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Cornell student receives 2008 Perrine Scholarship

By Joe Ogradnick

Xiaohua Yang, a graduate student researching apple tree genetics in horticulturalist Susan Brown's program at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, recently received the 2008 Perrine Scholarship.

"I am very much honored to be selected as the recipient of the 2008 Perrine Scholarship," said Yang. "My research is focused on the genes involved in apple tree architecture, hoping that apple trees with better form can be attained either from marker assisted selection or genetic modification. The scholarship is really precious to me and will make it possible for me to attend some really great professional meetings."

David Perrine, '22, a prominent orchardist from Centralia, Ill., established the gift in memory of his wife, Fanny French Perrine. He and Fanny met while students at Cornell during the 1920s, where Fanny studied bacteriology and David pomology. David and his brother, Alden '27, were partners in the Perrine Orchard, farming 600 acres of peaches, apples, and pears.

"Xiaohua Yang is researching a unique naturally dwarf apple tree form, a breeding selection that is reduced in plant vigor yet fruitful, which is unusual in genetic dwarfs," Brown said. "This unique tree was used in crosses and is segregating for standard and dwarf tree habit. Xiaohua is studying these progenies to develop markers and map this gene for dwarfing and to determine if it is similar to dwarfing conferred by rootstocks."

"It is wonderful to have Xiaohua as a member of our group," Brown added. "She works hard, is enthusiastic, is a pleasure to be with, and brings a creative outlook to her research"

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Presented To

Xiaohua Yang

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July 18, 2008

Alan T. Goff
Dean