Thank you to everyone who helped to make out second departmental retreat a great success. There is no doubt that the University is facing financial challenges but I am confident that we will be able to weather these challenges and continue to make significant local, national and international contributions. My confidence comes from my interactions within the department, and the retreat reaffirmed this and it reaffirmed for me what the key priorities are for us and also what two primary strategies we can pursue to best help the University. Our key priorities, as ever, will be excellence in teaching, research and service and the first strategy that will help the University in these challenging times is to continue to pursue excellence in this regard. Every new grant and new graduate student that comes to the department brings profile, new opportunities, new ideas, and new income. In this fashion we all contribute a great deal to helping the University in its challenges by working hard in our own programs and our own projects. The second strategy relates to the vast constituency that our department serves. We have a long history of providing tremendous value to a large community of industry partners and alumni. Over decades, they have needed us to help them to overcome challenges and to succeed. Now is a time when we will need their help in return. With coordination via the University and the College, our department is taking a leadership role in reaching out to our industry partners and our alumni. We have a number of initiatives already started including for example, engagement of the major seed companies for funding in the plant breeding area, support of a new campaign for turfgrass research, a campaign to rejuvenate teaching and research in landscape horticulture, and ongoing efforts to further develop the biomaterials centre. But given the breadth of our department there are certainly more opportunities, in fact an endless number, but we need everyone’s help to make us recognize them and realize them. I am looking to you for ideas, for leads, for leadership and for help.
Welcome New Grads

A few more graduate students joined us in January after the last newsletter was published, so a hearty welcome to:

- Misran Azizah - Ph.D. (G. Paliyath)
- Kelli Durham—M.Sc. (A. Navabi/P. Pauls)
- Luis Avila - M.Sc. (L. Lukens)
- W. Obeidat—M.Sc. (C. Swanton)
- Pooneh Piri—M.Sc. (C. Swanton)
- Saria Khanal,- M.Sc. (A. Navabi/P. Pauls)
- Laxhman Ramsahoi—M.Sc. (H. Earl)

We hope you find your time in Plant Agriculture to be scientifically & educationally rewarding as well as a lot of fun!!

Graduate Student Awards

Congratulations to Jamie Larsen, a Ph.D. candidate with Duane Falk on being awarded the 2008-09 Seed of the Year scholarship. The Seed of the Year Scholarship is in recognition of the advancements in plant breeding and education. Jamie’s research focuses on utilizing beneficial traits from spring wheat and imparting these traits into winter wheat to create a unique winter-hardy spring wheat breeding system. This breeding system will lead to the improvement of efficiency in winter wheat breeding and potentially increase yields for producers. Jamie did his M.Sc. In Plant Agriculture as well in the area of dry bean breeding. Congratulations Jamie on this well deserved award.

Sarathi Weraduwage won a student award for her oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Green Crop Network in Vancouver in December. Sarathis’s presentation was entitled”Enhanced fatty acid and oil synthesis under elevated CO₂ in Arabidopsis thaliana (L.) Heynh. having altered expression of mitochondrial pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase”. Co-authors of the paper were S. Rauf, M.C. Micalef, D.C. Taylor, B. Grodzinski and B.J. Micalef. Well done Sarathi, our congratulations to you on this honour!
I grew up on a small cash crop and cow/calf farm just outside of Kippen, Ontario. Along with my sister and brother we helped out on the farm and learned to appreciate our 125 year old family farm. Throughout my teenage years I was very active in girl guides, 4-H, and junior volunteering (yes, I did have to wear the candy-striped uniform)!

I completed my undergrad at McMaster and graduated with an Honours Biochemistry and, strangely enough I received a minor in Anthropology (archeology...not cultural!). Although I enjoyed biochemistry I wanted to return to my agricultural roots. My Dad had always bugged me about going to the “wrong” university (he was a Crop Science grad) and I thought perhaps I could rectify my “mistake”! During the summers of my undergrad degree I had worked as a summer student for Peter Sikkema and he suggested I talk to François Tardif about working on a graduate degree. François agreed to take me on as a masters student and I worked on identifying point mutations in the ALS gene conferring resistance to Group II herbicides in redroot and green pigweed. In 2001 I moved to Ridgetown and began work as a technician in the Horticultural Weeds Research group with Darren Robinson. I had a steep learning curve since I had suddenly entered the world of tomatoes and cole crops instead of field crops. I even went so far as to introduce myself to Darren by breaking a unit off of our transplanter in front of him; thankfully he chose to keep me! I have been at Ridgetown Campus for about 8 years and enjoy working there. Ridgetown has provided me the opportunity to teach, do extension work, and increase my knowledge about a variety of hort crops including strawberries and blueberries. Unlike field crop research I get to eat and enjoy my crops! This past fall I began my Phd with Darren Robinson and am examining cumulative herbicide stress caused by spray drift on processing tomatoes. For the next couple of years I will be spending 8 months in Guelph completing course and lab work and then return to Ridgetown, in the summer, to conduct field trials.

