded for Windows, Macs and Linux operating systems. People are downloading this by the millions each month. At the beginning of 2005, the count was approximately 75 million. By mid August 2005, there had been over 144 million downloads and February 2006 has their download counter at 253 million for Skype software downloads. Typically, more than 3 million users are online concurrently. All this is happening by simple word of mouth advertising by the users!

Continued on page 10...
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Skype setup and configuration rates are among the easiest of any application you're likely to use. This is by design. Founders said they planned for Skype to be the most user-friendly application available today, and they may have hit their target.

Here's the process:

2. Install the software. It automatically configures itself for your computer and network.
3. Register as a Skype user. (Finding a unique name will be the tough part.)
4. Get a headset for your computer. Using external speakers and a microphone is possible but not practical.
5. Locate another Skype user. Searching tools make this easy.
6. Click on a Skype contact name. You can do this from a variety of places within the client application.
7. Talk free to people anywhere in the world.

The audio quality will amaze you. Skype transmits the full frequency range of human hearing (20Hz to 20KHz). Compare this with the standard phone frequency of 300Hz to 3.4KHz and you can see why Skype calls sound so wonderful. What you don't realize, because Skype doesn't make a big deal out of it, is that every Skype connection uses 256-bit encryption. The call quality astounds people, so no one guesses the encryption is automatic and engaged on every connection.

Skype Video, now available in 2.0 version (released February 8th, 2006), allows you to use Skype with a webcam to send and receive live video during your conversations with other Skype users.

All sounds wonderful, right? Well, read on to find out how your machine might become a ‘super node’ for Skype and how to avoid it.

Instances of Skype on the University network have been found to be the highest users of network resources. This is likely because the software can act as a Supernode. From the Skype privacy policy:

"A Supernode is a computer running Skype software that has been automatically elevated to act as a hub. Supernodes may assist in helping other users to communicate or use the Skype Software efficiently. This may include the ability for your computer to help anonymously and securely facilitate communications between other users of the Skype software who, due to network and firewall constraints, cannot establish direct connections."

Continued on Page 11..
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Therefore, running Skype means your system can (and probably will) participate in providing Voice over IP (VoIP - internet phone calls) services outside of your direction and control. **IMPORTANT: You are also agreeing to provide services to Skype for resources owned by the University. Individual users ARE NOT empowered to give such consent** (refer to U of G Acceptable Use Policy, link provided below).

However, it is possible to run it within the bounds of University policy. To safely use Skype while conforming to University Policy:

1. Only launch the application when you need to use it. Make sure you go to the options of Skype and remove the ‘start automatically when Windows starts’ preference.
2. If you are expecting an incoming call, coordinate it through other means. (e.g. email, instant messages, etc.) and only start Skype minutes before the incoming or outgoing call is to happen.
3. Keep your calls to a reasonable length.
4. When the call is finished, turn the application OFF. Closing the Skype application window is not enough. On the Windows OS, the background application must be turned off as well.
   • Look for an icon in your system tray (down by the clock). To turn it off, right click on this icon and a menu is displayed:
   • Choose quit.

Having Skype active only when in use will prevent it from becoming a supernode, and routing other phone calls and using excessive network resources.

References

University of Guelph – Acceptable Use Policy
http://www.uoguelph.ca/web/aupg.shtml

Assessing Skype's network impact, Network World, 12/12/2005

Safe Computing at Univ. of Minnesota
http://safecomputing.umn.edu/safepractices/skype.html

Skype – Privacy Statement
http://www.skype.com/company/legal/privacy/privacy_general.html

What Is Skype, James E. Gaskin, 08/04/2005
~SCIENTIFIC BULLETIN BOARD~

Publications


The Canadian Weed Science Society meeting was held in Niagara Falls, November 27 to 30, 2005. A symposium of great interest was held on Scientific and societal implications of herbicide tolerant crops. It was organized by Clarence Swanton and speakers from the department included Peter Sikkema, Ann Clark, and François Tardif. Our students were well represented as well. Josh Vyn, MSc student received the Dow Agro-Sciences Travel Award and Jamshid Ashigh, PhD student received the Syngenta Travel Award to attend the conference. Jamshid also won the Bayer Award for the Best Student Oral Presentation.

