MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you for welcoming me to the department! My family (wife Susie and our three children, Chloe, Daniel and Serena) are looking forward to settling into life in Guelph and I am looking forward to working with you to lead Plant Agriculture, Canada’s largest and most productive applied plant biology department.

During these first few months I have been trying to get to know the who, what, where, when and why of the department and have been making at least some progress in this regard. We are a remarkably large and diverse department and while that is our strength it is also a challenge for us and it makes it challenging to become fully acquainted with all that is happening in the department. I need your help to do this. I have been working to meet everyone either individually or in groups and if I haven’t met with you yet I will be doing so over the next couple of weeks. I have also been keen to visit Vineland and Simcoe to get a sense of the work going on there. I do also have an open door policy and when I am in my office I welcome visits (do not be offended by the fact that my back is to my door when I am on my computer; I haven’t yet successfully adjusted the Feng Shui in my office).

What I have learned about the department to-date is that it is a welcoming community that is passionate about applied plant science. The capacity in Plant Agriculture is impressive and this capacity is ideally and uniquely suited to serve the evolving and multifunctional goals of agriculture. There are challenges within OAC and the University which are being met through the Integrated Planning process. Plant Agriculture’s position within this process is strong, but it can be further strengthened and the strategic planning process that the department went through last year was well timed in this regard. In the coming months we will engage the task force committees resulting from the strategic plan, to lead us into actions designed to strengthen Plant Agriculture.

Congratulations to the Vineland HES Staff on a wonderful celebration on Saturday, August 26th!! The displays were beautiful (be sure to ask Jay about his "vampire plums") and the attendance was excellent. The event was exceptionally well organized (the fife and drum procession was a

Continued on Page 22...
WELCOME
NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT AGRICULTURE

Alison Walden, MSc (H. Earl)
Mayumi Acosta Bastida, MSc (I. Rajcan)
Sherif M. Sherif, PhD (J. Subramanian)
Liz Brauer, MSc (B. Shelp)
Kelly O'Connor, MSc (E. Lyons)
Travis Coleman, MSc (E. Lee and T. Tollenaar)

Scott Liddycoat

I was born in a small Ontario town called Vankleek Hill and moved to Kitchener with my family when I was 3 years old. My mother teaches primary school and my father is a funeral director. I have three siblings; two brothers and a sister with whom I am very close. I spent the majority of my youth in and around hockey arenas and basketball courts and found myself always doing something athletic. At a young age I found that I had a great interest in science, but it wasn’t until I came to university that I discovered what discipline was right for me.

I spent my first year at the University of Guelph fumbling around trying to figure out where my interests lay and finally found a love for plant biology. In fourth year I was fortunate enough to spend some time working as an undergrad in Dr. Saxena’s lab maintaining a tissue culture collection of rare, endangered, and medicinal plants, as well as testing for antioxidant potential and acetylcholinesterase activity. I completed my BSc Honours in plant biology at the University of Guelph in December 2005.

I was fortunate to be able to start my MSc with Dr. Wolyn in January 2006 and I am now right in the middle of field season. My project studies the effects of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria on asparagus health and growth. I hope to be wrapping my project up by December 2006, and then it’s on to something new.
Good-day all! Hope I find you enjoying the fall semester either at work or play.

I grew up on a farm with my brothers and sister overlooking Lake Huron in Goderich township. Here, my parents continue to raise crops of chickens. That’s right, crops of broiler chickens. We get our chickens a day old, grow them for six weeks or less to get them to a size acceptable for places like Swiss Chalet. OK, so most of you in Plant Agriculture likely aren’t interested in the life cycle of chickens, but as long as you keep eating and enjoying chicken, I’m a happy man.

My folks also work about a hundred acres broken up with several small wood lots. We tend to run a corn-bean-wheat rotation with a variety of tillage/no-till practices. It was this lifestyle of growing up on the farm, from catching snakes to baling straw, that brought about my interests of the environment and agriculture. I continue to be amazed at all the fascinating things to discover in the world of agriculture.

