

# CU-developed agriculture Web portal to aid Third World unveiled by UN

By Blaine P. Friedlander Jr.

For agricultural scientists in developing countries, scientific seclusion soon will give way to inclusion, thanks to an online system developed at Cornell's Albert R. Mann Library for the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The system, announced Tuesday, Oct. 14, at FAO headquarters in Rome, is the second major online portal for scientific literature aimed exclusively at the developing world. Called Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA), it will provide scientists in developing nations free access to more than 400 journals in agriculture and related sciences. The Rockefeller Foundation and other donor agencies fund the project, and scientific publishers provide the content for free.

"Developing countries need access to current scientific literature in order to advance in a fast-paced, knowledge-intensive research environment, but they are often

shut out of the competition by the high cost of journal subscriptions," said Cornell President Jeffrey Lehman in a statement read at the Rome project launch. "I am delighted that Cornell, through the Mann Library, and with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation and the world's leading scientific publishers, has addressed this problem head-on through AGORA."

Librarians and computing experts from Cornell's Mann Library worked with publishers and the FAO to assemble AGORA, selecting the journals, developing authentication solutions and resolving technical problems. The FAO will be responsible for management and maintenance of all functions of the AGORA Web site, with additional support coming from Cornell and the World Health Organization (WHO). Mann librarians will assist with outreach, training and reference questions, says AGORA project manager Mary Ochs, head of the library's collection development and preservation.

She notes that the new site will offer developing-world researchers, policy-makers, educators, students, technical workers and extension specialists a scientific literature collection comparable to that available to scientists in the industrialized world.

According to the FAO, many agricultural libraries in developing countries have not received scientific journals for more than a decade, as collections have disintegrated due to economic and political havoc and war. Without access to current information, scientists in developing countries struggle to keep up with advances, making publishing their own work in scholarly journals a struggle.

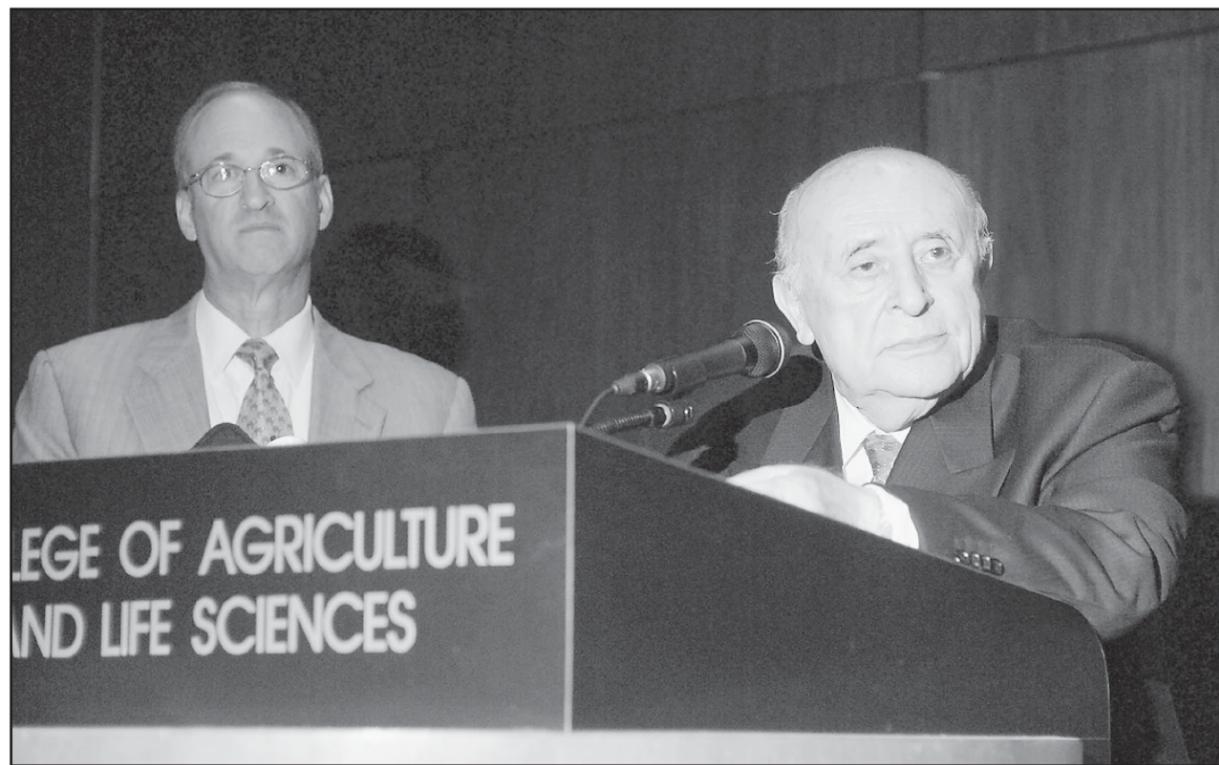
AGORA's founding publishers are Blackwell Publishing, CABI Publishing, Elsevier, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins, Nature Publishing Group, Oxford University Press, Springer-Verlag and John Wiley & Sons.

Scientists and educators in the develop-

ing world now have two low-cost options for entering the information age, said Lehman. Since 1999, many of them have been subscribing to Mann Library's The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL), a CD-ROM "library in a box" of recent journals in agriculture and the life sciences.

The AGORA Web site borrows design elements from TEEAL and from the HINARI portal for medical journals, started by the WHO two years ago. The new site consists of an indexed database for searching AGORA's content linked to a gateway providing access to full-text journal articles.