As for spare time I still lead girl guides and the occasional 4-H club. I also enjoy kayaking and canoeing when I have time.

Recent Defences


Olivier Stoffyn

I was born and raised in East Jeddore, Nova Scotia, a small fishing town about an hour east of Halifax. I grew up in the woods by the sea, sailing boats and cutting trees. I don’t really know how I got so interested in agriculture, it sort of happened gradually. My grandmother had a very large garden and a green thumb and I always enjoyed helping her; maybe that’s what did it. In any case, by the time I was 14 or 15, I knew what I wanted to do with my life. So when I finished high school I applied to the agricultural schools across Canada, and was accepted almost everywhere! I chose Quebec because my family speaks French at home and I wanted to give that a try, there is more large scale agriculture in Quebec than in Nova Scotia, and because Montreal is just a nice place to be.

I did a BSc in Agriculture at McGill University’s MacDonald College. McGill gave me my first experience with real farming; many of my friends had farms and soon I was working with them every weekend and during the summers. That was a lot of fun and I think I learned as much if not more in the fields than in class. At McGill, I got more and more interested in horticulture and plant tissue culture. So when I found out that McGill does not offer an honors degree in agriculture, I spent a year at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College where I completed an undergraduate thesis on the micropropagation of lilies. I accepted an MSc position here, at Guelph, working with asparagus as it seemed a natural continuation in the field of horticulture and a good way to broaden my experience.

I really enjoy working on farms both with animals and crops, especially if it involves tractors and equipment! My ambition is to eventually own my own farm somewhere in eastern Canada. I still do a lot of sailing when I go home as well as canoe camping and tree cutting. And if I’m not doing any of that stuff, I like country music and having a beer with some friends!

Monica Parker

Adventures in Rwanda

As some of you know Monica Parker, a Ph.D. student with Mary Ruth McDonald is currently in Rwanda for 3 months. Monica has worked there in the past and was excited to have the opportunity to return. In her own words, please see details of this exciting mission.

The project that I will be contributing to is a sub-project of the larger Umutara Community Resource and Infrastructure Development Programme (UCRIDP), a 10 year multi-sectoral integrated development programme with the objective of enhancing human and institutional development. The programme is funded by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD, a UN body) and largely operates through supporting sub-projects within the programme objectives.

The sub-project is to support vegetable production in the valleys/marshland areas along the main road linking rural towns to the capital Kigali, postharvest management, vegetable marketing and supply chain issues. Essentially my duties are to develop a training module and train agronomists and famers (smallholders, associations) in vegetable (cabbage, tomato, spinach and kale) and passion fruit production emphasizing an IPM approach to production and assist rural extension agents (programme and government agronomists, lead farmers) to support growers.

Monica has promised to give us an update when she returns, so keep reading!
The other day, I was gently reminded by Beth Livingstone, our department secretary and editor of our Newsletter, that an article for the March Newsletter regarding the Graduate Program would be appreciated prior to Friday March 13th. Since it is the 13th as I compose these thoughts I concluded that I should remain optimistic.

Earlier in June of 2008, I reported that by following the web link via www.uoguelph.ca to Graduate Studies and to the department a NEW description of our graduate program now reflected the THREE broad fields of Plant Sciences that officially describe our new graduate program: 1) Plant Genetics and Breeding, 2) Plant Physiology and Biochemistry and 3) Crop Production Systems. I went on to remind readers that since our departmental review we collectively had altered the requirements for admission and degree for the M.Sc. and the Ph.D. programs in a manner that better reflected the many discussions that students and faculty shared during the first three years since I became the graduate coordinator. I also noted that just as the new calendar description of graduate program in the THREE broad fields of Plant Sciences became official and posted on-line several notable changes in the membership of the Graduate Committee were occurring.

Given the trials and tribulations of the Ontario Agricultural College and of the Department of Plant Agriculture over the last few months it is reasonable for one to ask, “Have the changes that we have strived to make made a difference?” It is still too early to be certain. However, I would argue that the department’s fortunes at least with respect to Graduate education have never looked this good since the merger of the old Departments of Crop Science and Horticultural Sciences on the main campus over 10 years ago, and the expansion of the joint graduate program to include faculty at the Vineland, Ridgetown and Simcoe Campuses.

It is hard to believe but almost 2 years ago we were undergoing our first external review of our joint graduate program. In a Newsletter of that period I expressed my deep concern that we had witnessed too steep a decline in enrolment figures in both undergraduate and graduate programs to remain vibrant as a department if efforts to reverse these trends were not taken. Although undergraduate programs continued to drop as we entered the Fall semester of 2007 the first signs that our graduate enrolment number was being corrected were appearing. In the Fall of 2007 we had about 84 students in PAg. This return to levels of early years was due to a very active recruitment that year that led to a record enrolment for us in a single semester. That strong enrolment period occurred because the university and particularly, the faculty actively invested in recruitment. The question that I raised in my earlier editorial was whether the unusually healthy enrollment that we were experiencing in 2007 was an accident? Was this a new trend that could be sustained? My assessment is that although enrolment figures in Fall 2007 were higher than experienced in the years following amalgamation this pattern was no accident.