Even before the days of high school, I’ve wanted to work as a field biologist, so I continue to work hard to make that a reality. I spent my time as an undergrad here at Guelph in the Department of Environmental Biology, majoring in Environmental Quality, and finishing my degree in the Fall of 2004. With summer and fall work experience in the agro-chemical industries since 2003, I learned to love the life of agriculture research, particularly killing weeds, but with a twisted mind-set that I was actually still farming, just at a much, much smaller scale. Instead of 80 or 100 acre fields, my field plots tend to run two by ten metres or less.

With my advisors, Dr. Peter Sikkema and Dr. Clarence Swanton, I began a Masters in Weed Science in January 2006. My research is well underway, while I study performance interactions between several herbicide groups (ALS and HPPD) for the control of annual grasses in field corn. The ALS herbicides are known as sulfonylureas with the registration use for controlling primarily grassy weeds. The HPPD herbicides are the newest class of herbicides known as bleachers, they create interesting visual symptoms by turning susceptible plants white, but are registered for primarily broadleaf weed control. These two groups of herbicides are often mixed together for broad-spectrum weed control in field corn. It’s my job to figure out the extent of these tank-mix interactions on the grassy weeds and determine if such terms as synergism or antagonism can be used to describe the situation at hand. One of the things I find fascinating about my project is that the HPPD herbicide called topramezone, is a product that I worked on as an experimental product in industry several years ago, and now I am continuing to work with it, as it will be launched for use in Ontario next spring with the trade name IMPACT.
Hi Everyone! I was born and grew up as an only child in my family in a small city called ‘Badulla’ which is located in the south-east mountains of Sri Lanka and produces world famous Uva Ceylon tea and various kinds of tropical and temperate vegetables.

My interests in plants started from my childhood and broaden with the integration of science and technology at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka where I gained my bachelor degree in Agriculture. As my final year project, I was able to find out the importance of plant nutrients for seedling growth of tomato in coir dust based planting media. Then, I was awarded with a Master’s degree in the area of genetics and plant breeding with the completion of research work in production and characterization of wheat DH lines carrying waxy null alleles at the Obihiro University, Hokkaido, Japan.

Fortunately, my foremost job experience was gained here at the University of Guelph as a research technician in the Department of Plant Agriculture (Bovey) from 2000 to 2003. It is a wonderful opportunity to be with you all again after three years of service in the Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, Sri Lanka. I worked mostly on plant tissue culture and molecular biology related disciplines there and enjoyed it with research and teaching.

My husband is Lakshman Galagedara and obtained his PhD in LRS, University of Guelph as well. I am a mother of two daughters Nikeshi (8+) and Himeshi (2+) and I like to spend most of my free time with my family. Traveling and music should also be added to my list of hobbies.

I gratefully acknowledge the opportunity given by Prof. Barry Micallef, my supervisor and Prof. Bernie Grodzinski as my co-supervisor, to follow a master’s program on Fusarium resistancy in cucumber at the Department of Plant Agriculture.

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**GRILL UP SOME LUNCH**

On Tuesday, September 19th at 2 pm the Variety Club, in conjunction with the GSLC (Grad Student Liaison Committee), will be hosting a welcome lunch for our new graduate students at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. The plan is to keep it a lot like last year, some quick introductions and some good food. Everyone is invited to come out and meet the new graduate students and socialize.
~SCIENTIFIC BULLETIN BOARD~

Publications

**John Cline** was a co-author on a paper titled "Performance of apple cultivars in the 1995 NE-183 Regional Project Planting: 1 Growth and Yield Characteristics" that received the 2005 Shepard Award. This paper was chosen as the best scientific paper published in the Journal of the American Pomological Society in 2005.

**Dr. Barry Shelp**, co-authored, with French and Israeli collaborators, a paper entitled "GABA controls the level of quorum-sensing signal in Agrobacterium tumefaciens" in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA (Vol. 103: 7460-7464, 2006). This paper was subsequently selected as "Editor’s Choice – Highlights of the Recent Literature" in Science (Vol 312: 1108, 2006). An opinion paper entitled “Gamma-aminobutyrate: defense against invertebrate pests?” and co-authored with researchers from Brock University, is scheduled for publication in the September issue of Trends in Plant Science.

