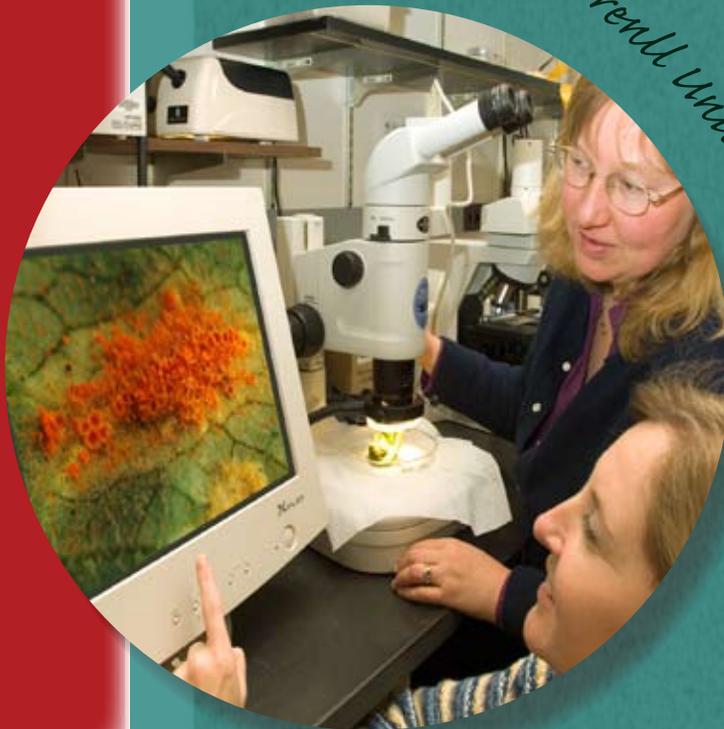


100 Years of Plant
Pathology



Cornell University

Centennial celebration of the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell University 1907-2007



2007-2008 Alumni Newsletter

Volume 50

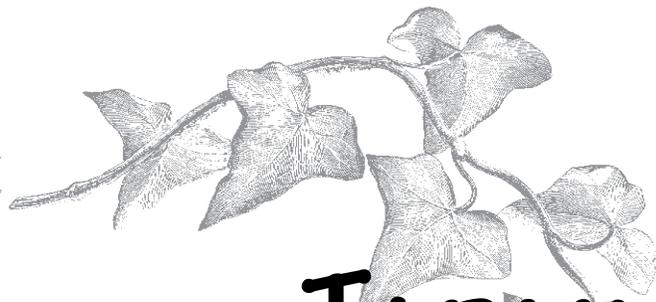
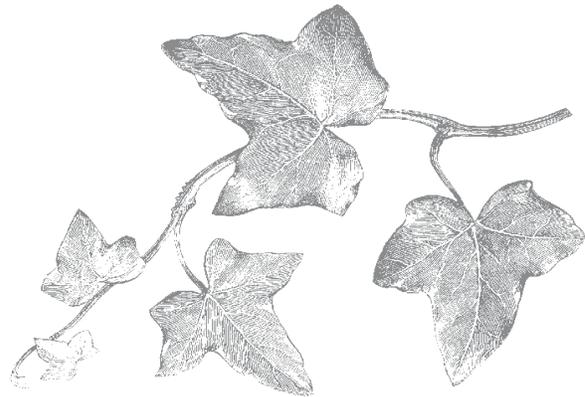


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The layout work for this year's issue of the Alumni Newsletter was done by Susanne Lipari and Dawn Dailey O'Brien.

Many thanks to Margaret Haus for compiling information regarding past and present graduate students and Jackie Armstrong for pursuing and organizing contributions from alumni, faculty and staff. Thanks to George Hudler for proofreading. A big thank you to Kent Loeffler for many of the photographs.

Send feedback and suggestions for future newsletters to plantpathcornell@cornell.edu

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College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
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Ithaca, NY 14853

GREETINGS

Fall 2008

FROM THE CHAIR



George Hudler

Chair, Department of Plant Pathology and
Plant-Microbe Biology

Greetings to all from Ithaca's East Hill! It's Saturday. The sun is shining, the temperature is just as it should be for a beautiful autumn day in Ithaca, and despite the fact that I'm temporarily sidetracked by overdue paperwork, I'm pleased to be bringing this 2008 edition of our departmental newsletter to your screen or mailbox.

If you missed us last year, it's not because your mail delivery system failed. We simply ran out of time to produce a respectable newsletter as we were preoccupied first with our Centennial Year Celebration and then a department external program review. Hopefully now we're back on track, and you can expect regular annual communications from us in future years. You can also expect future editions to come to you via the internet unless you request otherwise inasmuch as internet publishing is not only less expensive but it also allows us to use a lot more color to tell our stories. We hope you'll like the new option and trust that you'll tell us if you don't or if you have suggestions for improvements.

By the way, if once a year isn't enough, go to pppmb.cals.cornell.edu to check out our new web page. "Feature stories" are changed at least monthly and sometimes more often as we try to keep up with our very busy and productive faculty and students.

One conspicuous change that has occurred since the last time you saw a newsletter from us is the name of our department and our graduate field. We're now "Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology" – a change that was made after considerable discussion among ourselves and with our colleagues in Geneva. The most persuasive argument for the change came from faculty at both campuses who thought that "plant pathology", alone, just didn't accurately reflect our increasing activity in the study of microbes as symbionts and epiphytes. It also didn't clearly identify our participation in and contribution to research and education in topics more closely aligned with mainstream biology. Admittedly the new name is a mouthful to say and it takes a bit of extra room to write, but we believe the change was a necessary one that we'll grow to appreciate.

Another conspicuous change – not to the newsletter but to the campus – is an enormous white building that has been growing south of Plant Science on Alumni Field for the past couple of years. It's just about done and has already begun to house some of the highest quality biological research in the world. Yet to be installed in the 2 acre (yup – that says 2 acre) basement of the building is the first generation of 24 new growth chambers with state of the art climate control that is certain to provide plant scientists with exceptional facilities for precise, repeatable experiments.

The next time you are on campus, you absolutely must make time to check out this splendid new facility. And if the weather isn't quite to your liking, you can get from here (Plant Science) to there through a \$3 million tunnel that runs beneath Tower Road.



The new Life Sciences building on Tower Road

In the pages that follow, you should get a pretty good idea of what we've been up to and where we're going. It's been an exciting time despite the occasional setback (like the NYS economy!) and we remain optimistic that the future is bright. Your smile at our doorstep will help to ensure that so please do stop by if you are in the area.

In the meantime, best wishes from us to you and yours.



CORNELL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY
AND
PLANT-MICROBE BIOLOGY



100 YEARS OF PLANT PATHOLOGY AT CORNELL

HEY! WE'RE 100!

It's not often that anyone or anything gets to celebrate a 100th birthday, but our department did just that with a Centennial Semester in Fall, 2007. It was, indeed, a grand affair with plenty of opportunities for current faculty, staff, and students, as well as a distinguished group of alums to learn about and reflect on the heritage that is plant pathology at Cornell.

The festivities started with the hanging of a Centennial Banner, 2.5m tall and 6m long, expertly and artistically designed by photographer Kent Loeffler, printed on sailcloth, and displayed on a previously blank wall at the east end of the third floor. The banner was SO big that plans to have a "grand opening" with a celebratory unveiling had to be scuttled. We just couldn't find a way to keep something that large covered, so instead, it just appeared one morning to the surprise and delight of department residents and passersby. The banner, in miniature form, quickly became a logo, of sorts, for much of what followed. It was displayed at the Cornell reunion table at the APS meeting, it was the cover of a brochure that was sent to all alums announcing the schedule of Centennial celebration events, and it was presented as a gift to invited speakers and emeritus professors. (Copies are still available for a modest fee to cover printing. See the last page of this newsletter for more information.)

With the beginning of the new semester at hand, departmental seminars for the first eight weeks were devoted to invited contributions by distinguished alums from right here at home and from as far away as the Phillipine Islands. Each visitor came to Ithaca for at least two days with ample time to reacquaint themselves with old friends and colleagues and frequent favorite Ithaca landmarks. In almost every case, they were introduced by their major professor either in person or by video connection. You can see the schedule of speakers and the titles of their talks on page.6 Here's what they are doing now:

Bill Fry – recently stepped down from seven years of distinguished service as Senior Associate Dean of CALS and was headed off to South Africa for a long-overdue sabbatical leave soon after his talk. While he was gone, he was elected Dean of the Cornell Faculty and on his return, he resumed "normal" teaching and research activities.

Jane Rissler – is a Senior Scientist and Deputy Director of the Food and Environment Program for the Union of Concerned Scientists. Her "specialities" are antibiotic resistance and environmental risks of genetic engineering. Among many other prominent activities, she has represented the Union on national news programs such as The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer and ABC World News Tonight.

Amy Charkowski – is an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin where she directs the Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification program, teaches several graduate level courses, and directs an active and diverse research program on plant pathogenic bacteria and (more recently) attachment of human pathogens to produce.

Nancy Keller - is a Professor in the Genetics Department at the University of Wisconsin. She is well known among fungal biologists for her research on the genetics of *Aspergillus* spp. with special emphasis on determining which genes are most important for pathogenicity and mycotoxin production. More recently, she has turned her attention to fungi that are also human pathogens

Bob Ziegler – is the Director General of the International Rice Research Institute in Los Banos, the Phillipines. His current position is the latest in a series of posts in which he has devoted his talent and energy to improving Third World agriculture. In addition to his time in the Phillipines, Bob has worked in Colombia, Mexico, and Burundi, and he was chair of the Department of Plant Pathology at Kansas State University.

Sheng Yang He – is a professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at Michigan State University where he conducts research on the molecular biology of plant-pathogen interactions with special emphasis on the Type III secretion system it affects pathogenicity by *Pseudomonas syringae*.

Corby Kistler – is a Research Geneticist with the USDA-ARS laboratory located on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. He is also an adjunct professor in the U of M Department of Plant Pathology. Corby's research program focuses on the genetics of plant pathogens in the genus *Fusarium*, especially those that cause disease in cereal crops.

Linda Kohn – is a Professor in the Department of Cell and Systems Biology at the University of Toronto in Mississauga, Ontario. Linda's interests in discomycetes (especially the Sclerotiniaceae), with their genesis at Cornell, continue to this day, but she now uses contemporary tools of molecular biology to study systematics and evolution of these and related fungi.

Paul Vincelli – is an Extension Professor and a Provost's Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Kentucky. He conducts research and extension programs on a wide array of crop plants including alfalfa, turf, and corn, and he is devoting considerable effort to development and use of molecular diagnostics tools for rapid ID of pathogens.

Hans Van Etten – is a Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Arizona. Hans teaches courses in plant microbiology and directs a highly productive research program aimed at learning more about the genetic basis for phytoalexin production and the potential for candidate genes to be introduced to new plants to confer disease resistance.