It is now March 2009, and a NEW record enrolment of 93 has been achieved. (Incidentally, to you cynics, yes, we have been graduating many students too). Thus, the new
question is “Can we sustain a higher level of graduate activity or is this as good as it gets?” There are good signs that our program can reach 3 digit numbers. Why this optimistic forecast?

Most importantly, I would say that my forecast comes first from confidence gained in working closely with faculty in PAg. During the last three years I have noted that many have taken up the challenge of turning our faltering graduate numbers around by becoming active in the recruitment of good graduate students and also in sharing information on prospective students with colleagues. The scope of research activity of the current faculty, especially the younger faculty, is quite impressive and extends to research areas of applied Plant Sciences beyond the traditional concerns of classical production agriculture. Although, it has become harder not easier of late for faculty to obtain sizable external grants and for the university to provide scholarships and bursaries for graduate student support with reduced interest on investments, we seem as a collective to value graduate student interactions and what this interaction means in maintaining our research credentials.

Another reason for my optimism is the increased opportunity to expand our funding for graduate studies in many areas of the Plant Sciences. The Graduate Committee which I must add has been fun to chair has been very active in pursuing several long-term initiatives to establish ongoing research support for the graduate students. For example, Senate recently approved the establishment of the Walter and Laura Scott Graduate Scholarship that we proposed. This scholarship will utilize approximately a half million dollar bequest from the estate of the late Laura Scott that helped seed an annual graduate scholarship for the study of tree fruit biology. Also, an initiative to fund scholarships in breeding and genetics across Canada has been submitted to the federal government. In addition, the University of Guelph through its new partnership with OMAFRA will soon be announcing a special graduate support program that could add 8 to 12 new graduate positions per year for domestic students specializing in the applied Plant Sciences.

Taken together, the scope of current research interests among the faculty, and the trend towards the establishment of a sustainable funding base for our graduate program will result in a higher level of graduate enrollment in the next decade than experienced in our first 10 years as a department. The forecast for enrolment in the graduate program in the three broad fields of Plant Sciences now listed in the calendar is thus an optimistic one, in spite of the cruel reality that poor fiscal times threaten many sectors of our society today. Yet oddly, never has the research that we engage in collectively been so important to our society, nor has there been a better time to expand the graduate research programs that we have seeded.

In closing, first I would like to warmly welcome each new student that joined us in January, and second, to the many returning and to those graduating this semester my hopes are for your continued successes.

Best Wishes,
Bernie Grodzinski.
(Graduate Co-ordinator, PAg)
As you know we have 4 faculty members based at Ridgetown College: Dr. Gary Ablett, Dr. Darren Robinson, Dr. Art Schaafsma and Dr. Peter Sikkema. Over the next few pages we have a glimpse into their activities at RCAT.

**Dr. Gary Ablett**

The team of Gary Ablett, Dennis Fischer and Bryan Stirling lead the soybean breeding and genetics program at the Ridgetown Campus of the University of Guelph. Established in 1985, this program has released 42 improved soybean varieties over the past twenty plus years. Some of the key varieties grown extensively have been RCAT Angora, RCAT Bobcat and more recently, Katrina and DH 410. The program has always allowed industry to use alternative names for varieties when it meets their specific marketing needs. As part of the Provincial government and for the first 10 years as part of the University of Guelph, Ridgetown used the RCAT prefix to identify general release varieties. In 2008, recognizing that Ridgetown has been a part of the University of Guelph and OAC for over 10 years and in consultation with the industry and senior administration at UG, we made the decision to support a consistent variety release naming policy and we will now utilize the OAC prefix for all general releases. The first of these, OAC Merion, was released to SeCan in 2008.

In addition to the variety development program, Ridgetown has been active in breeding for pest management and seed quality traits. We have released four conventional soybean varieties carrying resistance to soybean cyst nematode, the number one pest problem in Ontario.

We have worked in modified oil for many years. The low linolenic material developed at Ridgetown is being used extensively by the industry in the US and Canada. Oil traits continue to be an area of interest and Chase Phillips, a graduate student in the project is continuing with that work, focusing on mid-high oleic as part of the Bio-Car Initiative.

Isoflavones (Sheila Murphy – 2007 graduate), tocopherols (Mark MacDuff – current M.Sc. student), luteins, allergen-free, and high sugars are other traits designed to improve the utilization and quality of Canadian soybeans.