**Dr. Clarence Swanton** was invited in June to present two seminars at the University of Rosario and one invited presentation to the 3rd Congreso de Soja del Mercosur held in Rosario, Argentina from June 27th to 30th.

**Dr. John Proctor**, graduate student Vimy Glass, and David Percival of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC), have been awarded the C.J. Bishop Award for the best horticultural paper on fruit published in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science in 2005. The paper is entitled “Tolerance of lowbush blueberries (Vaccinium angustifolium Ait.) to drought stress. I. Soil water and yield component analysis.” The Award was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science in Halifax on August 4th.

Vimy's graduate studies were supported, in part, by a Dr. Patricia Harney Graduate Scholarship. Dr. Harney was a NSAC graduate and Professor in Horticultural Science at Guelph and through her estate made financial provision for NSAC students wishing to pursue graduate work at Guelph.

**Dr. Al Sullivan** is developing a breeding program specifically for flowers indigenous to Canada. Once established, it will help the nation's horticulture markets gain a unique competitive advantage by raising native plants.

Prof. Sullivan and his team have been assessing different native species to learn more about their potential commercial value. In the past three years, they have studied 40 different plants for qualities such as management and growing characteristics, propagation potential, physical characteristics and disease and pest resistance. He is also using the information to breed better native plants.
HUME TO BE HONOURED
(taken from the June 14, 2006 at GUELPH)

At the convocation ceremony for the Ontario Agricultural College June 15 at 2:30 p.m., retired crop science professor Dave Hume will be named University professor emeritus.

Hume began his teaching career at U of G in 1966 and became chair of the Department of Crop Science, which later became the Department of Plant Agriculture, in 1992. From 1999 to 2001, he served as executive director of the U of G/OMAFRA research partnership. In 2001, he was named U of G’s interim associate vice-president (research) for agri-food and partnerships. He returned to teach in the Department of Plant Agriculture in 2003 and retired in 2005.

During his career, Hume made significant strides in the expansion of the soybean crop in Ontario. His work also provided the foundation for the expansion of spring canola and the introduction of winter canola in Ontario. He was the first scientist in the world to publish research on day-length insensitivity in soybeans and the impact of cool night temperatures on soybean seed production and to identify the physiological reason for improved yields in modern soybean cultivars.

Organizers, sponsors and international speakers of International Symposium in Beijing, China. Danny Rinker is seated on far right, having been deprived of sleep for over 24 hours.

Dr. Danny Lee Rinker, invited keynote lecture “Disease and Weed Mould Management in Commercial Mushroom Production: An Integrated Approach”; International Symposium of Mushroom Quality Improvement and Control of Disease and Pest; Beijing, China (August 17th to 20th); sponsored by the Beijing Association for Science and Technology.
The First Guelph International Symposium was held on Thursday, June 22nd, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in Rozanski 102. The purpose of the meeting was to share ongoing research and teaching activities related to international development with the Guelph community. This event was open to all members of the Guelph community and organized by Prof. Manish Raizada. The moderator was Prof. Sally Humphries, Director of the Collaborative International Development Studies (CIDS) program.

This was an inter-departmental event. Prof. Peter van Straaten (Land Resource Science) discussed the use of local mineral and organic resources to enhance tropical soil fertility. Prof. Khosrow Frahbachsh (School of Engineering) discussed tools to promote sustainable water and wastewater management. Prof. Judith Strommer (Plant Agriculture) discussed her research in helping to develop a grape and wine industry in Cuba. Prof. Sally Humphries (Sociology and Anthropology) talked about her efforts to promote participatory breeding in Latin America. Prof. Helen Hambly Odame (School of Environmental Design and Rural Development) discussed the use of radio to share research with farmers in Africa. Prof. Praveen Saxena (Plant Agriculture) discussed international test tube gardens. Prof. John FitzSimons (School of Environmental Design & Rural Development) discussed the challenges of dryland agropastoral systems development in the Middle East. Prof. Manish Raizada (Plant Agriculture) talked about CropLink, an initiative to link together the world’s crop experts into one online community.

It is hoped that this event will become an annual gathering to help promote interdisciplinary teamwork in international development activities on campus.