The new project will be discussed on campus by Robert Herdt, Cornell adjunct professor of applied economics and management, in a talk, "AGORA: A Digital Library for Sustainable Agriculture in the Developing World," Thursday, Oct. 23, at 4 p.m., on the second floor of the Mann Library addition.



Frank DiMeo/University Photography

**H.E. Suleyman Demirel, right, former president and premier of the Republic of Turkey, prepares to address a Call Auditorium audience, Oct. 7. He was introduced by Robert L. King, left, chancellor of the State University of New York.**

## Former Turkish leader discusses U.S. alliance and mission in Iraq

By Sharon Cleary

H.E. Suleyman Demirel, the former president and four-time premier of Turkey speaking at Cornell Oct. 7, asserted his country's strong connection with the United States and its good intentions in Iraq. His lecture, titled "Turkish-U.S. Relations: The New Political Landscape of the Middle East since the Collapse of the USSR," was delivered to nearly 300 people in the David L. Call Auditorium of Kennedy Hall.

Demirel's address was part of a three-day visit to Cornell, during which he met with faculty and administrators to acquaint them with Turkey's Southeastern Anatolia Project, known as GAP (for Guneydogu Anadolu Projesi) – the biggest development project ever undertaken by Turkey, which envisages the construction of 22 dams and 19 hydroelectric power plants on the Euphrates and Tigris rivers and their tributaries. Demirel's visit involved discussion of joint initiatives involving Cornell, the State University of New York system and the Turkish Higher Education Council. Demirel's hosts, Robert L. King, the chancellor of the State University of New York, and Norman Scott, professor of biological and environmental engineering at Cornell, intro-

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## INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY

To help introduce to the Cornell community the new members of the faculty, the Cornell Chronicle will be publishing brief, new-faculty profiles through December.

### Wilkins Aquino

Assistant professor,  
civil and environmental engineering

**College:** Engineering

**Academic focus:** Health monitoring of structures through sensing and modeling techniques. Development of material models from non-uniform distribution of state variables by using autoprogressive neural networks (self-learning numerical models). Application of autoprogressive neural networks to obtain numerical models of biomaterials from medical images. Response of structures to blast loads.

**Previous position:** Senior engineer, engineering mechanics and infrastructure division, Simpson Gumpertz and Heger, Inc., Waltham, Mass., 2002-03.

**Academic background:** B.S. civil engineering, Purdue University, 1997; M.S., 1999, and Ph.D., 2002, both in civil engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Last book read:** *Trujillo: La Tragica aventura del poder personal* (Trujillo: The Tragic Adventure of Personal Power) by Robert Crassweller.

### Paul Francis

Associate professor, computer science

**College:** Engineering

**Academic focus:** Computer networking, including peer-to-peer applications, overlay networks (especially multicast), network host proximity, Internet scaling, and IP mobility.

**Previous position:** Instructor,

Cornell Department of Computer Science. Earlier, chief scientist at two high-tech startups, Tahoe Networks and Fast-Forward Networks.

**Academic background:** B.S., electrical engineering, Colorado State University, 1980; Ph.D., computer science, University College London, 1994.

**Last book read:** *Carter Beats the Devil: A Novel* by Glen David Gold.

### Stefan Klonner

Assistant professor, economics

**College:** Arts and Sciences

**Academic focus:** Economic development, specifically informal financial arrangements in developing countries, regional focus on Southern India.

**Previous position:** Postdoctoral fellow and visiting lecturer, Yale University, 2001-03; lecturer, Universität Heidelberg, 2003.

**Academic background:** B.A., economics, Universität Heidelberg, 1995; M. Stat., statistics and econometrics, University of



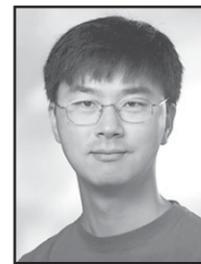
Aquino



Francis



Klonner



Lee



Molinari

Utah, 1996; Ph.D., economics, Universität Heidelberg, 2001.

**Last book read:** *The Man Without Qualities* by Robert Musil.

### Kwangwon Lee

Assistant professor, plant pathology

**College:** Agriculture and Life Science

**Academic focus:** Through rice research, to understand the role of the environment and the circadian clock in plant-microbe interaction. Seeking to learn how plant pathogens sense the ambient environment and prepare the change of the environment through circadian regulation. Once understood, he hopes this will lead to a more-efficient plant disease control strategy.

**Previous position:** Post doctoral fellow, Dartmouth Medical School, molecular genetics and genomics, 1997-2003.

**Academic background:** B. Eng., genetic engineering, University of Suwon, 1989; M.S., biological science, Chicago State University, 1991; Ph.D., plant pathol-

ogy and microbiology, Texas A&M University, 1997.

**Last book read:** *Experiencing God* by Henry T. Blackaby and Claude V. King.

### Francesca Molinari

Assistant professor, economics

**College:** Arts and Sciences

**Academic focus:** Theoretical and applied econometrics; estimation and inference in presence of contaminated, corrupted, and missing data; data quality evaluation; and survey design.

**Previous position:** Ph.D. candidate and research assistant, Northwestern University, 2002-03.

**Academic background:** B.A., economics, University of Turin, 1997; M.A., economics, Coripe-Piemonte and University of Turin, 1998; Ph.D., economics, Northwestern University, 2003.

**Last book read:** *Partial Identification of Probability Distributions* by Charles F. Manski.