



Cornell University
College of Agriculture
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Dear Friends and Alumni:

I hope this letter finds you well and prepared to take on the new year. On campus we are awaiting the return of students for the spring semester. While the students are away, construction workers are busily trying to complete noisy tasks, such as jackhammering out floors in the Plant Science Building to make room for an elevator shaft. This project, and the associated New Life Sciences Building across the street, are entering their final stages. Mann Library has reopened, and there is a new plaza in front of Bailey Hall. The grounds department installed a very nice water feature on the bank along Tower Road across from Uris Hall, and new lamp posts were installed all along Tower Road. And Nina Bassuk's class installed a new garden along the ag quad side of the Plant Science Building. So if you haven't been on campus for a year or more, a lot will have changed.

This has been an emotional year for the department. We lost four emeritus faculty in 2007: John Seeley, Louis Edgerton, Dave Blanpied and George Good. The death of Dr. Good came as a shock, as he passed away unexpectedly on Christmas Eve. Although George recently retired, he still came in to the office nearly every day and was actively involved in the life of the department. For those who knew George, he had a wonderful sense-of-humor and was a very caring individual. We will miss him greatly. George was a former department chair, director of the Pesticide Management and Education Program, a teacher of landscape management, and strong proponent of student internships. Several alumni and friends have asked if they could do something in George's name – we will have information about this in our spring mailing.

Dave Blanpied passed away in November. Dave was an avid bicyclist and cross-country skier. Before Dave moved to Maryland, some of his friends and I would rent a cabin in the Adirondacks every February and ski for 4 or 5 days. Despite the fact that I had 25 years on Dave, I couldn't keep up with the man. We would ski 30 miles, sometimes up and over a high peak, in a single day. Dave made important contributions to the apple industry in the Northeast.

Lou Edgerton and John Seeley were giants in their respective fields. Both were former chairmen of the department, and John was once president of ASHS. Until very recently, Lou continued to come into the department almost every day. Both were in their 90s.

Despite these significant losses, we also had gains. For the first time in more than 5 years, we welcomed a new faculty person to the department, Dr. Neil Mattson. He is a floriculturist and brand new father of a little girl. We are also searching for a landscape management specialist, and plan to begin searching soon for a weed specialist in ornamental plants.

I am also pleased that our department has been active in contributing food to the local food bank. In fact, the Freeville Farm alone contributed 172,752 pounds to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Friendship Foods of Ithaca, and Loaves and Fishes this past year. The Orchards contributed a very large amount, too. Just before Christmas, 50 poinsettias were delivered to the rooms of residents of a local nursing home.

We recently unveiled a new department web site: <http://hort.cals.cornell.edu> . I encourage you to check in on it occasionally to see what is going on. There you can read about some of the exciting new on-line courses that we are offering (Botanical Illustration, Organic Gardening), and read about Nina Bassuk receiving the prestigious Scott Medal. The award was established in 1929, and is given to an individual who has made a national contribution to the science and the art of gardening. Liberty Hyde Bailey was the second recipient of the medal.

On the website we have a list of news items featuring our faculty and students, such as Dave Wolfe's interview on NPR, the Farm Aid tour stopping in Ithaca, and the visit of our students to the Chelsea Flower Show in England. For a detailed look at the department, see HortShorts, where you can read about my travels to Kyrgyzstan this summer to help fruit growers, as well as trips by some of our students to Japan and England.

We will be sending you a more substantial newsletter later this spring, but we want to let you know about these things before too much time will have passed.

Best wishes for a successful New Year.

Sincerely,

Marvin Pritts

Professor and Chairman

Alumni Events



George Good '66 and
Ed Kabelac '67

Thank you to everyone who attended the Department of Horticulture's Alumni Reception on June 9, 2007. Everyone shared many pictures and stories and we hope you will join us for our second reception on June 7, 2008 (11:30 AM to 12:30 PM) in Room 22 Plant Science Building. As always, we would like to hear from you. If you haven't sent us news about yourself recently drop us a line. (Send to: Sue Thompson, Alumni Coordinator, Department of Horticulture, 134A Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 or send e-mail sdt1@cornell.edu)

News from Alumni

David Aldous (FOH, MS, 1976). David retired from the University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, July 2007 after 26 years in teaching, research and outreach in environmental horticulture. After completing his MS at Cornell University, David completed his PhD at Michigan State University and then worked for a number of years at Massey University in New Zealand, prior to his appointment to The University of Melbourne. David is hoping to continue in consulting, finishing another book, and doing some fishing in Queensland. David presented at the recent ISHS World Congress in Korea in 2006 and is on the ISHS World Congress committee that is organizing the Congress for Brisbane, Australia in 2014. David stills keeps in contact with fellow Cornellians David Reed, James Snow, Daniel Lineburger and Marty Petrovic.