Prof. Peter Sikkema received $380,282 for equipment that will support an extensive research program for sustainable pest management in field and horticultural crops at the University’s Ridgetown campus.
Summer Activities of the Food Safety Network

Ben Chapman

Spoke at the Association of Food and Drug Officials in June about risk communication and the world-wide power of the Food Safety Network. Spoke about restaurant disclosure systems at an FDA regional meeting. Organized a symposium entitled How Outbreaks Can Influence Change, at the International Association for Food Protection annual meeting in Calgary on August 14th.

Sarah Wilson

Presented Understanding Food Safety Information Needs: Using an Information Service as a Research Tool on August 16th at the annual meeting of the International Association for Food Protection annual meeting held in Calgary.

Food Safety Network’s Communicators’ Conference

On June 13th, 2006, 110 participants attended the Food Safety Network’s Communicators’ Conference titled, Getting the Word Out: Are we Communicating Effectively? The conference was held in Rozanski Hall. Conference attendees came from diverse fields such as federal and provincial government departments, public health units and regional health authorities, the food industry, retail and commodity boards. They came together as food safety communicators to stimulate discussion, explore opportunities for collaboration and to hear about relevant issues.

The day’s schedule included twelve speakers. Dr. Ellen Van Kleef from the University of Wageningen in The Netherlands presented a paper on consumers, society and risk analysis. Dr. Shannon Majowicz from the Public Health Agency of Canada spoke about current and emerging food safety issues. A morning panel of Dr. Joye Gordon, Kansas State University, Mr. Jerry Zalewski, Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Public Health Unit and Mr. Mike Horwich, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture addressed the issue of crisis communications.

Ms. Cindy Roberts, moderator of the US-based Foodsafe discussion group spoke about listservs and internet use. Mr. Ken Kelly from the US Center for Science in the Public Interest and Mr. Lynn Wilcott from the BC Center for Disease Control discussed message and communication activities between groups with differing mandates. The afternoon panel focused on innovative approaches to food safety and agriculture communications with Ms. Crystal Mackay from the Ontario Farm Animal Council, Mr. Rob Mancini, Manitoba Public Health and the Kitchen Crimes television show and Mr. Christian Battska, Food Safety Network.

A summary of the day’s messages and a look to the future of food safety communications was provided by the last speaker, Dr. Doug Powell.

The speakers’ presentations are available on the Food Safety Network website at http://www.foodsafetynetwork.ca
TEXTING: An overview by Jim Hoare, IT Tech.

OK, if you can understand: “soz i 4gt 2 fon u.i c u 2moz” you probably don’t need to read this article. For those who are “cnfsd” about texting (“txt”) the phrase above translates to: “Sorry I forgot to phone you. I will see you tomorrow.”

Texting is evolving from the shorthand used in Internet chat rooms due to the small number of characters allowed in a text message & the small keyboards on mobile phones. Although, it could be argued that ‘texting’ was around in the 70s and 80s when a similar short form was used by the deaf community with devices to chat.

The popularity of ‘txt’ is due in part to the inherit limitations (i.e. small displays & keyboards) of messaging devices such as cell phones and pagers. The primary aim of “txt” is to reduce the number of characters needed to compose a message. One casualty of this principle is that spelling and punctuation are widely disregarded.

I have gleaned a short list of the more interesting short forms off the Internet (see table at the end of this article). They are sorted numerically and alphabetically. Hope this helps.