The program works very extensively with Istvan Rajcan and his staff and students along with Peter Pauls, Elroy Cober (AAFC) and Vaino Poysa (AAFC) and the private sector.
Dr. Darren Robinson

Darren currently conducts applied research with the goal of developing integrated control strategies for horticultural crops grown in conventional, reduced tillage and organic-transition systems. His research focus is to: improve timeliness of application, obtain new herbicide registrations through the URMULE system, determine the effect of previous cropping practices on weed population shifts, and assess the potential of alternative practices, such as cover crop rolling or other cover crop systems to suppress weeds in vegetable crops.

One of the highlights of his research include the development and validation of a reiterative soil-temperature based heat-unit model for the application of reduced-rate herbicide applications in sugar beet. Using the infrastructure put in place by the Ontario Weather Network, the model approach is now used by sugar beet growers in Michigan and Ontario to apply reduced rates of herbicides and still provide equivalent or better weed control to previously used weed control methods. Other benefits include a reduction of herbicide inputs of 10-25%, and a reduction in the incidence of crop injury. The platform where this model can be accessed via internet is found at: http://www.ontarioweathernetwork.ca/lib/beetcastgdd.cfm.

Another component of his research program is to understand the effect of previous herbicide on their carryover potential into high value crops. Numerous studies have been conducted to determine the effect of residues of isoxaflutole, mesotrione, chlorimuron, and topramazone on crops such as sugar beet, pea, potato, cabbage, cucumber, onion and tomato. More recently, Robinson conducted a series of studies to determine whether carryover from tank-mixes of residual herbicides caused more injury than the herbicides did on their own. He concluded that for certain crops, the combination of two residual herbicides together had a greater negative effect on injury, plant dry weight, and yield than when residual herbicides were applied alone.

New research studies were initiated in collaboration with Dr. Rob Nurse at AAFC, Harrow to address the management of weeds in transitioning to organically-grown vegetable crops, specifically tomatoes, vine crops and carrots. The use of cover crop rolling in vegetable crops will be examined as a function of fall rye planting density and timing of cover crop rolling. Additional treatments will include mowing the rye, or disking under the fall rye prior to planting. To address potential concerns about the effect of the rolled cover crops on light attenuation available moisture and nitrogen, assessments of these factors will be made. Weed biomass, cover crop biomass and crop marketable yield will be determined and correlated with light attenuation, and moisture and nutrient availability.

Selected recent publications:


Current graduate students include:

Kristen McNaughton, PhD candidate - Effect of glyphosate drift on uptake and translocation of in-crop herbicide applications.
Chris Kramer, MSc candidate - Management and overwinter survival of volunteer adzuki bean.
Rob Miller, Msc candidate - Weed management and soybean variety tolerance to saflufenacil.

Dr. Art Schaafsma
Dr. Art Schaafsma is the current Director of Ridgetown College and continues to maintain his research program. Dr. Schaafsma’s research interests include:

**Fusarium:** DONcast is a model developed and released to forecast deoxynivalenol in wheat for Ontario, the first published for any mycotoxin in the world, and currently the only one that is commercially used and sustained DONcast has resulted in two consulting opportunities with the FAO, one in Uruguay, and one in Iran. DONcast has been in use extensively by Ontario wheat producers since the year 2000 and is delivered by the Weather Innovations Incorporated. It is used as a tool to decide whether to spray a fungicide or not, and also to forecast grain quality before harvest for wheat marketing and health regulatory purposes.

**Mycotoxin assays:** We have embarked on a pilot study to validate and develop a protocol to assayedoxynivalenol in wheat grain as a replacement to the Fusarium damaged kernel grading system that is currently used and regulated by the Canada Grain Commission. A similar project was also initiated to develop and validate a testing protocol for dried distiller's grains that by-products of the ethanol industry.

**European Chafer in corn and wheat:** This insect emerged as a new pest of corn and wheat in Ontario, about six years ago. Since that time, we have developed a damage threshold, a sequential sampling plan and a control strategy for corn and wheat.
Insecticides, fungicides and transgenic Bt in Field crops: We continue to conduct a significant program for developing uses for new insecticides and fungicides in collaboration with the pesticide industry, and the major grower groups for soybeans, corn and wheat. Our program was instrumental in the registration of tebuconazole for Fusarium management in wheat, across Canada, clothianidin as a seed treatment for numerous seedling pests in field corn, methanoxam as a seed treatment for pests in corn, soybeans and edible beans and cyhalothrin-lambda for the control of soybean aphid. Our program has been instrumental in the stewardship of transgenic BT corn to manage a variety of pests in Ontario.

