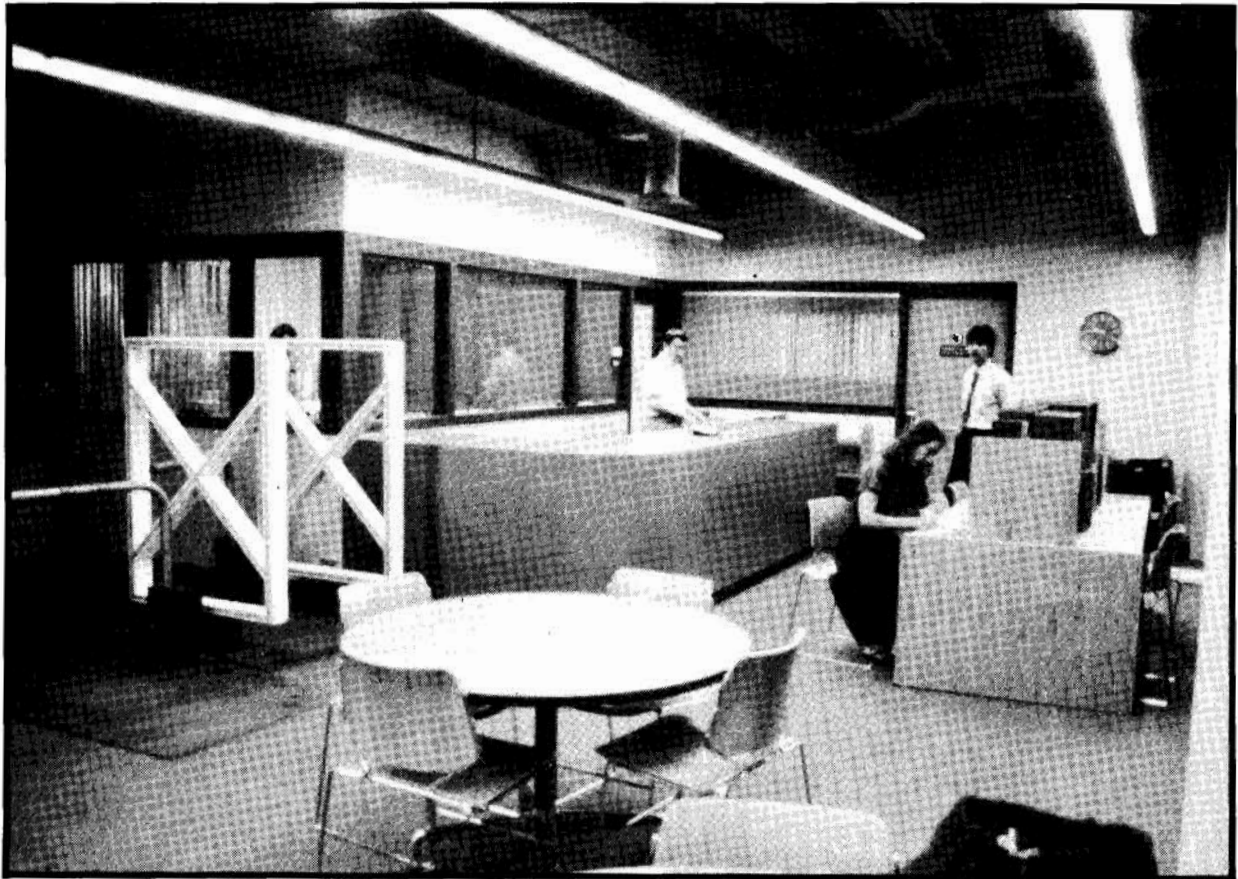


AURORA SPOREALIS

June, 1986



Department of Plant Pathology
University of Minnesota St. Paul, Minnesota

LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Dear Friends:

We again bring greetings to you from all of us in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota. Since becoming Department Head, I have become increasingly aware of the importance of Aurora Sporealis in bringing together all who have shared in the success and history of this Department. It also provides a means of furnishing information to our new friends about the personalities and operation of the Department. For the past several years, the key figure in putting this publication together has been Dr. Carl Eide. Once again, we thank Carl for the tremendous contribution that he has made in coordinating the publication of the 1986 version of the Aurora Sporealis.

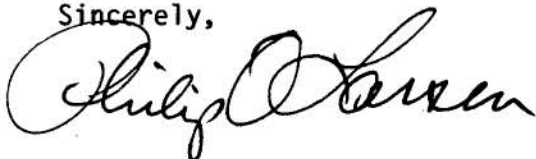
We are now well settled into our new facilities in Borlaug Hall. As you may remember, we now also occupy all of the Plant Sciences Building. The additional space and equipment have been marvelous additions to the Department and allow us to do many of the things that we previously could not accomplish in teaching and research. We have also been able to repaint a large portion of the interior of Stakman Hall. In the past few weeks, we have retiled and repainted the old Plant Pathology Seminar Room, which will now serve as a lounge and coffee break area for students, faculty, and staff. Also, the new teaching greenhouse facilities are nearly completed. We will share these facilities with the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics. These facilities will increase our ability to grow and use live plant materials in our courses.