References
http://esl.about.com/b/a/035020.htm
http://www.lingo2word.com/lists/txtmsg_listA.html
http://www.collins.co.uk/wordexchange/Sections/TextingWords.aspx?pg=11
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texting_language
http://www.macmillandictionary.com/resourcetextingterms.htm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10Q // Thank You</th>
<th>BBS // Be Back Soon // I will return soon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2bcnd // To be continued // We'll talk about it later</td>
<td>BF // Boyfriend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2g4u // Too good for you // The person is not a good match for you romantically</td>
<td>BHL // Be home late // I will be home late tonight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2L8 // Too late // The time is too late, missed opportunity</td>
<td>BIL // Boss is listening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2WIMC // To whom it may concern // Formal greeting</td>
<td>BOL // Best of luck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4gyn // Forgiven // Usually used when someone forgives you</td>
<td>BTW // By The Way // A way of mentioning a new subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4yeo // For your eyes only // Only for you to read</td>
<td>CM // Call me // Asking someone to telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 // Ate // Past tense of the verb 'to eat’</td>
<td>CU // See you (A way of saying goodbye)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>911 // Emergency, call me</td>
<td>CYR MA // Call your mother // Please telephone your mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAIK // As Far As I Know</td>
<td>CYR OFIS // Call your office // Please telephone your office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASL // Age, Sex, Location (how old a person is, what’s their sex, and where the person is)</td>
<td>DK // Don’t know // I don’t know something you asked me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATB // All the best</td>
<td>Dur? // Do you remember // Asking a person about a memory of the past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4 // Before</td>
<td>E2eg // Ear to ear grin // Something that is funny, or makes someone very happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4N // Bye For Now (A way of saying goodbye)</td>
<td>EOD // End of discussion // I refuse to talk about it anymore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBL // Be Back Later // I will return later</td>
<td>EOL // End of lecture // I’m finished telling you what I think</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Continued from page 9...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F? // Friends? // Would you like to be friends with me?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2F // Face to face // In person</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2T // Free to talk // I can talk now</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAQ // Frequently Asked Questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC // Fingers Crossed // I'm hoping that something happens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOMCL // Fell out of my chair laughing // Very, very funny</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FWI // For What It's Worth // This is my opinion, good or bad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYA // For your amusement // I think you might find this funny</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYEO // For your eyes only // Only you can see this</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G9 // Genius // Very intelligent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAL // Get A Life (Stop worrying about something and live your life OR pathetic)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GF // Girlfriend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMTA // Great Minds Think Alike</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;K // Hugs and kisses (A way of saying goodbye showing affection)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2CUS // Hope to see you soon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H8 // Hate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAGN // Have a good night (A way of saying goodbye)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAND // Have a nice day (A way of saying goodbye)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRU // How are you</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTH // Hope that helps // I hope what I just said helps you</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAD8 // It's a date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC // I See // I understand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDK // I don't know</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILU // I Love You</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMHO // In My Honest/Humble Opinion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOW // In Other Words</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IYD // In your dreams (It will never happen)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J4F // Just for fun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFK // Just for kicks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JK // Just kidding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KISS // Keep It Simple, Stupid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIT // Keep in touch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L8 // Late</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOL // Laughing Out Loud</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTNC // Long time no see (We haven't seen each other for a very long time)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC // Merry Christmas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGB // May god bless (A way of saying goodbye)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTE // My Thoughts Exactly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MU // Miss you</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYOB // Mind your own business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC // No comment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP // No problem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWO // No way out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O4U // Only for you</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTOH // On the other hand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCM // Please call me // Please telephone me</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRW // Parents Are Watching (I can't say something because my parents are watching what I'm doing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROFL // Rolling On The Floor Laughing // Very funny</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROFLLOL // Rolling On The Floor Laughing Out Loud // Very funny</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SETE // Smiling ear to ear // Very happy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO // Significant other // Romantic partner, boyfriend or girlfriend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T+ // Think positive // You need to be positive about a situation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2G // Time to go // A way of saying goodbye</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2ul // Talk to you later // A way of saying goodbye</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THX // Thank You</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIA // Thanks in advance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIC // Tongue in Cheek (Not serious)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTYL // Talk To You Later (A way of saying goodbye)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U2 // You Too</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U4E // Yours For Ever (A way of saying goodbye)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URT1 // You are the one /</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W@ // What</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W4M // Wait for me</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W4U // Waiting for you</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRT // With respect to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRU // Where are you?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YBS // You'll be Sorry</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Turf Diploma Graduates Second Class
Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management
by Rob Witherspoon, Director

The second class of the Department’s new Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management (ADTM) program graduated at Spring Convocation on June 15th. Twenty-one students graduated including our first ever international student, Ben Wenke from New South Wales, Australia. Alex Dickie from Sutton was the recipient of the OAC Student’s Federation Golf Medal, another first for the program. John Kachmarski from Calgary, Alberta was the recipient of the OMAFRA Leadership Award and James Brydges from Arnprior received the Western Ontario Golf Superintendents Association prize. Graduates who made the Dean’s Honours List all four semesters of the program were James Brydges, Alex Dickie, David Gabric, John Kachmarski and Ben Miller. All of the graduates have found employment within the turfgrass industry, most with golf courses in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

Andrew Burt (grad student with E. Lee) and Zoë Ritchford announce the arrival of their son Finnegan Ritchford-Burt born on Monday, July 10th at 10:26 am and weighing 8 lbs 3 oz and measuring 22 inches.
CONGRATULATIONS GRANDMA!!