**Research Associates:** Yingen Xue, Ph.D.: Soybean aphid Ecology; Victor Limay-Rios, Ph.D. Program lead mycotoxin analysis, near infra-red analysis and mycotoxins in maize; Jocelyn Smith, M.Sc. Program lead insect resistance management, and field crop pest management

**Research Technician:** Tobb Phibbs

**Graduate Students:** Mitra Seraj (Ph.D.); Christie Balhai (Ph.D.)

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**Dr. Peter Sikkema**

**Research Areas of Expertise**
Development of weed management programs in corn, soybeans, wheat and edible beans
Control of problem weeds in corn, soybeans and wheat
Effect of nozzle selection, water carrier volume and spray pressure on herbicide efficacy
Impact of herbicide application timing in corn and soybeans

**Research Achievements (within past 5 years)**
The effect of herbicide application timing on corn and soybean yield
The effect of glyphosate rate and application timing on lamb’s-quarters and barnyard grass control, seed production and seedling recruitment the year after application
Weed management strategies for the control of spreading atriplix, hedge bindweed, bur cucumber, proso millet, wirestem muhly, sandbur and biennial wormwood in corn
Weed management strategies for the control of group II resistant pigweed, group II resistant ragweed, group II resistant Eastern black nightshade, dandelion, proso millet and sandbur in soybeans

**Weed management strategies for the control of wild carrot, common chickweed, dandelion and prickly lettuce in winter wheat**

**Research Overview**
The field crop weed management research program is focused on addressing current weed control issues on the farm. Research experiments are conducted at Ridgetown College and the Huron Research Station plus about 25 cooperating farmers in Essex, Kent, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex, Perth and Huron counties each year. New herbicides and new herbicide tankmixes are evaluated for weed control efficacy and crop tolerance. Weed management strategies are developed for the control of problem weeds in corn, soybeans and wheat. New weed management programs are being developed for edible beans to maximize weed control and crop yield while minimizing crop injury.
Recent Studies Completed

Effect of glyphosate timing in Roundup Ready corn and soybeans
Tolerance of edible beans to preplant incorporated, preemergence and postemergence herbicides
Control of spreading atriplex, bur cucumber, horsenettle, field horsetail, wirestem muhly in corn and soybeans
Control of chickweed, wild carrot, dandelions and prickly lettuce in winter wheat
Effect of nozzle selection, water volume and spray pressure on herbicide performance

Research Partners

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Agricultural Adaptation Council
Ontario Corn Producers Association
Ontario Soybean Growers
Ontario Wheat Producers
Ontario White Bean Producers
Ontario Coloured Bean Growers Association
Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario
Herbicide and Adjuvant Manufacturers

Teaching & Extension Focus

Teach diploma students
Supervise graduate students
Extension presentations
Professional development training

Formal Educational

B.Sc. (Agr.) University of Guelph: Crop Science
M.Sc. (Agr.) University of Guelph: Weed Science
Ph.D. The University of Western Ontario Environmental Sciences

Research Associates

Christy Shropshire
Todd Cowan
Yvonne McLellan
Josh Vyn
Dr. Nader Soltani

Darren Robinson, Art Schaafsma, Gary Ablett and Peter Sikkema
It’s hard to believe but as of this month I have been working on campus for 35 years – “how time flies when you’re having fun”! My tenure here began in Physical Resources and one of my projects in that role was to “finish the books” on the Crop Science Building. After two years in that position I moved over to the Office of Research where I was one of only five people working in that office, there was the Dean and his Assistant, each of which had a secretary and then there was me in a clerical role. Times certainly have changed.

Two and a half years later I was hired by Jack Tanner into a newly created position as Administrative Assistant in Crop Science and I’ve never looked back. During my 30 years in this position I’ve seen many changes. I’ve “trained” 5 different Chairs and Interim Chairs and I’ve seen faculty, staff and students come and go and there have been many challenges along the way. The fact that I’m still here says a lot for the atmosphere in the Department as I would not have stayed around for that length of time in an unpleasant environment or in a position that I did not find interesting and challenging.

My parents were first generation Canadians, both were Dutch but were born pretty much as far apart in the world as you can get – my mother in Archangel, Russia and my father in Sumatra. My paternal grandfather was one of the first farmers to grow tobacco in the Delhi area and my mother’s parents settled in Nixon. They married and moved off the farm and proceeded to have 6 children of which I am the youngest.

I got married to Wayne Huck six months after I started working in Crop Science and we now have three children and two grandchildren who all live in Guelph – Sunday dinner at our place can get a little crazy some time!

I know that spring is just around the corner and no one wants it here more than me. I’m away quite a bit over the summer as I retreat to our cottage in Honey Harbour to play which could entail anything from putting on an addition, building a bunky, fixing a dock, pondering the waves or the starts, enjoying wildlife (and people we allow on to the island!), cooking up a storm, swimming in the glorious clean water of Georgian bay and I might even have the odd beverage now and then!

Happy spring to everyone!
The 2nd Plant Agriculture Retreat was held February 17/18, 2009 at the Sheraton on the Falls in Niagara Falls. More than 130 members of the Department attended the 2 day retreat which highlighted research being done in the Department. This year’s retreat tried to focus on the Graduate Student’s research as well as faculty research and overall 19 presentations were made during the event. For those who were not able to attend, the program is on the next page, as you will see it was definitely a scientific conference.