The capstone events of our Centennial Celebration were an open house and banquet held on November 9. For the open house, meeting room 336 was transformed into a gallery of photos and exhibits depicting our long and colorful history. One special item was a book purchased several years ago from a used book store in Dryden by an alum while he was passing through Ithaca. The book, *The Fungi Which Cause Plant Disease* by F.L. Stevens (1913) had been given to H.H. Whetzel as a Christmas present and was signed by all of the faculty and staff in the department at the time including Chupp, Burkholder, Reddick, Fitzpatrick, Barrus, and Blodgett. Another indicator that we were, indeed, celebrating something special was that the halls were free of extraneous furniture and the cabinets that were there had no boxes on top...all making for a most presentable show.

Out-of-town guests included Durward and Shirley Bateman, Mary and Peter Brennan, Jack and Therese Bruhn, Carl Buschner, Roy Ellerbrock, Richard Gomez, Robert and Valerie Lumsden, Bill and Janet Rochow, David Rossiter, Gail Ruhl, Annemiek Schilder, Christine Stockwell, Cathy and Mike Whalen and Olen Yoder.



**Department of Plant Pathology
2007 Centennial Seminar Series
Former Graduate Students: Then and Now**

Date	Speaker	Title
Sept. 5	William Fry (1970) Dept. of Plant Pathology Cornell University	Control of potato late blight: from molecules to populations
Sept. 12	Jane Rissler (1977) Food and Environment Program Union of Concerned Scientists	Plant pathology, science policy, and political activism
Sept. 19	Amy Charkowski (1998) Dept. of Plant Pathology University of Wisconsin-Madison	Soft rot enterobacteria: from the farm to virulence mechanisms
Sept. 26	Nancy Keller (1990) Dept. of Plant Pathology University of Wisconsin-Madison	Silent islands: what makes fungal toxin clusters speak?
Oct. 3	Bob Zeigler (1982) International Rice Research Institute, Los Banos, Philippines	A career in international agricultural research: Cornell plant pathology as a launch pad
Oct. 10	Sheng Yang He (1991) MSU-DOE Plant Research Lab. Michigan State University	Cornell's phytobacteriology program: a launching pad for careers in molecular plant pathology
Oct. 17	Corby Kistler (1983) USDA-ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory and University of Minnesota	Profiles in scourge: transcriptional analysis of the <i>Fusarium</i> head blight pathogen
Oct. 24	Linda Kohn (1979) Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Dept. of Biology University of Toronto	Studies of fungal speciation from pattern to process
Oct. 31	Paul Vincelli (1988) Dept. of Plant Pathology University of Kentucky	Some life lessons that undergird my extension, teaching, and research efforts
Nov. 8 Thursday 4:30 PM	Hans VanEtten (1971) Division of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Dept. of Plant Sciences University of Arizona	The evolution of an offense and a defense: pisatin, pea and <i>Nectria</i> as a model
Nov. 9 Friday	Hans VanEtten Division of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Dept. of Plant Sciences University of Arizona	A century of excellence in graduate education

**Wednesdays, 12:20 PM
H. H. Whetzel Seminar Room
404 Plant Science Bldg.
Plant Pathology 681**

Contact information: Gillian Turgeon, 254-7458 - bgt1@cornell.edu

100 Year Anniversary Dinner



Dean Susan Henry and George Hudler join the former chairs of the department, Durward Bateman, Rose Loria, and George Kent, for a group photo.



Joanne Morello, Brian King and Michael Milgroom



Julia Crane and Christine Layton



Dawn Bignell, Madhumita Joshi, Len Loria and Evan Johnson



Margery Daughtrey



Mana Ohkura and Kathie Hodge



Stewart Gray and Alice Churchill

More photos of the Centennial Dinner can be found at
<http://www.plantpath.cornell.edu/dinner/index.html>

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Welcome to Our New Graduate Students

Fall 2007

Ewa Borejsza-Wysocka:

M.S. Agricultural University, Poland, 1979, major Horticultural Science; Employee Degree Program

Research experience: *Erwinia amylovora*, developing disease resistant apple varieties and root stocks

Interests: interaction between pathogens and their hosts at the molecular and protein level

Chairperson: Herb Aldwinckle

Alan Chambers:

B.S. Brigham Young University, 2007, majors in Genetics and Biotechnology

Research experience: fungal endophytes; corn breeding internship at Monsanto; mapping the saponin gene in quinoa

Interests: genomics, light regulated gene expression in *Pseudomonas syringae*

Chairperson: Sam Cartinhour

Bradford Condon:

B.S. Oberlin College, 2007, majors in Biology and Religion

Research experience: prion interactions in yeast, lichen mycobiont/photobiont bioinformatics, pisatin production in pea, and lateral root emergence in arabidopsis

Interests: broad interests in plant-microbe biology, but particularly with fungal pathogens

Chairperson: B. Gillian Turgeon

Julia Crane:

BS & BA University of Maryland, College Park, 2007, majors in Environmental Science & Policy, and Anthropology

Research experience: strawberry pathology at USDA-Beltsville working with bacteria, fungi and oomycetes; wheat breeding and genetics for disease resistance

Current interests: biocontrol, use of molecular tools to address ecological questions in the field

Chairperson: Gary Bergstrom

Christine Layton:

Hood College, Frederick, MD, BS, expected May 2007, major Biology

Research experience: spore survival and germination of Karnal bunt, and host range of Philippine downy mildew pathogen at USDA-Ft. Detrick

Current interests: fungal plant pathogens of switchgrass, fungal ecology

Chairperson: Gary Bergstrom

Holly Lange:

BS University of Connecticut, 1975, major Animal Science

Research experience: viral, fungal, oomycete and bacterial pathogens of food crops, Cornell University

Interests: population diversity of *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris*

Chairperson: Christine Smart

Fall 2008

John Gottula

B.S. Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, 2008, major Horticulture

Research Experience: Mapping bacterial blight genes in cotton; determining antioxidant efficacy for drought tolerance; produce marketing

Interests: Transgene efficacy, risk, and ethics; IP for agriculture; viruses

Chairperson: Marc Funchs

Tiffany Jamann

B.S. Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA, 2008, major Biology. B.A. Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA, 2008, major German

Research Experience: gene regulation

Interests: host-pathogen interactions, host resistance in maize

Chairperson: To be determined

Hanh Lam

B.S. Nong Lam University, 2005, major Biotechnology

Research Experience: Tomato mosaic virus; entomopathogenic fungi: *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *Beauveria bassiana*

Interests: Functional genomics; how plant and pathogens interact using *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Pseudomonas syringae* as a model

Chairperson: Alan Collmer

Stephen Mondo

B.S. SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, NY 2007, major Biology: Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Research Experience: rhizobial population structure, RNAi screening for Medicago truncatula genes involved in the arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis.

Interests: Endosymbiotic bacteria of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi

Chairperson: Teresa Pawlowska

Samuel Kilonzo Mutiga

B.Sc. Horticulture and M.Phil. Crop protection, Moi University, Kenya: 2000 - 2004; 2004 - 2007

Research experience: (1) Rose flower production, and disease and pest management

(2) Companion cropping and soil nutrient adjustment in management of aphids in collards

Research interests: Genetics and breeding for resistance to *Aspergillus flavus* infection, and understanding the biotic and abiotic factors favoring aflatoxin accumulation in Maize

Chairperson: Rebecca J Nelson

Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association

Brian King

PPGSA President '07-08

2007-08 was an active year for the Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association. In addition to the normal graduate student routine of long hours in the lab, coming in at 4:00 AM on a Saturday morning to collect an experiment timepoint, and late nights at home pouring over confusing results, we have managed to organize a few events to help us keep our sanity. In August, we held a retreat for current and incoming Plant Path students at Cornell's Arnot Forest in Van Etten, NY. It was a great time for the new students to get acquainted with the department, and kicked the year off right. Last fall we also helped host the 3rd annual Battle of the Plant Sciences Chili Cookoff in collaboration with Plant Biology, Plant Breeding, and Horticulture. I think everyone left with a full belly and a smile on their face, and I can't wait for Chili Cookoff '08, which is right around the corner. We had a fall party with a "harvest" theme. We ate lots of turkey, carved lots of pumpkins. Again everyone left with a full stomach and a smile on their face.

This spring, we organized a student/postdoc vs. faculty/staff bowling tournament at the Helen Newman Bowling Center on campus. Students and postdocs had an average score of 117 and narrowly beat the faculty and staff who had an average of 111. But more importantly the turnout was fantastic (the lanes were full) and everyone had a great time. The PPGSA also held its annual colloquium, where we invite a distinguished speaker to meet with students and present seminars in Ithaca and Geneva. This year we invited Dr. James Neinhuis from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He challenged us to rethink the relationship between basic and applied research, to look beyond molecular techniques and focus on the biological questions they help address, and reminded us to stay excited about the work we do.

Also this spring, we had our annual BBQ with Plant Biology and Plant Breeding. Like last year, we had a departmental tug-of-war, and this time Plant Pathology (with a little help from Plant Breeding to fill out the team) outmuscled Plant Biology. And everyone left with a full belly and a smile on their face.

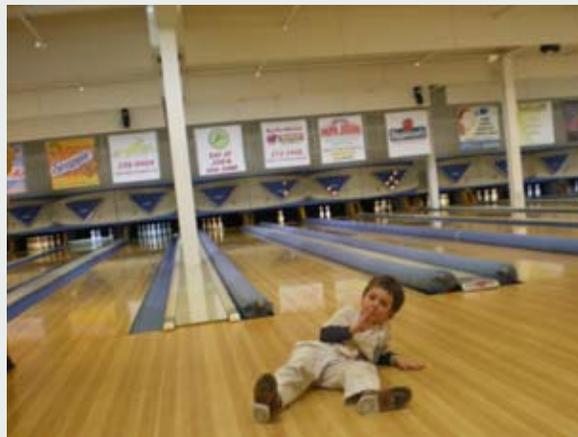
We are looking ahead to the 4th annual Chili Cookoff, and another full (and fun) year.



Students and Postdocs Win the 2008 Annual Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology Bowling Tournament

Marin Brewer

This year's Annual Faculty/Staff vs. Student/Postdoc Bowling Tournament held April 4th on campus at Helen Newman Lanes was a huge success. Over 60 students, postdocs, faculty, staff, friends and family members attended the tournament for a fun and exciting evening of bowling, pizza and good times. The younger attendees were all winners at bumper bowling.



One of the young bowlers enjoying bumper bowling

The final score was Students and Postdocs, 117, Faculty and Staff, 111. The award for Best Team Uniform went to The Cartinhour White Shirts (Phil Bronstein, Sam Cartinhour, Dave Schneider, Melanie Filiatrault, Simon Moll, and Monica Moll) for their creative T-shirts that included nicknames and a team logo.

The teams with the best overall averages were 1) Ryan Seipke, Dawn Bignell, Allison Jack, Dan Clune, Marin Brewer, and Doug Brewer (130.6); 2) Craig Austin, Jonathan Oliver, Paulo Zaini, Jason Diniz, and Steve Beer (128.8); and 3) Dawn Dailey-O'Brien, George Hudler, Sandra Jensen-Tracy, Bob O'Brien, and Peter Tracy(125.4).