Dr. Calvin Chong and Peter Purvis were awarded the Plant Products Co. Ltd 2004-2005 Award in recognition of their paper entitled "Nursery crop response to substrates amended with raw paper mill sludge, composted paper mill sludge and composted municipal waste" published in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science - Horticulture section.

Dr. Clarence Swanton was recently elected as second vice-president of the Canadian Weed Science Society.
Dr. Irena Rajcan and her co-authors Kevin Chandler and Dr. Clarence Swanton were presented the Outstanding Paper in Weed Science Award at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America in New York City. The award is presented for the paper judged to be the outstanding contribution in the journal, Weed Science. The award is for the following paper:


United States PATENT: Pathogen-resistant grape plants

Inventors: Subramanian; Jayasankar (Tavares, FL and now a proud U of G - Vineland Faculty); Li; Zhijian (Altamonde Springs, FL); Gray; Dennis J. (Howey-in-the-Hills, FL)
Assignee: University of Florida (Gainesville, FL)

The invention features a method of producing a grape somatic embryo having resistance to a plant pathogen, the method including the steps of (a) culturing a grape somatic embryo in a first liquid culture medium that includes a plant growth regulator and a phytotoxin from a plant pathogen; (b) exchanging the first liquid culture medium for a second liquid culture medium not including the phytotoxin; (c) recovering a living grape cell or grape cell cluster from the second liquid culture, the living cell or cell cluster being resistant to the pathogen; and (d) culturing the grape cell or grape cell cluster in a third culture medium to produce a grape somatic embryo.

Dr. Jay Subramanian (left-front) visited several agricultural institutes and laboratories during his recent visit to India where he gave seminars on Tree Fruit research at Vineland Station and also on prospects of higher studies at the University of Guelph in Plant Agriculture. In the picture he is seen in discussion with scientists at the National Research Centre on Banana, Trichy, after a seminar. On the right-front is Dr. S. Sathiyamurthi, Director of the Centre.
Dr. Theo Blom

Research Award
for Research Excellence and Service to the Industry 2006
Presented at Flowers Canada (ON)’s 5th Annual Research Symposium
Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington
January 26th, 2006

This award for Research Excellence and Service to the Industry is a fitting description of Theo’s dedication to improving greenhouse production in Ontario for the past 30 years.

Theo is currently collaborating with Flowers Canada (ON) in three research projects:
1. High Intensity Pulse Lighting on Campanula.
2. High Temperature, PGR’s and photoperiod interactions affecting potted mum height.

CONGRATULATIONS to Hussain Ahmad Yousafzai (MSc with T. Blom) for winning the "student award 2006" for the best applied research by a graduate student that can be used by the industry at the Flowers Canada (ON) research conference held at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington on January 26th, 2006. The award is open to both MSc and PhD students.

CONGRATULATIONS
WINNERS OF THE OFVC 2006 STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winners of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Conference (OFVC) 2006 Student Post Competition! The OFVCA student poster competition has been established to encourage young researchers at universities and other research institutions to present information on current research being conducted in horticulture. This event provides students with an opportunity to showcase their work to the Ontario Horticulture Industry. Prizes are $500, $300 and $200 for the first, second and third place entries respectively.

This year, there were 17 posters submitted covering a diversity of research topics. The winners this year were ALL from the University of Guelph! The first and second place winners are from the Department of Plant Agriculture and the third place winner from the Department of Environmental Biology has a Plant Ag connection.
Continued from page 14...

**1st Place**

**Does 1-MCP Help an Apple Keep the Doctor Away?**
D.D. MacLean\(^1\), D.P. Murr\(^1\) and J.R. DeEll\(^2\)

\(^1\)Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph, Ontario. N1G 2W1, Canada
\(^2\)Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. Simcoe, Ontario. N3Y 4N5, Canada

**2nd Place**

**Reduced Risk Fungicides and the TOMCAST Disease Forecasting System as Tools for Control of Septoria Late Blight of Celery**
Trueman, C.L.\(^1\), McDonald, M.R.\(^1\), Gossen, B.D.\(^2\), McKeown, A.W.\(^3\)

\(^1\)University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1
\(^2\)Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X2
\(^3\)University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Simcoe, ON N3Y 4N5

**3rd Place**

**Evaluation of reduced-risk insecticide/ fungicide seed treatments for control of onion maggot and onion smut**
Z. M. Moineddin\(^1\), C. D. Scott-Dupree\(^1\), C.R. Harris\(^1\), A.G. Taylor\(^2\), and M. R. McDonald\(^3\).