The size of the turnout this year was extremely rewarding to the committee who have worked on putting the retreat together for over a year. From the survey results at the end of the retreat, most who attended were pleased with the retreat and found it to be a rewarding and educational experience. The graduate students took over the evening and put on a great game of trivial pursuit for all to enjoy.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank everyone for coming out and participating and a special thank you to all those who made presentations at the event. We would especially like to thank Rene Van Acker for his support of this endeavour, also our thanks to Mike Peppard for his IT assistance. I would like to personally thank my fellow committee members: Manish Raizada, Cathy Bakker, Andrew Burt, Tom Smith, Siobhan Moore, Ildiko Szucs and Eric Lyons for all their hard work in putting this retreat together.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jay Subramanian</td>
<td>Fantastic Trees</td>
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<td>Andrew Burt</td>
<td>High Carotenoid Maize: Breeding, Genetics &amp; Biochemistry</td>
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<td>Siobhan Moore</td>
<td>Genomics of Plant Genetic Diversity</td>
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<td>Ildiko Szucs</td>
<td>Relating Photosynthesis to Plant Productivity</td>
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<td>Eric Lyons</td>
<td>Under the Dimpled Balls: Exploring the Science of Golf</td>
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<td>Amelie Gaudin</td>
<td>The Hidden Half of Crop Domestications; Roots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugo Gonzalez</td>
<td>How Does Stress Tolerance Work in Maize?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liz Brauer</td>
<td>Efficiency: The role of the GSLC in our Department and of GS Overexpression in Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Page</td>
<td>Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Weed Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adel Zarei</td>
<td>Organelle Signaling in Flower Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henk Wichers</td>
<td>Feed Forward Update</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amar Mohanty</td>
<td>Bioproducts: A New Era in the Materials World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manju Misra</td>
<td>Nanotechnology in Biomaterials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joel Hemingway</td>
<td>Soybean Oil for Use in the Auto-Parts Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarmilla Reinprecht</td>
<td>Cars Produced from Soybean Straw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danny Rinker</td>
<td>Research Addressing Problems in the Commercial Mushroom Industry at Vineland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rene Van Acker</td>
<td>Meeting Global Responsibilities Despite Local Challenges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin VanderKooi</td>
<td>Vegetable Crop Protection and Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan McKeown</td>
<td>Vegetable and Specialty Crop Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duane Falk</td>
<td>New Developments in Cereal Breeding at CSIRO—Canberra, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Berchie</td>
<td>Bambara Groundnut: An Underutilized Crop for African Food Security</td>
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Presentations & Publications

Recent Presentations:


About 75 growers, bilingual conference, lots of interest on both sides of the Ottawa, from Pembroke to HAwkesbury and north up the Gatineau into the park. Growing mostly hybrids from Minnesota.

Fisher, K.H., Fraser, H., Ker, K. and Slingerland, K. 2009. High quality information delivery to improve vineyard winter protection decision making. Poster presentation at Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON February 18, 19. 2009.


Nurse, Robert E. and Peter H. Sikkema. 2008. How long can various herbicides remain in the spray tank prior to application in the field? North Central Weed Science Society, Indianapolis, IN, December


Recent Publications:


Haq, Mahmoodul; Burgueno, Rigoberto; Mohanty, Amar K.; Misra, Manjusri. Hybrid bio-based composites from blends of unsaturated polyester and soybean oil reinforced with nanoclay and natural fibers. Composites Science and Technology (2008), 68(15-16), 3344-3351.


Sikkema, Peter H., Christy Shropshire and Nader Soltani. 2008. Tolerance of spring barley (Hordeum vulgare), oats (Avena sativa) and wheat (Triticum aestivum L.) to saflufenacil. Crop Prot. 27:1495-1497.


Amar Mohanty & Manju Misra were kind enough to host an Indian Luncheon for the department in January. Approximately 75 people took advantage of their hospitality and enjoyed a huge assortment of wonderful food. We would like to thank Amar, Manju, Ranjcan, Bo, Saswata, Sridhar, Sanjeev, Singarareulu, Murali and Mohammed for their generosity and hospitality in providing such a lovely luncheon.

The lovely ladies in their saris: Jen Kingswell, Saswata Sahoo, Manju Misra and Milka Popov

A crowd of approximately 75 enjoyed the luncheon

The delicious food was enjoyed by all

Some of the wonderful food prepared for the hungry crowd

An amazing variety of different foods was featured
I use the following five computer time savings tips almost every day and hopefully you may find them useful as well.

1. One of the most useful keyboard shortcuts is Ctrl P which is the shortcut to print. Why would you use this shortcut instead of the “Print” icon? You may have selected one paragraph in a long document on a webpage to print and clicked the print icon with the unexpected result of printing the whole document. Other times when you are using your laptop away from your office and you click the “Print” icon, again expecting the “Print” window to appear so that you can select the printer you want, a screen flashes by saying it is printing but nothing prints because it is trying to access your default printer. Sometimes users repeat this process two or three times trying to figure out why their information is not printing but with the same results.