The bowlers with the highest scores were:

- ▶ Ryan Seipke (191)
- ▶ Craig Austin (178)
- ▶ Simon Moll (168)
- ▶ George Hudler (161)



FACULTY

NEWS

Gary Bergstrom

Katie Waxman ('Duttweiler' before her marriage in fall 2007) joined the Bergstrom Lab in summer 2007, after earning her M.S. at Iowa State, and was appointed Research Support Specialist in 2008. Katie oversees the daily operation of a busy lab and field program. Stan Kawamoto continues to work part-time in the program after 'retirement' and is specializing in biological control studies. Michael Wunsch is entering his final year of Ph.D. studies on two important forage diseases, Fusarium wilt of birdsfoot trefoil and brown root rot (*Phoma sclerotoides*) on alfalfa and other forages. Brian King is splitting time in his Ph.D. research between Donna Gibson, Larry Walker (Biol. Engineering), and Bergstrom Labs as he is bioprospecting fungal plant pathogens for novel cell wall-degrading enzymes useful in pretreatment of cellulosic biomass for ethanol production. The pathology of perennial grass biofuel feedstock crops is a new emphasis in the Bergstrom lab these days, with major grants secured in concert with Cornell colleagues from the Northeast Sun Grant Initiative, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the New York Farm Viability Institute. Second year graduate student Christine Layton is researching the biology and management of a devastating smut pathogen, *Tilletia maclaganii*, of switchgrass. Katie and Gary are also addressing the etiology and management of rusts and leaf blights on perennial grasses. The epidemiology and management of *Gibberella zeae* in both wheat and corn continues as a major focus of the Bergstrom lab. Second year graduate student Julia Crane is researching the ecology of *Bacillus subtilis* on wheat heads relative to biological control efficacy against *G. zeae*. Gary and Katie conducted an ambitious wheat scab epidemiology experiment on six New York farms in 2008 and preliminary evidence suggests that corn stubble (in wheat following corn) contributes some inoculum for head scab, but that background spores in the atmosphere contribute a still greater amount.

Gary serves as chair of Cornell Cooperative Extension's Integrated Field Crop, Soil, and Pest Management Program Work Team. He was recently appointed as the first Director of the newly created APS Auxiliary Meetings Board which will coordinate specialized scientific meetings for APS. He currently serves as chairman of NCERA-184, Diseases of Small Grains Committee. Gary gave invited plenary talks in the past year at the National Fusarium Head Blight Forum (Kansas City, MO) and at the Northeast Renewable Energy Conference (State College, PA).

Alan Collmer

The work in Alan Collmer's lab has continued to focus on the functional genomics of *Pseudomonas syringae*, with an emphasis on the type III secretion system. Two of the highlights of this period were trips by several members of the lab to the 7th International Conference on *Pseudomonas syringae* Pathovars and Related Pathogens in Agadir, Morocco, November 2006, and the XIII International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions in Sorrento, Italy, July 2007. Also, the lab hosted several world travelers during this period, including Chia-Fong Wei (a graduate student of Hsiou-Chen Huang) from National Chung-Hsing University in Taichung, Taiwan; Marshall Hayes, a postdoc from Duke University whose previous research involved marine biology off the coast of France; Duck Hwan Park, a Korean Research Foundation postdoctoral fellow from Kangwon National University, Sébastien Cunnac, a postdoctoral scientist from Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, France, and Stanford University; Professor Gongyou Chen, a Cornell Tang Scholar from Nanjing Agricultural University; and Professor Robert Schuurink a sabbatical visitor from the University of Amsterdam. In addition, Kathy Munkvold and Hye-Sook Oh received their Ph.D. degrees. Kathy is now a postdoc in the laboratory of Greg Martin at the Boyce Thompson Institute and Hye-Sook is living in the New York City area where she and husband Kyu-Soon Lee just had a second daughter, named Juna.

Margery Daughtrey

True fungi have been taking a second seat to oomycetes in Marge Daughtrey's lab. Research support specialists Jadwiga Komorowska-Jedrys and Genevieve Giroux have been busily sleuthing out the Pythiums and Phytophthoras to be found in Long Island greenhouses. They are beginning to use molecular methods for Pythium ID with the assistance of collaborator Gary Moorman at Penn State. Technician Maria Tobiasz has been skillfully manipulating the new coleus downy mildew and the newer still basil downy mildew to learn about the host range of these *Peronospora* spp. --which may or may not be one and the same pathogen. Marge has been Editor-in-Chief for APS PRESS for a few years now, working on her own (Coming Soon!) book on diseases of herbaceous perennials in between helping others to get published. New diseases on ornamentals have been cropping up like mushrooms--shes recently been invited to give presentations on these at IPPS in Italy, the Kanuga Ornamentals Workshop in NC and at Purdue University.

Bill Fry

Dr. Theresa Yun Lee and Dr. Asia Zambrano are visiting fellows in Bill Fry's lab for 2008. They arrived mid-way through Bill's sabbatical leave in Stellenbosch, South Africa. During Bill's absence they are being hosted by Kevin Myers, Paola Zuluaga and Guohong Cai. Dr. Lee is from South Korea and is an alumna of the department. During the 1990s she worked with Bill on metalaxyl resistance and host specialization in *Phytophthora infestans*. In 2008 she is working on *Plasmodiophora brassicae*, the subject of her responsibility in South Africa, and also on molecular aspects of *Phytophthora capsici*. Dr. Zambrano is from Venezuela and is particularly interested in host resistance to *P. infestans*. Her activities in 2008 are an investigation of genes identified as differentially expressed between two near-isogenic lines of tomato (one resistant and the other susceptible). The genes were identified as being differentially expressed in a profiling experiment done in the field. She is using Virus Induced Gene Silencing (VIGS) to determine the phenotype of the gene.

Kathie Hodge

The Cornell Plant Pathology Herbarium moved into its new facility in the Winter of 07-08. We're very happy: at last we have good temperature control, protection from pests, and a nice, welcoming facility with space for our activities and for visitors. Following the retirement of long-time Curator Susan Gruff, we now welcome a new CUP Curator, Bob Dirig. He may be familiar to you--he's been a curator at the Herbarium of Cornell's Bailey Hortorium for many years, and brings to CUP lots of curatorial know-how and serious expertise and outreach experience with lichens, plants, and butterflies.



The new facility is a completely renovated Poultry Barn off Game Farm Road, on the east end of Campus. It last housed raptors, but has been gutted and received a new cement floor and new roof since then. It's designed to hold the collections at a cool temperature to preserve them and deter beetle pests. Behind us is McGowan's Woods, a historic Cornell forest with lots of fungal interest (it's the type locality of *Inocybe tubarioides* Atkinson).

We've had our struggles over the years. The Herbarium has been in temporary digs since 1999 (a chicken barn, a tractor repair shop, and a transmission factory). We've had trouble with humidity and pests, and have had to use a head lamp to find specimens in various poorly lit facilities. In the few months before the move we were confronted by a serious infestation of anobiid beetles. As a result, every single one of our collections had to be frozen for 48 hours in the Cornell Library's garage-sized freezer before coming into the new facility. The beetles are under control now. This seems like a



good time to say thanks. We thank Dean Susan Henry, former Associate Dean Bill Fry, as well department chairs George Hudler and Rose Loria for keeping CUP afloat over the last decade. Susan Gruff and Dave Kalb performed many miracles

as well. Our thanks also go to you, dear reader, for your extraordinary help and attention over the years. We wouldn't be here without you.

Bob and I held an Open House on May 28, welcoming over 70 visitors to our new place with punch and nibbles. The place looks great with its honey oak cabinetry, dark red accent walls, and lots of framed borescope artwork by our photographer Kent Loeffler. Please stop by if you'd like a tour, and let us know if we can help answer your taxonomic or historical questions with specimens or photographs.



George Hudler

Students and staff (and *occasionally* the professor) in the Hudler lab continue to devote most of their time and energy to trying to solve problems caused by species of *Phytophthora* as causes of lethal bleeding cankers of European beech. The disease has killed hundreds of mature (e.g. 100 – 200 year old) trees in the Northeast with untold hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars in diminished values for affected residential landscapes. Results of several years worth of surveys indicate that as many as 40 percent of trees over 50 cm diameter have one or more cankers that could threaten host survival in years to come. *Phytophthora citricola* and *P. cactorum* seem to be the primary pathogens but we continue to look for other species comparable to the "bleeding canker complex" in Europe.

Jerry Weiland, a post-doc in the lab since 2004, completed several important projects relating to pathogenicity and fungicide sensitivity of *Phytophthora* spp. and was able to use that experience together with his prior training at the University of Wisconsin to compete successfully for a position with the USDA-ARS Nursery Crops Research Laboratory in Corvallis, OR. In his time at Cornell, Jerry was a regular participant at APS meetings and Northeast Forest Pathology Workshops and his work will begin to appear in print soon.

Angela Nelson took several more giant steps toward completion of her Ph.D. by wrapping up studies of geographic distribution of bleeding cankers, identity and placement (via multi-gene analysis) of putative pathogens on phylogenetic trees. She also proved that the pathogens had several new hosts and traditional host-range evaluation strategies may lead to erroneous conclusions. Angela won an APS travel award to the 2006 APS meeting in Quebec City and she won two more awards to support her travel to the Centennial meeting in Minneapolis in 2008.

Continued. on pg 12...

... Continued from pg 11

Shawn Kenaley joined the lab as a post-doctoral associate in August 2008, having nearly completed Ph.D. requirements at West Virginia University. Shawn brings expertise on dwarf mistletoe, chestnut blight, and oak wilt as well as an excellent working knowledge of wide of other tree pathology topics to the program and we look forward to his time with us.

George Hudler has so much “face time” elsewhere in this newsletter that there’s little else to say *except* that he was flattered (and eventually overwhelmed) by three invitations to make presentations at the APS Centennial Meeting sessions. Had he known that the invitation by alum Dave Schmale to speak at one of the closing sessions included an address to hundreds in an auditorium for thousands and that a 50m² screen with a “headshot” would be right over his shoulder, he may have reconsidered! Fortunately, all seemed to go well, and on conclusion of the meeting the next day, he and his wife embarked on an 8-day golf-a-thon back to New York.