Judy Kelly (secretary Simcoe Campus) has become a grandmother for the ninth and tenth time this past July. Grandchildren, mothers, fathers and especially grandma and grandpa are all doing well.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ashraf El-Kereamy (post doc in Vineland with J. Subramanian) and his wife Maha announce the arrival of their second daughter Noor. Noor (means light) was born August 3rd, 2006 at 3:30 am weighing 5 lbs 9 oz. Big sister Yomna is happy to have a baby sister to play with.

HORTICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION - VINELAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING AND COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

A Retrospective of the Day

Special supplement is included with this newsletter.

More information will be posted on the Vineland Centennial Celebration web site in October.

http://www.uoguelph.ca/vcc2006/
The weather was perfect on Thursday, August 17th, 2006 for the fifth annual Guelph Trial Garden Public Open House, held from noon to 8 pm at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Well over 300 members of the gardening public traveled from as far away as Toronto and Woodstock to see over 500 cultivars of plants, the latest offerings from 13 commercial ornamental plant breeders and the All-American Selections for 2006. (Information from the Guelph Trials is used by these companies to evaluate performance in the growing conditions of Southern Ontario.) Rotating teams of Master Gardeners offered advice and support all day, and everyone was able to vote for their favourite plant (results to be available later this fall on the Trial Garden website at http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/trialgarden )
Department of Plant Agriculture Picnic
Thursday, August 10th, 2006
by Agnes Belosic

Even though the forecast for Thursday, August 10th, 2006 was warm with 30% chance of showers, the rain held off. All of approximately 120 attendees had a chance to enjoy good food and to socialize at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute grounds. Those staff and students who work tending research plots started to trickle in around 12:30 pm, and the crowd grew increasingly larger. The southern style BBQ lunch started almost on time. The menu choices were:

- Southern Style Pulled Pork Sandwiches
- Smoked Chicken
- Three Styles of BBQ Sauce
  - Potato Salad
  - Cole Slaw
- Black Bean and Corn Salad
- Vegetarian Jambalaya

Accompanied by iced tea and/or lemonade, food was enjoyed by all. Some may have had to wait for the chicken, but that did not seem to affect the overall jovial atmosphere. Discussions continued in the relaxed atmosphere of a fine sunny afternoon. There were six entries for the Dessert Contest and they were:

- Angie Trivett – Lemon Squares
- Matthew Smid – Chocolate Cheesecake
- Jennifer Kingswell – Blueberry Strudel Cake
- Renée Cloutier – Raspberry Peach Cheesecake (winning recipe on page 17)
- Mary Jane Clark – Chocolate Cake
- Agnes Belosic – Red Currant Cake

The five member judging panel sweet tooth taste buds seemed to have a challenging time picking the winning entry. The winning entry was the Raspberry Peach Cake entry by Renée Cloutier. Renée was awarded with a bottle of University of Guelph made wine. It was her own choice from the donations received for the raffle, which followed. Congratulations to the winners who could pick and choose from items, including plants, tool set, a bag, CDs, and other items. Under the blue skies many of the attendees moved over to the colourful Trial Gardens where they enjoyed a guided tour and presentation by Rodger Tschanz. They were given a chance to pick and flag their preferred choices from the annual flowers bursting with colour. Some carried away not only the information pamphlet but a freshly picked tomato as well.