Joe Antognini (FOH Ph.D. 1951) It has been 19 years since Joe retired from industry as the Research Director the BASF Agricultural Research Center in RTP, N.C. It has been 13 years since he retired from the USDA-ARS on the National Staff as Program Leader for Weed Science throughout the U.S. Jean and Joe are still enjoying retirement and are both in good health. In May of 2007 they went on their annual driving trip of 6,500 miles to California to visit friends and relatives. On the return trip they stopped in Oklahoma City for their granddaughter's graduation from the University of Oklahoma. They will do the same thing next year for their grandson's graduation from the same university. (9113 Woodcreek St., North Charleston, SC 29406)

Ernesto Casseres (VEG MS 1946; Ph.D. 1952) Ernesto was pleased to see that the Hortus Forum club went to his homeland and visited the Ball Seed company. (LaPastora 181 Dep 140, Santiago, Chile)

Bill Doerler (FOH BS 1956) Bill retired from his certified Landscape Architect position in New Jersey. He started Doerler Landscapes in 1964, a design/build company, maintenance and construction, 80 employees. He now manages a nursery farm in Mercer Count New Jersey. (241 Cold Soil Road, Princeton, NJ 08540)

Wilson Gondwe (VC PhD 1992) Along with Wilson's Ph.D. he received an MS from the University of Florida, Gainesville (1984), and a BS (Agriculture) from the University of Malawi (1977). Wilson has held various positions in the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research Services in Malawi. From 1996 to 2005 Wilson was National Research Coordinator (NRC) for horticultural crops and Assistant Director of Agricultural Research Services. In January 2006 he retired from government and joined the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Nigeria, as coordinator for a horticultural research and development network. Wilson has five children and two granddaughters. (IITA/SARRNET, P.O. Box 30258, Lilongwe 3, MALAWI, 265 9 212 427 email: wgondwe@iitamw.org, website: www.iitamw.org, www.iita.org)

Geoffrey F. Hess (FOH BS 1993) Geoffrey is married to Dr. Stephanie L. Buening and their new daughter Evelyn Lucille Hess was born August 9th, 2006. (650 Fordham St., Longmont, CO 80503).

William Hodges (POM BS 1952) Bill attended the 55th Reunion in June. He went out of the Orchard Business in 1972 and then went into insurance. Bill retired from insurance in 1996. Starting in 2003 he started working in the Promotional items business. He started his own on line promotional items business, Gadget Man Items.com in February 2007. William's wife Elisabeth, and he moved to the Summit (retirement community) in 2005. (100 Panorama Point, Lynchburg, VA 24502).

Li-Shar Huang (POM Ph.D. 1982) Li-Shar is located at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab in Berkeley California. (6718 Glen Mawr Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530)

Dorcas K. Isutsa (POM MS '93) Dorcas is Chair of the Horticulture Dept. at Edgerton University in Njoro Kenya. She reports her daughter Adelaide of 9 months is doing great.

Susan Liou (FOH PhD 2006) A few months after graduating, Susan started working at Agrexco USA. It is an Israeli growers' co-op with 8 branches around Europe and US

exporting Israeli grown products, ranging from unrooted cuttings, flower bulbs to Cercis whips. Living in NYC has certainly been the 2nd big challenge for Susan - traffic, pollution, people everywhere and being alone at the same time. She says it has wonderful rewards like its diversity of cultural events and people from around the globe. (502 Graham Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11222, 607-339-1035, ice0503@yahoo.com)

Jennifer McMahon (FOH BS 1991) Jennifer is a full time mom of 2 “dirt” loving girls. She also works part-time, mainly doing ads and a newsletter at a local garden center. (48 Laurel Hill Dr., Niantic, CT 06357)

Ed Markham (FOH BS 1942) Ed attended the 65th reunion June 7 – 10 of Class '42. Ed also says he had the honor and privilege to meet with the Horticulture Department Undergrad and Grad students group, thanks to long time friend Professor Bill Miller. The class of '42 had about 50 attendees at the reunion of original '42 class of 1410 graduates. Cornell remains an inspiring place and he is proud of all that's happening in the Department of Horticulture. Yes, when Ed was at Cornell he met and talked to Liberty Hyde Bailey – thanks to the introduction by mentor Professor Ken Post! (9225 Cedar St. Bainbridge Is, WA 98110)

Henry (Bud) Nestler (FOH BS 1972) Henry works for Princeton Nurseries, Allentown, NJ. He covers the Metro N.Y., Long Island area for them. He is also secretary for the Long Island Nursery and Landscape Association. He is married to Emily and has 2 children. Laurie, who is married and is a producer for the National Basketball Association and Tim who is curiously a second year Law student at Cornell Law School. (354 S. Baderston Drive, Exton, PA 19341).

Bill Pinchbeck (FOH BS 1954) Bill retired from rose growing 5 years ago. His son Tom (Cornell '87) is running the rose farm. Bill has moved to Montpelier Vermont in the winter and lives in Guilford CT in the summer. He went to his 50th high school reunion and met a classmate who lost her husband to cancer as he had lost his first wife. Joannie and Bill were married in 2001 and feel very lucky to be starting their new life together. Bill has been flying again (flew B-25's and Convair T-29's in USAF) for pleasure and riding his bike. Bill is very interested in clean water and is supporting projects backed by Rotary with emphasis on North, Central and South America. (65 Freedom Dr. Montpelier, VT 05602)

Kenneth Sanderson (FOH BS 1955) Ken and his wife Barbara are in their 10th year of retirement. They are off to China for 3 weeks in June (2007). (2329 Appalossa Circle, Sarasota, FL 34240)

Richard Sawyer (FOH PhD 1953) In late October Of 2006, Norma and Richard sold their home in Sanford, NC and bought one in North Raleigh NC. Their home is surrounded by excellent trees and shrubs. They are both in good mental and physical condition. Richard is still linked to the International Potato Center and is an Adjunct Professor at NC State University. (504 Currituck Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609-5704).

John Wiebe (VEG PhD 1955) John and his wife Elsie have moved into a senior's residence village. They are still volunteering in several places on a regular basis. At the village John has been doing some dead wood removal and pruning that has been neglected by the lawn care contractor. (454 – 11800 Lake Fraser Drive, SE Calgary AB T2J 7G8).