Dick Korf

Hey, what’s this? Dick Korf hasn’t had a laboratory in a decade, depending instead on space kindly offered in Kathie Hodge’s Mycology office/lab on the fourth floor of the Plant Science building. Well, as you’ve learned elsewhere in this newsletter, the Plant Pathology Herbarium (official acronym: CUP) now has a state of the art building all to itself, adjacent to McGowan’s Woods off Game Farm Road. In it is a large laboratory room, tentatively called the Anna E. Jenkins Room. (Anna obtained her Ph.D. at Cornell and went on to work her whole life with the USDA in Beltsville, MD. She donated her estate to the Mycology program at Cornell, and that endowment supported dozens of Anna E. Jenkins Postdoctoral Fellows, visiting scholars, and student field trips during most of the 48 years that Dick was the Mycologist in the department.) Dick, who technically retired in 1992 but continued teaching until 1998, has been offered space in that room by Kathie for his studies, and he has started looking down a microscope again, happy as a proverbial clam to have his freezing microtome at hand, along with his favorite books from his own library, and access to the internet. He has many projects underway, but the main one will be his work on issuing more specimens in the series called *Discomycetes Exsiccati*, where large collections of cup-fungi (divisible into at least 15 ample duplicates) can be sent to 14 other institutions worldwide. He has several hundred such collections needing some work on each, but plans to work on one specimen at a time until each is fully documented and ready to issue. All his recent work has necessarily been library-based rather than specimen-based, with four papers published in 2007 and one in early 2008. There is lots of lab space in the Jenkins Room for visiting mycologists to work in as well. Come take a tour of the Herbarium. A brand new full-time Curator is also being housed in the building, Bob Dirig, who used to work with Korf as a technician, illustrator, and Index Editor for the journal *Mycotaxon*. Bob comes to CUP after many years in the herbarium of the Bailey Hortorium, from which post he has also served as CUP’s Honorary Curator of Lichens.

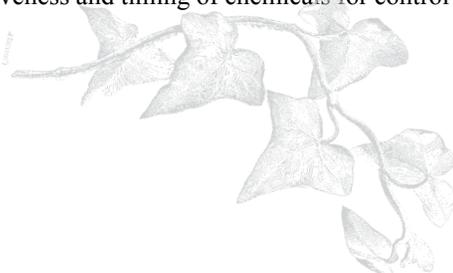
Meg McGrath

George M. Fox (Research Support Specialist) in May 2007 joined Meg McGrath’s research/extension program on vegetable diseases, which is conducted out of the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center. Monica M. Miazzi (Dipartimento di Protezione delle Piante e Microbiologia applicata, Universita di Bari) worked with Meg investigating fungicide resistance in the cucurbit powdery mildew pathogen as a Fulbright Fellow. It was another interesting year to address this topic as the pathogen continues to evolve in response to fungicide use, with the added pathological excitement in 2007 of the pathogen not being suppressed on powdery mildew resistant squash varieties as effectively as in previous years. In addition to her great contribution to research, Monica added to the diversity of the LI Plant Pathology Lab where Polish and French were already commonly heard. Publications prepared by Meg in 2007 included a book chapter on ‘Fungicides and Other Chemical Approaches for Use in Plant Disease Control’. Several presentations were made at extension meetings in NH, PA, OH, MI, Canada, as well as NY, which consumed most of Meg’s time during winter.

Tom Zitter

Tom Zitter conducts field programs for disease control for cucurbits, tomatoes and potatoes. Efforts in tomato focused on completion of a revision of the APS Compendium of Tomato Diseases and the addition in April 2007 of a tomato disease identification key to the Vegetable MD web site. The web site remains a valuable resource, receiving 1.9 million hits in 2007. Each summer he spends about a week touring vegetable operations, mostly in eastern NY. A highlight of his August trip to Dutchess County was to tour the farm (estate) of book author Amy Goldman in Rhinebeck, NY. Goldman is the author of several beautifully illustrated books about heirloom vegetables (squashes and melons so far). She has spoken before at Cucurbitaceae meetings and on the Cornell campus at the Plantations Lecture Series. He had the opportunity to view some of the many heirloom tomato varieties to be featured in her next book, as well as providing her technical information on disease control. In our program we continue to evaluate genetic resistance to *Septoria* leaf spot in tomato and to incorporate this resistance into multiple resistant tomato lines with Martha Mutschler in Plant Breeding and Genetics.

Helen Griffiths rejoined the lab in fall 2007 to pursue studies on pink rot of potato. Among things that she is investigating is the susceptibility of potato varieties and breeding lines to *P. erythroseptica*, the survivability of the pathogen on various hosts including rotational crops, and evaluating the effectiveness and timing of chemicals for control in grower’s fields.





CELEBRATIONS



Christmas Luncheon

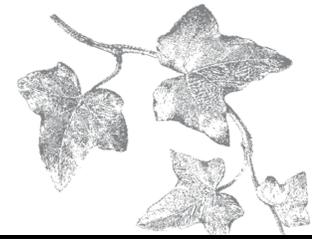


Eileen Wilbur's Retirement Party



Miniature Landscapes: Kent Loeffler and Kathie Hodge

CELEBRATIONS



The 100 year timeline banner (see larger image on page 4/5) gracing the hallway connecting Plant Science to Emerson Hall, was opened with great fanfare and a party for staff and guests.



George Hudler's surprise 60th Birthday Party

FACILITIES PROJECTS

WHAT'S NEW IN AND AROUND PLANT SCIENCE

Life Science Building

Dave Kalb

Campus construction continues to be a part of our everyday lives whether it is directly in our department space or not. We continue to feel the impact of the construction of the new Life Science building directly across the street from PS in the construction of a connecting tunnel. The basement of PS has been a dusty space for many, many months! Plants will be able to be moved from Bradfield/Emerson/Plant Science into the underground tunnel into Life Sciences. In LS, there will be a large growth chamber facility with numerous plant growth chambers (as well as mouse facilities) available to plant science researchers in CALS. It is expected to open in Fall '08. The main elevator in the building has not been able to go all the way to the basement since this project began. In addition, the main entrance to the PS circle (parking/drop-off area) has been closed during tunnel construction. It just recently was opened again.

Plant Science Landscaping

Dave Kalb



Dr. Nina Bassuk and the students from Horticulture have been very busy the past fall and this spring beautifying the grounds around our building. As part of the tunnel construction some of the gardens near the building and conservatory greenhouse were removed. They were redesigned and planted the last week of classes. Part of the project was a dedication to the late Dr. George

Good, teacher, chairperson and extension educator from Horticulture.

Dr. Bassuk and students from Horticulture also replanted the areas on the north side of the building last fall. It was previously grass and large yew trees.

Second Floor Rooftop Garden

Dave Kalb

I wonder how many of you remember the flat roof area that you could enter via the second floor of PS or the quad at the junction of PS and Mann? It is now a wonderful inviting garden area with trees in planter boxes, clematis climbing up the walls and drought tolerant plants growing in flats interspersed with benches, tables and chairs. This relaxing break area is the result



of a benefactor's donation and is conveniently located near the "Manndible Café" inside Mann Library. The café serves coffees, teas, juices and a variety of snacks, desserts and lunch items. It replaces the Gimme! Coffee trailer that was parked for 2 years in the bricked courtyard between Mann, Emerson and Plant Science. Since Manndible came "on-line" the vacant courtyard had a few select areas dug up, the soil replaced with improved soil and again planted with an attractive mix of trees, ferns and flowering shrubs (you guessed it, by Dr. Bassuk, et. al.) The outdoor weatherproof tables and chairs are scattered throughout the courtyard. It continues to be a popular wireless area for students, faculty and staff to sit with their laptops.



New hallway art on the first floor of Plant Science



Uihlein Farm News

Keith Perry

In 2005, we saw the retirement of Dennis Lawrence from his position as Farm Manager at the Cornell Uihlein Foundation Seed Potato Farm in Lake Placid, NY, after 35 years of service. We now honor the retirement of Barry Melching. Both Dennis and Barry worked with the founder of this NY State Farm, Dr. Ed Jones, as well as his successors, Dr. Steven Slack and now Dr. Keith Perry. Through all the transitions, Barry and Dennis provided



Dennis Lawrence, former Farm Manager
Retired in 2005; still working part time

the continuity and ‘institutional knowledge’ to ensure the smooth operation of the Farm.

Barry Melching began work at the Farm in 1976, four years after earning his M.S. degree in Plant Pathology from Cornell. Barry’s father was also an alumnus of the department (Ph.D., 1961), and Barry lived in Ithaca during the years his father was in graduate school. (At that time, his schoolhouse was located in what is now the Plantations gift shop building next to the herb and rhododendron gardens.) Barry served as Lab Manager overseeing the tissue culture laboratory and greenhouse minituber operations. He assumed a huge amount of responsibility for Farm operations after the departure of Steve Slack in 1999. All who worked with Barry have appreciated his remarkable commitment to the Farm and the seed potato growers of New York.

We have been fortunate that Both Barry and Dennis have continued to work at the Farm part time. In spring 2007, Chris Nobles began work as Farm Supervisor to oversee both the field and lab/greenhouse operations. Barry and Dennis have provided Chris with invaluable assistance in getting started. We are also indebted to the other committed Farm employees, Cheryl Craft and John English in the lab/greenhouse, Larry Strack and Dennis Lawrence Jr. with the field operations, and Chris Planck and Kathy Moody who help out wherever help is needed.

27th Annual American Society for Virology Held at Cornell

Milt Zaitlin

The American Society for Virology held its 27th annual meeting on the Cornell campus from July 12 -16, 2008. Preceding the meeting there was a plant virus symposium on Saturday the 12th, named in honor of Milton Zaitlin, one of the founders of the society. Many former members of his Cornell laboratory and those of his colleague Peter Palukaitis returned to attend the symposium, including Peter, George Bruening, John Carr, George Lomonosoff (George does not like flying, so he came on the Queen Mary 2), Fernando Garcia-Arenal, Marilyn Roossinck, Roger Beachy, Julie Forney Menin, Ervin Balazs, Pete Romaine, Jim Schoelz, Bill Wintermantel, Dave Dunigan, Mike Sulzinski, and Ralf Dietzgen. Local alumni of the labs, Keith Perry, and Candace Collmer were present as well. Andy Jackson, who was with Milt in Arizona was there too.

New and Improved Department Web Site

Dawn Dailey O’Brien

In January 2008 we launched a new department web site. The web site, <http://pppmb.cals.cornell.edu/>, features a modern layout, attractive graphics and a fresh organization of materials. It now showcases our department’s diverse programming, rich history, and talented faculty and staff. The goal was to make it easier for all visitors—including prospective students, alumni, faculty, staff, researchers and community members—to find information.

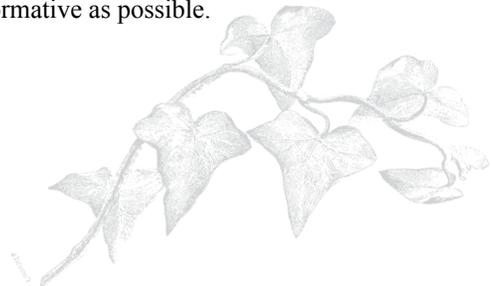


While we’ve refined the design, we’ve also expanded the content. Topics include in-depth descriptions of the three research program areas, public outreach programs and faculty profiles. The “Spotlight” series on the Home page will focus on topics and areas which make Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, our students and staff, an asset to Cornell. You can suggest stories for the “Spotlight” section by emailing your ideas to our webmaster, Dawn Dailey O’Brien at ddo1@cornell.edu

Response from department personnel has been very encouraging. “The new website looks amazing!!” exclaims Genevieve DeClerck, Bioinformatics Programmer. And faculty member, Rebecca Nelson writes “Congrats on the release of our gorgeous new department web site!!! It is really something to make us all proud.”