\(^1\)Department of Environmental Biology, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, N1G 2W1, Canada.
\(^2\)New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York, 14456, U.S.A.
\(^3\)Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, N1G 2W1, Canada.
Celebrating
A Century of Success

1906 ~ 2006

by the
Horticultural Experiment Station, Vineland and the University of Guelph.

Front cover collage (clockwise from top right): Moses Rittenhouse, sunshine recorder, main administration building (2006), Ollie Bradt, 2006 plum introduction, original administration building (1907).

Book is ON SALE for $15. Visit the Vineland Centennial Celebration (VCC) web site at: http://www.uoguelph.ca/vcc2006/ for an order form.
2006: A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

Events are planned for the year 2006 to commemorate and celebrate the century of service by the Horticultural Experiment Station at Vineland Station (Department of Plant Agriculture — Vineland Campus).

1. **Publication of the Centennial Report** (cover on previous page): The launch of the book entitled ‘Celebrating A Century of Success’ which documents 100 years of research, service to growers and horticultural education in Vineland was held at the Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention (OFVC) on February 15, 2006. The book is currently on sale for $15 and can be ordered by visiting the Vineland Centennial Celebration (VCC) web site at: [http://www.uoguelph.ca/vcc2006/](http://www.uoguelph.ca/vcc2006/)

2. **Seminar Series**: Six seminars will develop the theme “Current Issues in Horticulture.” Refer to the VCC web site for a listing of seminars, speakers, times and locations. (The next seminar in the series is on Mushrooms. The seminar date is Thursday, April 6, 2006 at 3:00 p.m., Room 116, Crop Science building, University of Guelph. Dr. Ralph Noble, professor & research investigator in mushroom research and utilization of spent mushroom substrate, Warwick HRI, UK will speak on ‘Legislating, measuring and managing mushroom compost odours in the UK and Ireland.’)

3. **Grower Education Programs**: In addition to seminars aimed at a grower audience, tours of the Research Station will be conducted taking the form of the familiar twilight meetings or field days that have been such a valuable part of the Station’s extension component in past years. These events will be timed to coincide with optimum crop development and maturity stages and will be advertised through the network of grower newsletters and similar vehicles of the extension services. Opportunities will be taken to emphasize the centennial theme.

4. **A Station Homecoming & Open House**: Saturday, August 26, 2006 has been established for two major events. The first is aimed particularly at former and present Station staff members and their families. The Station Alumni Homecoming will occur in the morning providing an opportunity to renew friendships and reminisce about “Station” life and ending with lunch on the campus. The general public will then be invited for an Open House in the afternoon that will feature informal self-guided tours of the station, the beautiful grounds including the Millennium Forest, the Heritage Apple Orchard and the Japanese flowering cherry collection. Also featured will be a garden showing a collection of many of the new crop varieties introduced by the Vineland Station plant breeders over the years. A Centennial Time Capsule, with a collection of appropriate memorabilia, will be interred during the afternoon.

5. **Centennial Celebration Dinner**: The Grand Finale to the year will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2007 at Club Roma in St. Catharines.

Dr. David Pree receiving the Award of Merit and a copy of the Vineland Centennial book at the OFVC. Left to right: Tom Wiley (NPF&VGA President), Dr. David Pree (AAFC), Torrie Warner (OFTA President), and Dr. Danny Lee Rinker (U of G).
ONTARIO FRUIT & VEGETABLE CONVENTION ~ February 15 & 16, 2006

Ray Kaczmarski, Danny Lee Rinker and Judy Wanner help staff the Vineland Centennial booth at the convention. A special thanks to the OF&VC and the Tender Fruit Marketing Board for donating the booth space!

OF&VC 2006

Bill Lay and Judy Wanner working at the Department of Plant Agriculture booth at the convention.
55th Annual Muck Vegetable Conference

March 22 and 23, 2006
Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish Centre
Bradford, Ontario

There is no registration fee for this conference and lunch is provided thanks to the generous contributions of the conference sponsors. The speaker program begins each day at 9:00 a.m.

For more information contact Shawn Janse at e-mail sjanse@uoguelph.ca or Mary Ruth McDonald at e-mail mrmcdona@uoguelph.ca

The full program is on the Department of Plant Agriculture web site at:
http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/news/seminars/Muck/muckconf06.html

We are extremely happy to announce the arrival of a new baby boy to Naheed Rana and Kashif Javed.