   The solution is to hold down the Ctrl key and then press P and release both keys. The “Print” window will pop up and allow you to choose the printer, the pages or the selected information you actually want to print. This shortcut is most valuable when there is no “Print” icon available to use but you can also use it every time you print.

2. Another time/aggravation saving shortcut is the undo key.

   You are used to seeing it at the top of the toolbar in Microsoft Word and Excel but in almost any situation you can hold down the Ctrl key and press Z and release both keys to undo the last action. Repeat the sequence as many times as you like to undo the previous actions. Many times I hit a key by mistake (especially on a laptop) and the cursor jumps somewhere on the page and the easiest way to undo the unintended action is to use the Ctrl Z shortcut. Ctrl Y is the shortcut to redo.

   A list of easy to use Word shortcuts can be found at: http://www.internet4classrooms.com/msword_keyboard_ibm.htm or a more complete list of shortcuts from Microsoft that is not as easy to use can be found at http://support.microsoft.com/kb/126449.

3. Another shortcut that can be a time saver, especially on a laptop without a mouse, is the Alt key plus the left or right arrow. When you are surfing the internet these are the shortcuts for page back or page forward.
4. The last series of shortcuts I will mention are those for creating specialty characters such as the é in André (hold down the Alt key and type 130 on the side keypad—does not work on the upper keypad). A very complete list of these characters and key commands for several languages can be found at Washington State University’s web page: http://www.forlang.wsu.edu/help/keyboards.asp.

5. Finally the last computer tip I use regularly is the computer undo command ie the command to restore your computer to the way it was before it just got messed up. This is called System Restore and you find it by following this path Start > All Programs > Accessories > System Tools > System Restore. Maybe someday Microsoft will create a big red button labelled “Help” on every keyboard but in the meantime we have to get to it using this path.

I like to create a restore point before installing any new software in case a problem arises and I want to put the computer back to the way it was. In fact a Restore Point is created automatically before most Windows updates are installed.

In the System Restore window, you can either create a Restore Point or Restore your computer to an earlier time. To Restore your computer to an earlier time just select one the dates on the calendar that is shown in bold letters and follow the prompts. Some of these Restore Points are System Checkpoints created when Windows Updates were installed. Your computer will restart and a window will pop up indicating that your computer was restored to the date selected or that it was unable to do so. If it was not able to restore your computer or it did not reverse the problem that you were trying to solve simply select another restore point, slightly further back in time, and try again. Your saved files will not be affected by this process, only the programs and settings which are probably causing the problem you are trying to resolve. The System Restore process is also fully reversible ie you can go back to the original state that your computer started at. System Restore is not perfect but it is one of the best features of Windows XP and Vista.

You may find that your computer has System Restore turned off. You must turn it on in order to create a Restore Point and to be able to recover from program related problems in the future.

There are hundreds of other shortcuts so if there are actions that you do repeatedly search for the shortcut in Google and save yourselves some time.
**Important Notice**

**CISTI Source Direct Article Ordering Service to End After August 2009**

Judy Wanner  
Plant Ag Library Liaison  
(jwanner@uoguelph.ca)

CISTI (Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information) has been the main provider of direct journal article ordering and delivery since the library initiated its subsidized access program in 1999. In August CISTI will be replacing CISTI Source with a new product called “Discover,” which is a desktop delivery service that is searchable at no charge, but does not have the ability to handle institutional accounts (such as our departmental billing accounts); it is intended to be used by individuals through credit card payment only.

The Library will continue to provide articles at no charge through our ILL/Document Delivery Service, RACER. Searching with RACER runs the search against the catalogues of other Ontario University libraries. In contrast to CISTI Source where requested articles were direct delivered to the department, in RACER books and articles are delivered to the library. The requestor is notified by email that materials ordered may be picked up at the circulation desk.

If when searching with RACER the material needed is not found a blank request form is available. Using this form will forward the request to library staff for further searching. Instructions for using RACER are found at [http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/services/borrowing/interlibrary_loan/](http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/services/borrowing/interlibrary_loan/)

If anyone has incorporated use of CISTI Source in their courses this information will have to be revised as of August 2009.

Please contact me if you have any questions about CISTI Source or need assistance using RACER.

**Ingenta**

Ingenta is a service that is similar to CISTI Source in that requested journal articles can be faxed directly to the requestor and topic alerts can be set up. This service does not have the same comprehensive coverage of science journals available from CISTI although it is supported by the library. It has not been the document delivery method of choice over CISTI and RACER. The library will be reviewing this option and its present journal coverage. I will be providing more information on this service in the next newsletter.