We invite you to browse the stylish new site and very much welcome your feedback. You can contact us with your ideas and suggestions by email: ddo1@cornell.edu

We will continue to improve it to make it easy to navigate and as informative as possible.



Mann Library Reopens Old Doors to New Library

Jim Morris-Knowler (Reprinted from October 2007 Cornell Library's "Kaleidoscope")

Development Sociology graduate student Amanda Flaim found herself in a really long line at Mann Library on August 24. No, she wasn't checking out books at the circ desk; rather, she was waiting in the food line at Mann's Open House. She found the wait was well worth it, though, when she finally made it to the cake and lemonade and then toured the newly opened original library building. "The library is so beautiful," she said. "I'll never go outside again."



Line for food from Manndible

The wait was certainly worth it seemed to be the general consensus among the hundreds of faculty, staff and students who attended the come-and-see-the-progress party that celebrated



One of many afternoon tours, seen from second floor balcony

the return of the library's entrance to the ag quad. Patrons who ventured beyond the lobby and its enticements of free food, music, tattoos, and raffle prizes witnessed first hand how the renovation of the original Mann-

designed by architect Cornelius J. White in the 1930's, built in the early 1950s, and closed for renovations in 2000-- retained the glory of the original art deco interior while adding modern necessities like air conditioning. While everyone cheered the building's cool interior on a 90+ degree summer day, it was the physical beauty of the renovated space that really captured everyone's attention. Especially eye-catching was the five story atrium that greets patrons to the library with streams of light cascading into the building and connects



The Chordials, a Cornell University co-ed, a cappella group, sing at the open house.

the original building with the addition. "The atrium creates a 'heart' to the library," commented Landscape Architecture professor Peter Trowbridge when he saw it at the open house, "and the transparency to the plantations woodland links the academy to nature. BRAVO!"

Also back to party at the library on the 24th were Sarah Davidson and Ashlee McCaskill, who organized a 50s styled renovation ball in the lobby's interior in 2003 when the library was first vacated for renovations. Sarah, a PhD candidate in Plant Biology, and Ashley, a recently minted PhD in the same field, attended the open house wearing the same vintage 50s dresses they wore to the sock hop four years ago, and their outfits blended perfectly with the restored lobby.



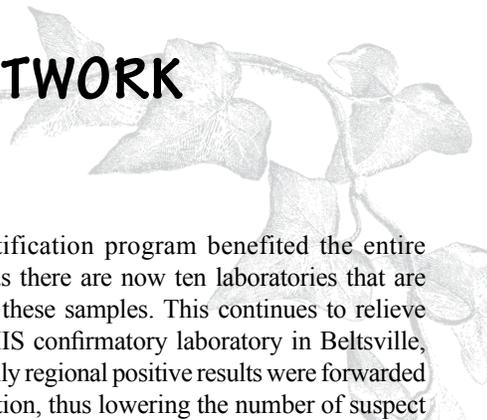
Sarah Davidson and Ashlee McCaskill

Though the construction trailers are off the ag quad and the library's entrance is on it once again, there remain some exciting milestones for Mann in the months to come. Study tables and chairs for the lobby, 3rd floor graduate student study area and other spaces will be arriving soon, as will the high tech tools for the new Bissett collaborative work space on the 2nd floor. The adjacent Mann Gallery will be having its first exhibitions in September & October, and Mann's famous Chats in the Stacks book talks will now take place in the newly renovated seminar room just across the lobby from the café. Come spring, there will be four new computing classrooms--two on the library's first floor, accessible both from within the library and the lobby, and two in the library's basement. And when they finish the tunnel under Tower Road, patrons will be able to travel underground from the new biotech building to the basement of Plant Sciences and on into Mann.

With so many reasons to never go outside again, the library recognizes a special responsibility to encourage all Mann library lovers to reconnect with their families periodically and take in fresh air at least once a week. Food and coffee, meanwhile, may be had in plentiful supply within the building at the Manndible café.

More info on the evolution of Mann may be found on the Mann Library renovation website at <http://www.openhouse.mannlib.cornell.edu/>

NORTHEAST PLANT DIAGNOSTIC NETWORK



Karen L. Snover-Clift

We have completed our first, five-year cooperative agreement as a member of the National Plant Disease Network (NPDN) and as the regional center for the Northeast, known as the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network (NEPDN). We are pleased to announce that Congress has approved a second, five-year cooperative agreement that runs through 2012. As you may remember from our introduction and updates in past newsletters, the network was established to enhance national agricultural security by quickly detecting introduced pests and pathogens. The network allows Land Grant University diagnosticians and faculty, State Agriculture and Markets personnel, and first detectors to efficiently communicate information, images, and methods of detection throughout the system in a timely manner.

A number of faculty and staff work with the program. Our Chariman, Dr. George Hudler holds the position of Director of the NEPDN. Karen L. Snover-Clift serves as the Associate Director of the NEPDN and Chair of the National Diagnostics Subcommittee and the National Database Subcommittee. Other members of the NEPDN Regional Center team include Karen Scott as the Information Technology Specialist, Mary McKellar as the Education and Training Coordinator, Sandra Jensen-Tracy as our Clinic's lead Diagnostician, and Patty Clement as our Survey Coordinator and Data Entry Technician. The Northeast region is comprised of 12 land grant universities which include the University of Connecticut, University of Delaware, University of Maine, University of Maryland, University of Massachusetts, University of New Hampshire, Rutgers University, Cornell University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont, and West Virginia University.

It has been an exciting year. A significant event that occurred in 2007 was the planning and execution of the first ever NPDN National Meeting. Members of the NEPDN staff took the lead in planning the meeting that included working with a five region representative planning team, creating a three day agenda, creating promotional materials, working with a meeting planner to create a registration process, and organizing the meeting rooms in Orlando, Florida. The planning of this meeting began about a year before it was held and the NEPDN staff worked on it the whole time. They were responsible for conducting the conference calls, for ensuring the registration process was working and devoting their full time efforts into ensuring the meeting ran smoothly and was enlightening to all of the 225 participants.

Additional responsibilities of the NEPDN regional center included the provision of training, guidance, and sample diagnoses for the region, as well as back-up for the four other NPDN regional centers. One regional center staff member met the requirements to become provisionally certified to conduct *Phytophthora ramorum* testing at the Regional Center

laboratory. The certification program benefited the entire Network inasmuch as there are now ten laboratories that are approved to process these samples. This continues to relieve pressure on the APHIS confirmatory laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, because only regional positive results were forwarded to them for confirmation, thus lowering the number of suspect samples that they needed to process. Since the 2004 season, when the Beltsville laboratory received and processed 4,000+ samples, their numbers have been reduced to 1,900+ in 2005 and 1,200+ in 2006. We continue to process samples associated with *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent of Sudden Oak Death/Ramorum Blight. The only samples being collected for a survey are done by a number of Northeastern States through the United States Forest Service. Additionally the PDDC, acting as the NEPDN Regional Center, supported all our NEPDN members by providing DNA extractions and molecular testing for anyone not capable of performing these techniques. We are continuing the search for *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, the causal agent of Soybean Rust. This year we are working with Gary Bergstrom and his sentinel plot program to determine if the pathogen has moved into New York State. So far, no confirmed cases!

Training is a major component of the NEPDN mission. We provide training to our regional members and to first detectors. An exciting training event was the creation of a DNA extraction presentation (Phase I) that included filming of the process with a descriptive voice-over. Approximately 3 months after the presentation, we conducted Phase II of the training which entailed sending seedlings infected with a *Phytophthora* sp. to each of the participants for DNA extraction. The participants returned the extracted DNA for processing at the Regional Center. Eleven of twelve participants successfully extracted DNA from the samples provided.

Training is a major component of the NEPDN mission

A major function of the network is to capture information about samples already moving through the land grant university (and sometimes state department of agriculture) laboratories. Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, the NEPDN laboratories processed a total of 82,573 samples. Of those, 2,769 were categorized as NPDN samples, 64,743 as state department of agriculture samples, and 15,041 as routine laboratory samples. During the same time period, NEPDN members had submitted 72,171 to the National Repository.

As we enter our 7th year, we are confident in our ability to train others on the potential risks to our agriculture and natural resources, to perform the testing required to quickly identify the pests and pathogens of concern and as needed, to communicate all this information to the responders in the system. We have come a long way thanks to the support and funding opportunities given to us through the National Plant Diagnostic Network.

PLANT DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

Karen L. Snover-Clift and Sandra Jensen-Tracy

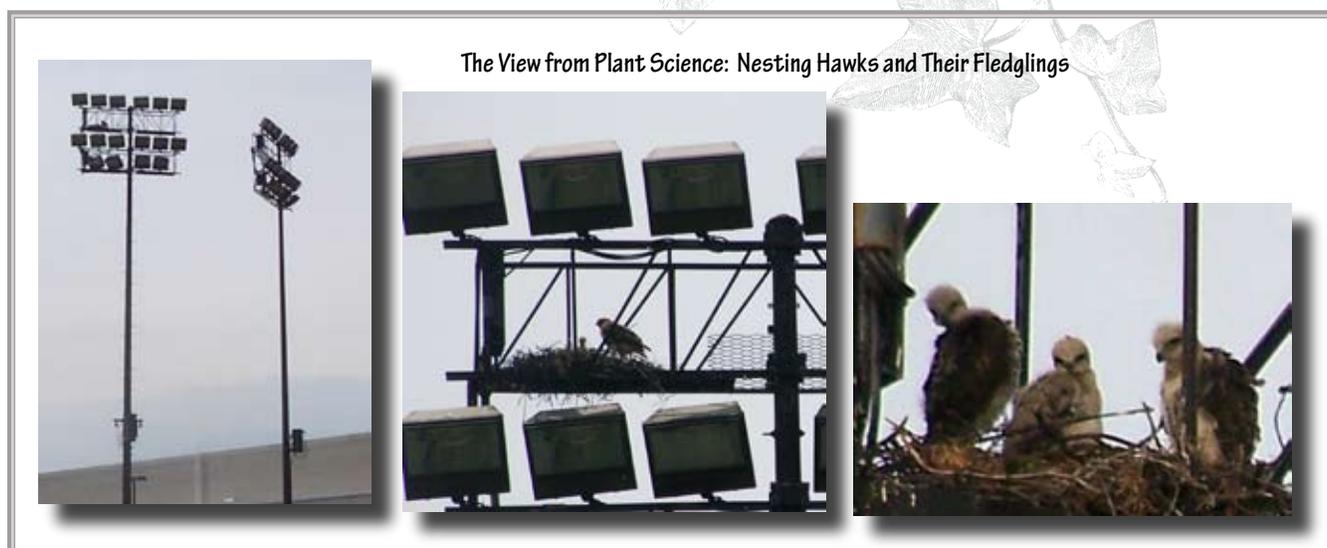
The 2007 season in the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic was characteristic of most years with the majority of samples being ornamental woody evergreens and deciduous trees and shrubs. Samples were submitted by homeowners, commercial growers, consultants, extension personnel, researchers, and regulatory agents. The Clinic not only receives samples from within New York State (NYS) but a large percentage of the samples come from out-of-state clients. In addition to woody ornamentals, vegetables, fruit, turf, annuals, perennials, and forage crops were also submitted. The Clinic also receives occasional samples for fungal identification, although some fall outside the realm of plant pathology. Many thanks once again to Kathie Hodge for her assistance with the identification of mushroom samples associated with animal poisoning cases.