Raafie Javed was born December 21st, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at Guelph General Hospital. Raafie weighed 6lbs and 9oz and is absolutely gorgeous.

Naheed Rana is the laboratory technician for Dr. Barry Micallef and Dr. Lewis Lukens in the Crop Science building.

Congratulations Naheed and Kashif on the arrival of your new born baby boy and Mehreen for your little brother!
Food Safety Messages: Lessons Learned from Extension Communicators

Food Safety Network Student Seminar Series 2006

The focus of this series is to discuss applied food safety research and integration in extension communication. This series culminates with the first national gathering to discuss current and emerging issues of relevance to food safety communicators.

- **Thursday March 9th, 2006**
  12:30-1:20 OVC 1715
  What good are microbial models anyway?
  Dr. Don Schaffner
  Lead Scientist, Food Risk Analysis Initiative
  Rutgers University

- **Thursday April 6th, 2006**
  12:30-1:20 OVC 1715
  You Say Tomato, I say Tomahto: Do you hear me? Do you understand?
  Gordon Hayburn
  Senior Lecturer
  School of Applied Sciences
  University of Wales Institute Cardiff

- **Wednesday May 31st, 2006**
  12:30-1:20 OVC 1715
  The Steam Canner, Orange Marmalade and Other Lessons I Have Learned in Extension Education
  Dr. Linda Harris
  Cooperative Extension Specialist
  Department of Food Science and Technology
  University of California (Davis)

Continued on page 22...
Continued from page 21...

- **Tuesday June 13th, 2006**
  8:30-4:30 Rozanski 102
  Getting the Word Out: Are we communicating effectively?
  Food Safety Communicators Conference

  The Food Safety Network is hosting this first national gathering of food safety communicators. This one day conference will offer attendees a unique opportunity to meet, exchange ideas and learn about innovative projects. The conference is of interest to all who actively engage the public on food safety issues. A key goal is to bring food safety communicators together to stimulate discussion and explore opportunities for collaboration. This conference is supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s ACAAF (Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food) Program.

For further information please refer to the Food Safety Network website at [www.foodsafetynetwork.ca](http://www.foodsafetynetwork.ca) or contact Ben Chapman at 519-824-4120 extension 54280 or by e-mail at bchapman@uoguelph.ca

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**Krysten Norton Wins at IHSA - A First for a U of G Rider**

A special congratulations goes out to Krysten Norton (shown above) who, with her win in the Walk/Trot class of the IHSA (Intercollegiate Horse Show Association - a show circuit running extensively out of the US where college and university students compete), has clinched her spot at regionals in April which will be held at St. Lawrence University in NY. Krysten is the first University of Guelph rider to qualify for regionals and her Plant Agriculture connection is that she is the daughter of Debbie Norton (technician with J. Cline).
COMING EVENTS

2006

Canada Blooms - March 8 to 12, 2006, held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building, Toronto, Ontario. For more information go to: http://www.canadablooms.com/

College Royal - March 18 and 19, 2006, all events are FREE and open to the public. The theme this year is “Building Towards a Royal Future.” For more information go to: http://www.collegeroyal.uoguelph.ca/

55th Annual Muck Vegetable Conference - March 22 & 23, 2006, at the Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish Centre, Bradford, Ontario. For more information go to: http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/news/seminars/Muck/muckconf06.html or contact Shawn Janse at e-mail sjanse@uoguelph.ca or Mary Ruth McDon-ald at e-mail mrmcdona@uoguelph.ca

Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show - September 12 to 14, 2006, at the University of Guelph Research Station, Woodstock, Ontario. For more information go to: http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com/

International Plowing Match and Rural Expo 2006 - Peterborough County September 19 to 23, 2006. For more information go to: http://www.plowingmatch.org/

Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show - October 3 to 9, 2006, at the Simcoe Fair Grounds, 172 South Drive, Simcoe, Ontario. For more information go to: http://www.norfolkcountyfair.com/

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair - November 3 to 12, 2006, at the National Trade Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario. For more information go to: http://www.royalfair.org/
Library implements No Parking policy for computers

In response to student concerns, the Library is introducing a No Parking policy for computer workstations. Starting March 1, 2006 personal belongings left unattended at a public computer for more than 15 minutes will be removed by Library Facilities staff and held securely at the Circulation & Interlibrary Services Desk. The computer equipment in question will then be made available to the next person waiting in line.