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Thanks to the effort of a few dedicated individuals, the chef Eric Lyons, and also Gary Ablett, who persevered to have the Variety Club committee in place and the 2006 picnic take place before he left Guelph for Ridgetown. Hopefully, this is a good inspiration for next year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Pictures taken by:

Hussain Ahmad
Graduate Student
Plant Agriculture - Bovey

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**Raspberry Peach or Peach Cheesecake**
Renée Cloutier

**Crust**
¾ cup (180 mL) flour
3 tbsp (45 mL) brown sugar
2 tbsp (30 mL) orange peel, grated
¼ cup (60 mL) butter
1 egg yolk, beaten (reserve egg white for filling)

**Filling**
2 cups (500 mL) peaches (or 3½ to 4 cups of peaches only if you don’t have raspberries)
2 cups (500 mL) raspberries
2 cups (500 mL) cream cheese, softened (2 250g sticks)
½ cup (125 mL) sugar
2 tbsp (30 mL) flour
4 eggs
½ cup (125 mL) peach or orange juice
1 tbsp (15 mL) vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C ). To keep the oven moist and minimize cracking of the cheesecake surface during baking, place a pyrex pot with water into the oven.

**Crust**
Butter bottom of a spring-form cake pan. Set aside.
In a bowl, mix flour, sugar and orange peel. Add butter, mixing until granular.
Fold in egg yolk. Press one-third of crust over bottom of pan. Wrap reminder, setting aside. Bake bottom crust (without sides of pan) around 6 minutes or until golden brown.
Remove from oven. Let cool.
Butter sides of pan. Attach to bottom. Line with crust, up to 2 inches (5 cm) from top.
Set aside.

**Filing**
In a large bowl, whip cheese until creamy.
In a second bowl, combine sugar and flour. Fold into cheese. Mix in eggs.
Fold in chopped peaches and raspberries, peach or orange juice and vanilla extract, stirring slightly. Pour into pan. Bake in oven 50 to 55 minutes. Let cool 15 minutes. Unmold.
If you desire, you can decorate with sliced peaches and glaze or with almonds. Refrigerate 3-6 hours.
Jennifer Kingswell received the Steelworkers Local 4120 Susanne Sprowl Community Service Award which honours contributions to the external community through community spirit and volunteer work.

For more information on the Susanne Sprowl Community Service Award:

http://www.uswa4120.ca/member_recognition/SueSprowl2005Award.pdf

CONGRATULATIONS JEN!
CONGRATULATIONS

Wade Montminy  
Soybean Breeding Technician

Laima Kott  
Research Scientist/Adjunct Professor

For 25 years of service to the University

The fourth annual University of Guelph Community Breakfast was held Thursday, September 7th from 8:30 am to 10 am in the Gryphon Dome.

The event, started by president Alastair Summerlee in 2003, celebrates the start of the new academic year and the achievements of staff and faculty who make significant contributions to the University.

Employees who have dedicated 25 years of service to University of Guelph were honoured.

The Plant Agriculture Staff Development Fund committee has chosen the successful applicants in the spring 2006 round of awards. This fund was created and continues to be supported by staff, as well as the Department, in order to provide financial assistance for skills development and training for full time staff outside of that which they must attend on behalf of the Department in the normal course of their duties.

The next deadline for applications is November 1st, 2006.

Congratulations to successful applicants Peter Smith (for Dreamweaver MX course taught at Conestoga College) and Henk Wichers (for "The Secrets of Soil Life" seminar taught by Dr. Elaine Engham of Soil Foodweb Inc.).

Past recipients are: Agnes Belosic for University of Guelph MS Access training course and Dean Louttit for an Agricultural Field trip to mid-west USA (in May/04); Mette Cornelisse for University of Guelph graduate course "Commercialization of Innovation" (in November/04); and Henk Wickers for workshop entitled "Introduction to Ecological Agriculture" provided by the Ecological Farmers Association (in November/05).