The Clinic receives many phone calls and e-mail requests during the growing season, and one problem that stood out in 2007 were the unusual number of calls regarding tomatoes. Based on the description of symptoms, it would be easy to believe that 2007 was a banner year for tomato diseases, but we learned once again that perspective is everything. Symptoms described by callers were broad and highly variable, but once we closely questioned callers regarding more specific symptoms, the culprit usually turned out to be Septoria Leaf Spot, caused by *Septoria lycopersici*. This was apparently a very common problem in home gardens in 2007. We often have to deal with the issue of lack of information with email requests and phone calls from clients who wish to have plant problems diagnosed sight unseen. Therefore, we spend a lot of time posing questions that will help us determine the cause of their problem. We strongly encouraged the submission of plant

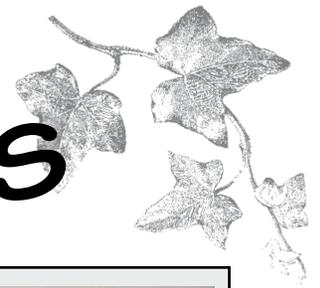
material so we can perform a thorough examination. There is an old saying that “a picture is worth a thousand words”; we find we are more and more frequently encouraging clients to send digital photos as a preliminary step toward submitting a sample. The use of digital media has also been helpful in allowing us to better direct inquiries to other Cornell labs including the Insect Diagnostic Lab or Nutrient Analysis Labs in cases where samples may be more appropriately analyzed by those facilities.

The Clinic also regularly processes samples that may be of regulatory concern since we serve as the plant disease diagnostic laboratory for the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM). In the fall of 2007, we confirmed the diagnosis of Chrysanthemum White Rust, caused by *Puccinia horiana*, on numerous greenhouse samples submitted by NYS DAM inspectors. Surveying for this pest in NYS has been carried out for the last 10 years through the CAPS (Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey) program. In 2007, the fungus was detected on plants at retailers throughout the Northeast. All infected plants were traced back to a wholesaler in another state. We enjoy fulfilling our role in this identification process and in assisting regulatory agents in a rapid confirmation of the fungus so that infected plants could be quarantined and destroyed.

Each year brings new challenges, but as always, if there is anything the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic staff can do to help diagnose and/or answer questions about your plant problems, please contact us. We are here to help!



CONGRATULATIONS



Plant pathologist William Fry elected Cornell faculty dean

By Krishna Ramanujan. *Cornell Chronicle*

March 13, 2008

On a sabbatical leave in South Africa, William Fry learned this week that Cornell's faculty has elected him as its new dean. Fry, a professor of plant pathology, is conducting research at Stellenbosch University on a plant pathogen that causes potato late blight. He will return to Ithaca in late May.

In an e-mail reply to questions, Fry said he looks forward to learning "the ropes" from the current dean of faculty, Charles Walcott, who steps down -- as well as retires from Cornell -- on June 30.

Fry's appointment, subject to approval by the Executive Committee of the Cornell Board of Trustees later this spring, will run from July 1 to June 30, 2011.

"Some of my colleagues are amazing in their abilities and accomplishment, so it will be a significant and humbling honor to serve as their dean," said Fry in his e-mail. "Being selected to become dean of this faculty brings a sense of very serious responsibility."

Said Walcott: "I am simply delighted to welcome him as the new dean. Bill has served as a faculty-elected trustee, he served as senior associate dean in the College of Agriculture Life Sciences and is widely respected by faculty."

Fry noted that part of his role as dean will be to understand important faculty concerns and then act as a conduit for communication between faculty, the administration and the trustees.

"If the dean has the trust and confidence of these groups, the faculty will have an influential voice in many important university decisions," he said.

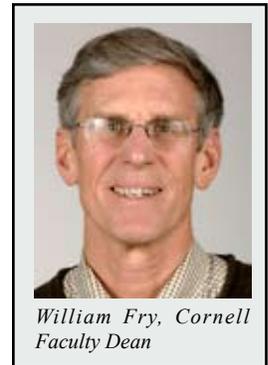
Fry graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, with high honors, from Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Neb., in 1966. He earned his doctorate in plant pathology from Cornell in 1970.

A member of the Cornell faculty since 1971, Fry has most recently served as senior associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (2001-07) with responsibility for department issues, faculty affairs, facilities, sponsored research and personnel. He also has served as chair of his department (1981-95) as well as on many university committees, including the Presidential Search Committee for former President Jeffrey Lehman, and as a faculty member of the Cornell Board of Trustees (1998-2002), where he served on such committees as Buildings and Properties and Academic Affairs.

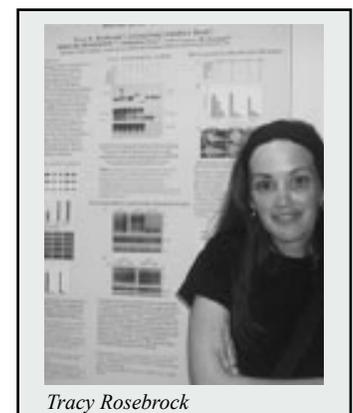
As a plant pathologist, Fry's work has focused on *Phytophthora infestans*, the organism that causes potato late blight, which led to the Irish potato famine. As dean of faculty, Fry commented, "my hope is to retain my research and teaching activities -- but probably at a less active level ... I do expect the activities of dean to take priority over my personal research goals."

Tracy Rosebrock Wins "Best Poster Award"

Tracy Rosebrock, a graduate student in Greg Martin's laboratory, was selected as the recipient of the Molecular Plant Pathology "Best Poster Award" during the XIII International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions. The conference was held in the Hilton Palace Hotel in Sorrento, Italy and attracted 1,200 participants. Tracy's poster, selected from the close to 1,000 posters presented at the meeting, was entitled: "AvrPtoB mediates the degradation of the host Fen kinase to promote disease susceptibility". She was presented with a cash prize and a certificate during the closing ceremonies of the conference. Tracy's co-authors include: postdocs Lirong Zeng and Fangming Xiao, Cornell undergraduate Jennifer Brady, and former Plant Pathology graduate student, Rob Abramovitch. Tracy completed her Ph.D. in January, 2008 and is now a postdoctoral fellow at Brown University.



William Fry, Cornell Faculty Dean



Tracy Rosebrock

CONGRATULATIONS

Jennifer Frazer wins AAAS Award

We were proud to learn that alumna Jennifer Tucker Frazer was awarded the very prestigious AAAS 2007 Science Journalism Award in the small newspaper category (under 100,000 circ.). The award was based on her excellent two-part series covering the investigation of hundreds of mysterious elk deaths in Wyoming in 2004. Part of the answer to that die-off appeared to be lichen-poisoning, which occurred when hungry elk switched to non-standard browse in a drought year.

Jennifer completed her MS in 2002 in Tom Zitter's program. Her thesis work focused on *Alternaria* early blight of tomato and potato. She then went on to complete a second Master's degree in Science Writing at MIT (her second thesis addressed the hysteria over toxic mold). These days Jennifer is working as a science writer for the COMET program in Boulder, CO. COMET is an earth and atmospheric science distance learning program, and they are very fortunate to have her.



Jennifer Frazer. Photo by Colellaphoto.com

You can read Jennifer's award-winning stories online: http://www.wyomingnews.com/elk_stories/ (she apologizes that lichens were called "toxic shrubs" in one headline--that's not her fault!)

Margery Daughtrey Receives 2007 Gold Medal of Horticulture Award

Dr. Mark Bridgen, Director, Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center

Margery Daughtrey of Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center (LIHREC) in Riverhead received the prestigious Gold Medal of Horticulture Award at a ceremony held at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse at the end of August, 2007.

Each year, the New York State Nursery and Landscape Association (NYSNLA) presents a Gold Medal of Horticulture Award to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to horticulture in the state of New York. Margery has distinguished herself by the outstanding research and extension efforts that she has maintained on behalf of greenhouse growers and the nursery/landscape industry on Long Island and in New York, the nation and the world.

Margery is a member of the Department of Plant Pathology at Cornell University and is stationed at the LIHREC.



Dr. George Good presents the 2007 Gold Medal of Horticulture Award to Margery Daughtrey at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse for the New York State Nursery and Landscape Association.



Left to Right: Dr. Mark Bridgen, Director of the LIHREC, Margery Daughtrey, and Dr. George Hudler, Chair of the Department of Plant Pathology during the Gold Medal of Horticulture Award ceremony at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

CONGRATULATIONS

Teresa Pawlowska Wins Award From Mycological Society of America

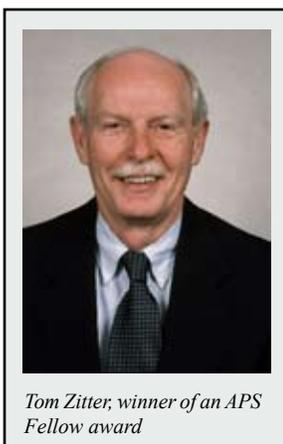
In 2007, the Mycological Society of America was pleased to award the Alexopoulos Prize to Teresa Pawlowska, especially noting her innovative and broadly recognized work. Teresa has published in journals central to mycological progress, such as *Mycological Research*, and in journals with the high impact of *Nature*. The *Nature* paper titled, "Organization of genetic variation in individuals of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi" with co-author John W. Taylor, presents the groundbreaking demonstration that arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi are primarily homokaryotic but that each nucleus is polymorphic at rDNA loci. In addition to her research, Teresa has not shied away from organizing and promoting several important symposia; on Bacterial Symbionts of Fungi at the MSA in Québec City, and the ever popular, Population Genetics Session, at the Fungal Genetics Conference in Asilomar, CA in 2006. [adapted from *Inoculum* 58(5). September 2007].