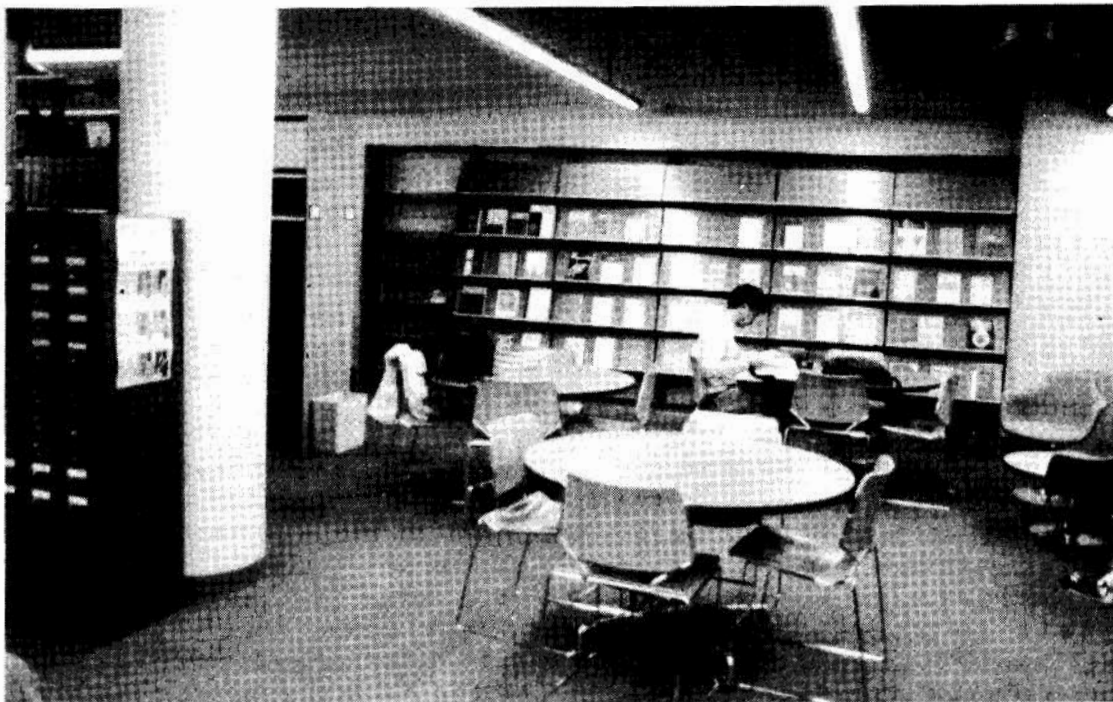
Some highlights of this year would include the establishment of an endowment to support a collaborative research project between the University of Minnesota and the University of Tel Aviv on disease resistance breeding in cereal crops. We have also formed a 15 member advisory committee to the Department which includes representatives from crop consulting companies, seed companies, grain buyers, a plant biotechnology company, and plant pest regulatory agencies. We will be looking to this group to provide us advice on the relevancy of our teaching, research, and extension programs and for help on fund-raising and student recruitment, among other activities.

A very recent new venture is the signing of a memorandum of agreement with the crop consulting subsidiary of Land O'Lakes, Inc., in the Twin Cities, and a biotechnology company, Agri-Diagnostics Associates, to provide equipment and additional help for expansion of the Plant Disease Clinic. One of the features of the Clinic will be the use of immunological procedures on a routine basis for plant disease diagnosis. We believe this agreement will allow us to better serve Minnesota agriculture with rapid, accurate disease diagnosis. It will also allow our undergraduate and graduate students to participate in and learn about disease diagnosis and to test new diagnostic procedures that are developed. We will continue to look to the private sector for support in this endeavor.

I hope that you thoroughly enjoy this issue of the Aurora Sporealis. I also hope that you will continue to make an effort to keep in touch with the Department and to come and visit us whenever you can. Our sincerest best wishes to each of you in the coming year.

Sincerely,





AURORA SPOREALIS

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The NEW LIBRARY

The cover picture shows Eric Biever, Librarian, at the loan desk of the new Plant Pathology Library in Boriaug Hall, situated opposite the main entrance on the third floor of Borlaug Hall, it is convenient for students of all ages.

The library is about 2,400 square feet-about four times the area of the old library in Stakman Hall (now the herbarium). There is an annex that can be used for study, classes or meetings. Besides the tables in the reading area, there are individual carrels along to walls, providing freedom from interruption.

At present there are about 7,000 volumes in the library, and about 86 periodicals are received. The seminar Library, which used to occupy shelves in the old seminar room in Stakman Hall, is also in the new library and much safer. A security system has been installed to prevent as much as possible loss from theft.

Instead of card files, library users now search for books on microfiche records using a microfiche reader, with either the Dewey Decimal system for older books and the Library of congress numbers for newer volumes. A computer system is being planned for location of books not only in the plant Pathology Library but in other libraries on campus.

Air conditioning makes library use pleasant in attractive surroundings.