Rob Grohs and Tannis Slimmon
Staff Development Fund Committee
COMING EVENTS

2006

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 - Perth County (Rural Expo) 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.norfair.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/

Ontario Pest Management Conference - November 9, 2006, at the Victoria Park East Golf Course, Guelph, Ontario. For more information go to: http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/conferences/20061109.htm

2007

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

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

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

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

Canada Blooms “Garden Party” - March 7 to 11, 2007, will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building, Toronto, Ontario. For more information go to: http://www.canadablooms.com/
MyPortico is YourPortico

Have you tried MyPortico yet? This is a major new campus communication and information resource portal launched September 1st. Check out the home page for more information and a virtual tour – http://myportico.uoguelph.ca

The focus of the portal is primarily internal communications; it allows the campus to customize messaging, information and services to the university community of faculty, students, staff, alumni, and partners. The portal is both an information system and a framework within which to present other campus information systems, including those of the library. As described on the portal home page the vision is to:

- Provide members of the University community with a single point of entry into Guelph’s current and future array of web-delivered tools, services and information resources.
- Present a single, coherent, well-branded image of the University of Guelph on the web - a web image that appears to each member of the University community, as a consolidated, personalized view of the institution.
- Function as an Online Community via the provision of integrated communication, collaboration, content management, and resource discovery tools.
- Serve as the software “framework” for deployment of future web-delivered tools, services and information resources.

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**Calling All Authors**

The Library has announced the creation of an exciting new annual Campus Author Recognition program that will honour University of Guelph faculty, staff and student authors and their books.

According to Chief Librarian Mike Ridley, "the Library will create a database of all new University of Guelph books and their authors, starting with all of the books published in 2005. This ever-evolving database will be a rich and dynamic source of information about the University, its faculty, staff and students."

The Library has made a commitment to purchase all of these campus-authored books. Each one will contain a bookplate indicating U of G authorship, and links will be created in the Library catalogue to the new database. There will also be a display in the Library foyer highlighting U of G books from September to December. Anyone, including the author, may submit the name of a publication. The deadline for submission of books published in 2006 is June 30th, 2007. For further information and a submission form go to [http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/author/form.cfm](http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/author/form.cfm).

On November 1st Ridley will host a reception for all the 2005 authors, editors, and translators and their friends and families. The event will be open to all members of the University and the local community.

The Graduate Student Learning Initiative (GSLI) is new from the Learning Commons this fall and brings together key campus services to support graduate student learning, writing, library research, and use of technology. Included are educational development opportunities and instructional resources for current and future teaching assistants and graduate assistants interested in teaching. Note that all workshops including RefWorks can now be reserved online: [http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/GSLI/HomePage.html](http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/GSLI/HomePage.html)
WEB SIGHTS

by Judy Wanner, Liaison Librarian

Noxious Weeds and Invaders Database - The University of Montana-Missoula has compiled a “Links Database” of approximately 10 thousand links to websites containing information about any one of 997 weed and invasive plant species. Here you will be able to search by plant scientific name for links to other websites containing photographs, distribution data, ecology, taxonomy, management, beneficial uses, and other information pertaining to a specified plant. http://invader.dbs.umt.edu/linksearch/linksearch.asp

Another part of this web site provides a searchable database of the noxious weed lists for all U.S. states and six provinces of Canada. The database can be searched by plant name, state/province name, or by clicking on a map. Included is a summary list of all noxious weeds which can be customized to display in alphabetical order (on scientific name) or by the number of appearances on weed lists. http://invader.dbs.umt.edu/Noxious_Weeds/

Also included are suggested applications of the Invaders Database for strategic weed management http://invader.dbs.umt.edu/applic.asp and demonstration projects. http://invader.dbs.umt.edu/recent_applic.asp

Message from the Chair
Continued from page 1...

nice touch). It was a great day to celebrate the impact that 100 years of horticultural research can have. With both the federal and the provincial ministers of agriculture in attendance the event was certainly well recognized and Minister Dombrowsky's announcement in particular gives us hope that we will see a renaissance of the Vineland HES. We look forward to the advisory panel's report due later this fall - and the celebrations will continue in January with the gala dinner. Stay tuned.

We are continuing to work on recruitment for three positions within the department. The recruitment firm’s report is in for the Premier’s Chair in Bioproducts and the committee will be meeting soon to create a short list of candidates. The department has been allowed to pursue a Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in postharvest science and a recruitment firm has been commissioned to search for potential candidates. Finally, interviews will take place in September for the Oilseed Physiology/Agronomy position, so watch for seminar times and dates.

Thank you again for welcoming me to the Plant Agriculture community. If I haven’t met you in person yet I look forward to meeting you.