Teresa Pawlowska, winner of a Mycological Society award

Tom Zitter Wins APS Fellow Award

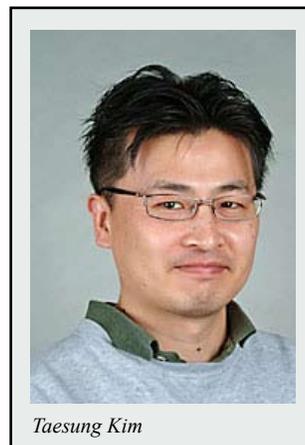
We were pleased to learn earlier this year that Tom Zitter was one of several winners of APS Fellow Awards for 2008. Tom has been on our faculty since 1979 when he was hired to follow in the footsteps of Arden Sherf, working on vegetable diseases. In the years since then, Tom has made an incredible number of valuable contributions to the vegetable industry and is a well respected authority on diseases of cucurbits, sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, and a wide array of other crops. He has edited or contributed to several books and APS compendia and, most recently, has made a big splash with his *Vegetable MD Online* website. You can read more about Tom's accomplishments at <http://apsnet.org/members/awards/2008Awardees.asp#Zitter> CONGRATULATIONS



Tom Zitter, winner of an APS Fellow award

Congratulations to Taesung Kim for Winning the 2008 Outstanding Teaching Award for Plant Pathology

Taesung Kim is a recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Teaching Award for Plant Pathology. Taesung was a teaching assistant for the course, Circadian Rhythms, in the fall of 2007. The laboratory module was a new addition to the course. Taesung developed the laboratory module by himself and successfully finished the module. The emphases of the laboratory module were developing good research questions, creating working hypothesis, and designing experiment. Taesung received excellent remarks from the students who took the module. Congratulations!



Taesung Kim

Congratulations to Michael Wunsch and Chia-Lin Chung who Received 2008 McClintock Awards

This year, two members of our department received McClintock awards: Michael Wunsch (Gary Bergstrom's lab), Chia-Lin Chung (Rebecca Nelson's lab). McClintock Awards are given by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to senior level graduate students who have made significant contributions to plant sciences. These awards are given in honor of Barbara McClintock who made some of her seminal discoveries while at Cornell. Congratulations Michael and Chai-Lin.



George Hudler presents McClintock award to Chia-Lin Chung

CONGRATULATIONS

David Kalb Honored with George Peter Award for Dedicated Service

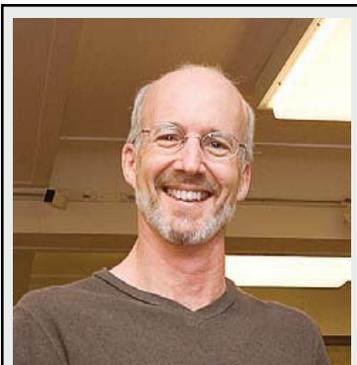
by Dennis Stein

On December 13, when a troupe of strangers suddenly entered and streamed to the front of the Whetzel Room where David Kalb and 80+ other members of the Plant Pathology department had gathered for their annual holiday luncheon, Kalb guessed they were the entertainment someone had lined up to sing holiday songs to the department. Imagine his astonishment, then, when one of the “strangers”- Brian Cornell, chair of the Employee Assembly (EA)-stepped up to the podium and announced that Kalb had been selected as the latest winner of the George Peter Award for Dedicated Service.

Another of the “strangers,” Vice President of Human Resources Mary George Opperman, then offered her warm wishes to Kalb. In recognition of Kalb’s outstanding customer service, highlevel technical expertise and contagious enthusiasm, Opperman presented him with a gift certificate to Dick’s Sporting Goods from the HR community. Opperman concluded by adding, “Prized by his department for his supportive and steady nature, superb organizational skills, and ability to put another’s needs

in front of his own, Dave embodies the concept that Cornell is a caring community.” Department Chair George Hudler then congratulated Kalb, calling him a “true asset” and an “exceptional example,” and presented him with a framed picture.

Working in the Plant Pathology department since 1980, Kalb does double duty as the department’s teaching coordinator and official facilities coordinator/ manager. As a result, he has some of the most diverse job responsibilities of



David Kalb beams in acknowledgement having been named a George Peter Award honoree.



Employee Assembly Chair Brian Cornell shares a lighthearted moment with honoree David Kalb.

anyone in the university. A typical day for Kalb can consist of activities as divergent as meeting with a construction crew to go over a detailed list of planned building renovations, to inoculating pepper and tomato plants in the lab against disease, to following up on a multitude of work orders, to serving as a teaching assistant in another lab class on nematode extraction.

Jackie Armstrong, assistant to Dr. Hudler, nominated Kalb for the award and characterized him as tireless in his desire to provide a top-quality experience to students and his department colleagues. As emcee, Brian Cornell presented Kalb with additional gifts associated with the George Peter Award, including gift certificates from the Cornell Store, Banfi’s Restaurant and the Cornell Recreation Connection. In addition, the honoree was given a complimentary photography session and a cruise on Cayuga Lake, both courtesy of Cornell community members Don and Marian Hartill.

Outside of his significant work responsibilities, Kalb enjoys family life with his wife Theresa, his two sons and daughter. Very active in his church community, Kalb spends a number of weekends on church missions throughout New York State. A superb athlete and avid bike rider, swimmer and runner, Kalb has competed in several triathlons.

The prestigious George Peter Award for Dedicated Service, coordinated by the EA, dates back to 1980; the EA renamed the award in 1999 in honor of George Peter, Cornell’s tireless staff advocate and first employee-elected trustee. Kalb is the 167th Cornell employee so honored during the nearly 28 years of the award’s history.

To learn more about the award and the nomination process, go to <http://assembly.cornell.edu>.

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January 10, 2008

Congratulations to Our Newest Alumni

2007

Kathy Munkvold	Ph.D.	January
Ramesh Pokharel	Ph.D.	January
Shinichi Oide	Ph.D.	May
Pia Sofia Windstam	Ph.D.	May
Kari Peter	Ph.D.	May
Andrea Zuluaga Duque	M.S.	May
Rodrigo Olarte	M.S.	August
Evan Johnson	Ph.D.	August
Nicole Russo	Ph.D.	August

2008

Ana Maria Bocsanczy Burducea	Ph.D.	January
Megan Dewdney	Ph.D.	January
Hye-Sook Oh	Ph.D.	January
Mei-Hsing Chen	Ph.D.	January
Tracy Rosebrock	Ph.D.	January
Maryann Herman	Ph.D.	May
Mana Ohkura	M.S.	May
Phillip Baldauf	Ph.D.	May
Jo Ann Asselin	Ph.D.	August
Sara Carpenter	M.S.	August
Cynthia Damasceno	Ph.D.	August
Joanne Morello	Ph.D.	August
Kara Pivarski	M.S.	August

Congratulations to Those Students Who Have Passed Their 'A' Exams

(Thank you to Margaret Haus for compiling the following)

2006

Craig Austin	October	Wayne Wilcox
Chia-Lin Chung	December	Rebecca Nelson

2007

Tae Sung Kim	February	Kwangwon Lee
Allison Jack	March	Eric Nelson
Michelle Moyer	August	Robert Seem
Andrea Zuluaga Duque	August	William Fry
Jonathan Oliver	August	Marc Fuchs

2008

Marin Brewer	May	Michael Milgroom
Brian King	June	Donna Gibson
Andre Velasquez	August	Gregory Martin

New on the Plant Pathology Photo Lab Web Site!

Check out the images, movies and useful tips on this webpage! Useful, fun and interesting

<http://www.plantpath.cornell.edu/PhotoLab/Default.htm>

Image Collections

Picture of the month - Time Lapse Movies -
Boroscope Images

Photography Tips

Studio and lighting - Digital photography - Making
Object VRs - Making Panoramas

Departmental and University Web Sites of Interest

Plant Pathology Department

www.pppmb.cals.cornell.edu/

Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic

plantclinic.cornell.edu/Default.htm

Branching Out Newsletter

branchingout.cornell.edu/

Extension Publications

pppmb.cals.cornell.edu/cals/plpath/outreach/extpub.cfm

CUP Herbarium

www.plantpath.cornell.edu/CUPpages/CUP.html

CUP Photograph Collection

odell.mannlib.cornell.edu/cupp/catalog/

Department Photo Lab

www.plantpath.cornell.edu/PhotoLab/Default.htm

Faculty Web Pages

www.pppmb.cals.cornell.edu/cals/plpath/directory/faculty-menu.cfm

Glossary of Technical Terms

www.plantpath.cornell.edu/Glossary/Glossary.htm

International Agriculture

www.cals.cornell.edu/cals/plpath/about/international-ag.cfm

Smokin' Doc Thurston's Greatest Hits

<http://www.tropag-fieldtrip.cornell.edu/docthurston/smokinhome.html>

Christmas Tree Pests

www.plantpath.cornell.edu/trees/TreePests.html

Vegetable Disease

vegetablemndonline.ppath.cornell.edu/

IN THE NEWS

Kent Loeffler's photographs of tiny fungi tower in exhibit 'Miniature Landscapes'

By Daniel Aloï, *Cornell Chronicle*
Feb. 6, 2008

Science, art, new technology and rigorous fieldwork have culminated in a Mann Library exhibition of “bug’s-eye-view” photographs of tiny fungi.

Photographer Kent Loeffler of Cornell’s Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology tramped through woods and crawled on many a forest floor to find and capture the infinitesimal mushrooms and slime molds featured in “Miniature Landscapes: Photographic Adventures with a Borescope,” on display in the Mann gallery through Feb. 27.

Loeffler’s quest for photographs of minute fungi native to upstate New York was spurred by Kathie Hodge, associate professor of mycology, who had stated a long-standing need for unique images for her lectures and to illustrate articles on the [Cornell Mushroom Blog](#), which she hosts and edits.

“Being a scientific photographer, I thoroughly enjoy playing around with new toys -- er, tools. This project was no exception,” he said. “Using the borescope to poke around in nooks and crannies really opened my eyes to the complexity and beauty of the miniature world that exists everywhere underfoot.”

At first, Loeffler tried using a regular fisheye lens. “A few of these experiments were interesting ... but overall they weren’t what she had envisioned,” he said. “And it was a dirty job lying on the muddy ground trying to position a camera under a mushroom with things biting and crawling up my pants legs.”

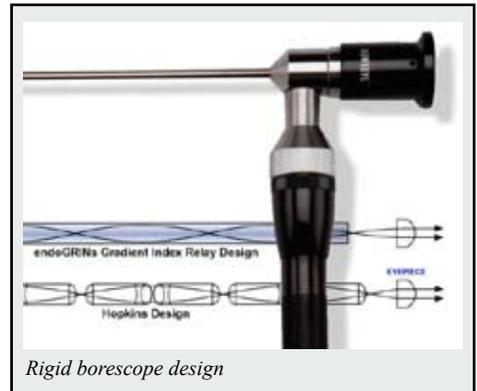
Then last spring, Hodge told Loeffler that funds had become available for the project.

“This was a whole new ballgame,” he said. “I started researching unique lens systems on the Web and discovered the wonderful world of borescopes, both rigid and flexible.”



Borescopes are used in industrial applications and in medicine (where they are called endoscopes). After a demonstration at the Gradient Lens Corp. factory in Rochester, Loeffler returned with a wide-angle borescope and accessories, ready for fieldwork.

There were some technical challenges, Loeffler said. He adapted the scope to his digital Nikon SLR camera and tried different lenses and lighting systems. With



Rigid borescope design

his subjects being so close to the ground, he used a beanbag rather than a tripod to steady the rig during long exposures.