**WebSites**

**Agriculture at a Crossroads Report**

Information was just released this month on a unique project utilizing the latest scientific assessment techniques to report on the advancements and setbacks of international agriculture over the past fifty years and to set the agricultural agenda for the next fifty years. The results of the project are contained in seven reports: a Global Report, five regional Sub-Global Assessments, and a Synthesis Report. “The report looks at what has gone right and wrong in the past, but more importantly, it looks forward with clear, unprecedented recommendations for solving the world’s food problems.” The library has this report series on order. Descriptive information is available at [http://www.islandpress.org/iaastd](http://www.islandpress.org/iaastd)

This report was compiled by The International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) and is a unique international effort with a multi-stakeholder Bureau, under the co-sponsorship of the FAO, GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, the World Bank and WHO launched to assess agricultural knowledge, science and technology (AKST) in order to use AKST more effectively to reduce hunger and poverty, improve rural livelihoods, and facilitate equitable, environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development [http://www.agassessment.org](http://www.agassessment.org).
For further information on international agriculture by geographic area these websites are useful: **MSU Global Access** is a portal to information about the world that contains a database of Websites and other resources selected by experts at Michigan State University. [http://www.msuglobalaccess.net/theme/agriculture/](http://www.msuglobalaccess.net/theme/agriculture/)

**Country Studies/Area Handbooks**  
[http://www.country-studies.com/](http://www.country-studies.com/) contains the on-line versions of books previously published in hard copy by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress. Because the original intent of the Series' sponsor was to focus primarily on lesser known areas of the world or regions, the series is not all-inclusive. At present, 102 countries and regions are covered. The date of information for each country appears on the title page of each country and at the end of each section of text.  
The Country Studies Series presents a description and analysis of the historical setting and the social, agricultural, economic, political, and national security systems and institutions of countries throughout the world and examines the interrelationships of those systems and the

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**Upcoming Events**

- The joint annual conference of the Canadian Society of Agronomy, Canadian Society of Soil Science and the Canadian Society of Agricultural and Forest Meteorology is going to be held on campus August 5-7, 2009. The theme of the conference will be Sciences for Sustainability: Soil, Agronomy and Agrometeorology. The Department of Plant Agriculture along with the Department of Land Resource Science are hosting the event. For registration and program information please see: [www.guelph09.ca](http://www.guelph09.ca)

- The World Soybean Research Conference VIII is being held in Beijing, China from August 10-15, 2009. The Conference will provide a forum for the world's leading soybean researchers to share the updated information in all aspects related to soybean. For more information please see: [http://www.wsric2009.cn](http://www.wsric2009.cn)

- Canada Blooms runs March 18-22 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, this is the 13th anniversary of the annual garden extravaganza. For more information please see [http://www.canadablooms.com/](http://www.canadablooms.com/)

- The Brooklin Spring Fair will be held in Whitby June 4-7. This is the 98th year for the fair, for more information please see: [http://www.brooklinspringfair.com/](http://www.brooklinspringfair.com/)

Sad News

Brian Cardy, a former graduate student passed away suddenly at his home on January 18. Brian was a graduate student in Crop Science in the 1980’s, supervised by Wally Beversdorf. Brian left his wife Kim and 2 sons Jonathan and Mark.

Also a former technician in Crop Science, Leon Martin, passed away at home on January 23. Leon was a technician in the Crop Science Department from 1959-1989, and was father to 7 children.

Dr. Peter Sikkema has recently been selected as a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy. In receiving this honour, Peter was recognized for his major contributions to research, education and extension in weed science over the span of his career. Peter is recognized not only provincially, but nationally and internationally as well for his practical and broad expertise in field crop weed management. Congratulations Peter on this well

Summer Students Will Soon be Here!

Please remember that we are coming up to a very busy time of year for hiring of summer students,. In order to make sure there are no delays in getting them on the payroll, please ensure their hiring information is given to Jen Kingswell as soon as possible. Jen processes all the summer students, so even if you only have 1 or 2 students remember she deals with everyone in the department, so it’s an extremely busy time of year for her. Your cooperation in getting everything to Jen in a timely manner is most appreciated.

Congratulations to Dr. Clarence Swanton who received the Fellow of the Canadian Weed Science Society award during their annual meeting in Banff, Alberta, this past November. Clarence was recognized for his many accomplishments in the field of weed science nationally and internationally as well as for his many contributions to the Canadian Weed Science Society, most recently as President of the CWSS-SCM. Dr. Swanton’s skill as a teacher was also recognized by this award and is evidenced by the quality (and quantity) of graduate students he has attracted over the past years.

Congratulations to Angela & Lorne Hill became grandparents for the 6th time in January. Carter John Hill arrived on January 17th, 2009 weighing in at a healthy 7 lbs. 7 oz.
Coming in the June Edition:

More student profiles
Another staff profile
Report from Canada Blooms
and ... lots more!

If you have ideas for articles or suggestions for people/areas you would like to see highlighted please send them to me at: blivings@uoguelph.ca