For many months, students have complained to library staff about library users who "park" their belongings at a computer workstation to reserve that station as they come and go throughout the day, leaving the computer unoccupied yet unavailable to other users. The Library is implementing this policy due to the heavy demand for computers in McLaughlin Library and OVC Learning Commons.

The policy applies to all electronic library equipment, including desktop computers, microform readers, and TV/VCRs. It does not apply to Library laptops signed out by students, or to non-electronic equipment like study carrels. The complete information on how the policy will work or to comment on it please go to www.lib.uoguelph.ca/facilities/noparking.cfm

Help is still available this term for RefWorks, GIS, Research, and Assignments

Classes for RefWorks, GIS & Grad Students Workshops, and Drop-in research help for assignments is still available. RefWorks classes will continue until April 24th. Sign up at the Learning Commons desk in the library or call me at #54055 and I can sign you up. See www.lib.uoguelph.ca/help/research/events/index.htm for the schedule.

The GIS Workshop Series continues until March 22nd. Check out the GIS web page for workshop details and descriptions of library GIS services. In addition to scheduled workshops, GIS staff will be happy to provide assistance in locating, selecting, and using GIS data and software by appointment or as part of a class.

Continued on page 25...
Continued from Page 24...

A new Learning Commons pilot project is providing one-on-one research help tailored to individual needs until March 8th. Drop-in to the Learning Commons on the Library first floor anytime between 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. For further information see: www.lib.uoguelph.ca/help/research/events/index.htm

**New Learning Commons Programs and Services for TAs and Graduate Students**

The Learning Commons also has developed a new program G.R.A.D.S., specifically for Graduate Students. Topics include: Getting Your Thesis Writing Started, Writing a Critical Literature Review, Effective Presentation Skills, Making and Presenting a Poster, Managing Stress and Anxiety, Researching and Writing Using RefWorks, and Goal Setting and Time Planning. These workshops and programs are designed for graduate students at all levels and are held in small group settings. These end in mid-March but will be repeated in coming terms. More information and a schedule can be found at www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/WinterWorkshops.html Individual assistance can also be arranged by appointment by contacting the Learning Commons at ext. 53632.

In addition to workshops the Learning Commons also offers ESL (English as a Second Language) services which range from individual assistance and non-credit courses in written and oral communication to The Conversation Partners Project which links international and Canadian students for cultural interchange and conversation practice.

For TAs the Learning Commons can provide specialized workshops and/or printed resources specific to the learning or writing needs of a particular department and students. Examples of workshops are: writing in the sciences vs. writing in the arts, or evaluating student writing. For further information pick up the brochure “Learning and Writing Services for Graduate Students and TAs” from the Learning Commons on the first floor of the library. Take some time visit to the Commons to review the wealth of information available as handouts.
WEB SIGHTS

by Judy Wanner, Liaison Librarian

Library Map Resources – You Can Get There From Here

Use library map resources to plan trips, add information to WebCT, and locate specialized information. Map and Atlas information is available from the Library Subject Guide page http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/help/research/guides/index.cfm?code=maps. Online references available from this site include: Atlases of Canada and the United States, Canadian soil information maps from CanSis such as the National Soil Database http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/nsdb/intro.html, Canadian topographic maps http://maps.nrcan.gc.ca/index_e.php, world maps, and much more.

Map, atlas, and geographic information can also be accessed from the E-reference pages – Maps/Atlases http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/resources/e-reference/. The Atlas of Canada produced by Natural Resources Canada http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/index.html is a terrific interactive resource. In addition to straightforward maps of Canada and each province, there are several specialized maps relating to: Environment, People & Society, Economy, History, Climate Change, Freshwater, Health, and Map Archives. There are many subdivisions for each of these categories. For example, you can look at Environment - Forests - Tree Species by EcoRegion or Environment - Forests - Wetlands and Forests. Give it a try.

In addition to maps, the library E-reference Map/Atlas site also provides information on correctly citing maps and geospatial resources both paper and digital, - http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/locations/umd/digital/citation.html as well as several distance calculators, such as the Map Scale Calculator which converts units measured on a map to true distance on the ground http://oregonstate.edu/~reeset/html/scale.html.