“After several months of experimentation and dozens of trips to the field, I finally began to be satisfied with the quality of the images the system was producing,” he said. “I discovered that the borescope could focus extremely close, imaging tiny objects only a few millimeters from the lens. From this perspective, minuscule mushrooms appear heroic in stature, tiny newts become dinosaurs, and insects are terrifyingly beautiful in their complexity.”

The project was funded in part by the Faculty Innovation in Teaching Program.



IN THE NEWS

Cornell Vegetable Disease Web Site Featured on Martha Stewart

Dawn Dailey O'Brien

Dr. Tom Zitter from the Department of Plant Pathology at Cornell University has received many awards and accolades for his work on vegetable diseases but the recent reference to his Vegetable MD Online website on the Martha Stewart radio show was a complete surprise. The December 6th's episode of the Homegrown segment on Martha Stewart Living Radio (Sirius 112) included Vegetable MD Online (<http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/>) as one of the seven favorite gardening websites mentioned. Zitter said "The whole thing was a shock to me. I didn't know Martha Stewart was going to highlight our website until I got an email from a colleague who happened to come across it".

Vegetable MD Online was launched in 2000. Dr. Zitter, along with Cornell plant pathologist Meg McGrath, developed the site to provide access to the many vegetable disease fact sheets that they have produced over the years. The site was designed to provide information on the occurrence and importance of

biotic diseases (bacterial, fungal, viral and other pathogens) as well as abiotic diseases (nutritional, etc.) for multiple vegetable crops. Vegetable MD Online is richly illustrated with color images that often provide the basis for disease identification. Tomato is one of the most widely searched crops.

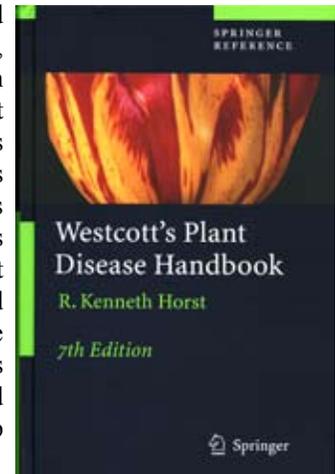
Users of the site can search for information by entering the name of the plant they are interested in and by scanning photos of diseased plants, news articles, and disease alerts. A glossary of plant pathology terms is also provided. Zitter's efforts have received attention by extension specialists, growers, and homeowners in New York and literally throughout the world. The addition of several articles written in Spanish has dramatically increased usage. Zitter has received numerous requests for use of his text and photographs, and the most recent survey of the site, (January -December 2006), indicates that it had 1,543,584 "hits" during this period. The site is listed on many other websites as a major resource but inclusion among Martha Stewart's favorites is certainly to be one that is treasured.



Vegetable MD Online web page

New Edition of Westcott's Plant Disease Handbook

The 7th Edition Westcott's Plant Disease Handbook, edited by R. Kenneth Horst, was released in the Spring 2008. It is available in both print and online access. In its revised, improved and expanded 7th Edition, Westcott's Plant Disease Handbook presents newly discovered diseases and newly identified hosts in the classic format that has won favor with readers at every level of expertise and experience. Dictionary-style entries permit easy access to essential information, and numerous illustrations help identify important diseases.



New and updated material includes:

- Significant taxonomic changes in fungi, bacteria, viruses and nematodes
- Recently discovered diseases and new hosts for previously known plant-pathogens
- Changes in chemicals and pesticides and changes in regulations governing their use
- Integrated pest management and biological control

The Handbook offers additional conveniences: useful cross references, indexes, illustrative plates of 34 key diseases, and 40 black and white illustrations of other diseases. This updated edition of a long-trusted resource will serve a broad audience, from amateur backyard gardeners to landscape architects, arborists, florists, nursery professionals and plant scientists.

The eReference online edition is available at springerlink.com. It has easy-to-use and state-of-the-art browsing functions. In addition it is fully searchable and hyperlinked.

Having used this book from its earliest editions authored by Dr. Cynthia Westcott through the 6th Edition revised by R. Kenneth Horst, as a reference for over 40 years in teaching The fundamentals of Gardening at the New York Botanical Garden and for on-air discussions and answers on "The Garden Hotline" radio program, Professor R. Kenneth Horst's revisions and contributions to the 7th Edition of Westcott's Plant Disease Handbook, bring this reference into the 21st Century. Professor Horst's knowledge and understanding of today's concerns for our environment are evident in his up-to-date solutions. This 7th Edition is a "user"-friendly reference and belongs in every gardener's library.

~Ralph L. Snodsmith, Host of The Garden Hotline®, WOR Radio Network, nationwide, USA

NECROLOGY

William F. Mai (1916 – 2007)

Bill was recognized as one of the pioneering leaders of Nematology in the United States and after a long and productive career as a member of our faculty (1946-1984), he recently held the title of Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor Emeritus. He was truly a tireless worker with an enviable record of over 300 publications in academic journals and extension bulletins. Among many noteworthy contributions, Bill led a Herculean effort to contain the Golden Nematode on Long Island. The program he initiated there is still paying dividends today. In addition, he co-edited a two-volume treatise “Plant Parasitic Nematodes”, a “Nematology Laboratory Manual” and, most prominently, co-authored a unique nematode taxonomy aid book “Pictorial Key to Genera of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes” in 1960 (revised in 1962, 1964, 1968, 1975 and 1996). Bill is survived by his two daughters (Virginia and Elizabeth) and a son (William) and their extended families. His wife, Barbara, predeceased him in 2005.

Dr. John E. Maxfield (1939 – 2007)

John moved with his family to Reno in 1967 following completion of his Ph.D. at Cornell. He was a professor, plant pathologist and pest management specialist during his years working for the University of Nevada and Extension Service, serving his students and assisting the agriculture industry. Surviving are his devoted wife, Kaky; daughters Marni Crowell and husband Rich of Fort Collins, CO and Megan Mullen and husband Wade of Spanish Springs, NV; two brothers and four sisters.

Ernest Paul Imle, Sr. (1910 - 2007)

Ernest received his PhD in Plant Pathology at Cornell in 1942 and soon thereafter reported for duty in the Navy. There, he discovered that his orders were to go to Central America to do research work on natural rubber, then a commodity in short supply. He was stationed at the USDA Rubber Station in Turrialba, Costa Rica, where he continued to work for 13 years. On return to the U.S. he became director of the American Cocoa Research Institute in Washington where he continued for 10 years. The USDA, then asked him to work on plant introductions, an assignment that included a plant collecting trip from the headwaters of the Amazon River to its mouth. His final assignment was as project leader to use surplus aid monies that had accumulated in Poland, the former Yugoslavia, Egypt and Israel to finance agricultural research in each of these countries. He retired in 1980. He is survived by his wife, Portia, three children and seven grandchildren.

Paul E. Powell (1941 - 2008)

Paul received his PhD in mycology from Cornell in 1974 where his research included iron production in plants. Paul taught and conducted research at Cornell, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany, and the University of Texas at Austin. In the ‘80’s and ‘90’s Paul worked in government as an environmental scientist for the Texas Railroad Commission, reclaiming strip-mined lands, and for the Texas Army National Guard, balancing the needs of the Guard for effective training lands with the requirements of environmental regulations or, as he put it, “protecting horned toads from M-1 tanks.” He retired in 2001.

Dave Dwinell (1938 - 2007)

(Lew) David Dwinell’s career at the U.S. Forest Service Southeastern Forest Experiment Station (Now U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station) spanned more than 35 years. He was a native of Colorado and an alumnus of Cornell’s Department of Plant Pathology at Ithaca. Dave joined the SEFES in late 1966, immediately after completing his Ph.D. work at Cornell, and retired in 2003. Athens was his base throughout his career. His research emphasis was on fusiform rust of pines and oaks, pitch canker of pines and the pinewood nematode. He is survived by his wife, Pat and two daughters.

George C. Kent (1910 – 2008)

George “Shorty” Kent was a former chair and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Plant Pathology at Cornell University. George received his PhD in 1936 from the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Iowa State College in Ames, IA. He was a faculty member of that department from 1937 -1945, and during that time he coauthored “Elements of Plant Pathology” which for many years was the basic textbook for teaching Plant Pathology throughout the country.

He came to Cornell’s Department of Plant Pathology in ‘45 to teach and do research on field crops and in 1950 he was appointed Head of the Department, a position he held until 1970. Under his guidance, research emphasis in the department changed from treatment of diseases to a search for their causes and prevention. George was the first Coordinator of Planning and Development for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell from July 1970 until his retirement in August 1975. For several years after retiring he continued to work on special projects for the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He is survived by daughter, Ann Witztum of Beer Sheva, Israel; two sons, George A. and Thomas R. seven grand children and, eleven great-grandchildren, and his sister.

Thank You!

We extend our appreciation to those who made financial contributions during the past year:

John Brennan

John A. and Theresa Bruhn

Hans Van Etten

Bill and Barbara Fry

Douglas Maxwell

Mycotaxon, Ltd.

Leah L. Porter



Steve Pueppke

Fredrick Roth

Daniel Schadler

David and Margaret Smith

Walter Stevenson

Calvin and Barbara Ward

Milton and Marjorie Zaitlin

NEWS FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

We want to hear from you...

Send an e-mail to plantpathcornell@cornell.edu or complete the form below and send to:

Newsletter Committee
Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology
Cornell University
334 Plant Science Building
Ithaca, NY 14853

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Degree _____ (MS, PhD) Year _____

Newsletter items:

Feel free to attach additional sheets

Opportunities in Plant Pathology

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has evolved from being a state-supported institution to being state-assisted.

Because less and less of our financial support now comes from New York State, private support has become even more important.

The Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology in Ithaca is building several endowment funds to support its future activities.

Your contributions to any of these funds will be greatly valued.

Graduate Student Fund

The Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology and society in general have benefited immeasurably from previous support for graduate education. Early in the history of the Department, the agriculture industry provided graduate assistantships to support investigations important to agriculture in New York. Later, major responsibility for this support came from New York State. Reduced funding from New York State has severely affected the departmental support for graduate students. Continued excellence of the graduate program in Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell will be greatly assisted through the Graduate Student Fund. Gifts of any size are appreciated and enable the brightest minds and most dedicated individuals to work and study in plant pathology.

Plant Pathology Excellence Fund

Income from this endowment fund will be used to facilitate important projects which otherwise would be impossible. For example, the fund will help deserving students present their thesis results at a scientific meeting; it will facilitate the development of teaching aids; and it will aid graduate student research in unfunded areas by augmenting funding for supplies and small equipment items.

NAMED GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

Graduate Fellowships

Full support \$300,000

Partial support \$50,000

Cornell Plant Pathology Pledge/Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Please send form to:

Dept. of Plant Pathology & Plant-Microbe Biology

334 Plant Science Bldg

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY 14853

Plant Pathology Excellence Fund

Pledge \$ _____/yr

Contribution \$ _____

Plant Pathology Graduate Student Fund

Pledge \$ _____/yr

Contribution \$ _____

Other gift \$ _____