Leadership Transitions:

- **Chris Smart**, currently SIPS Chair of the Council of Extension Leaders, becomes Interim Director of SIPS 1 July 2016, as Alan Collmer completes his term as Director.
- **Magdalen Lindeberg**, member of the SIPS Executive Committee and Communications & Logistics Committee became Assistant Director of SIPS 9 May 2016, with primary responsibilities for communications and development.
- **Neil Mattson** (Horticulture Section) becomes Chair of the Council of Extension Leaders and a member of the SIPS Executive Committee 1 July 2016.
- **Andy Vail**, SIPS Senior Administrative Director and member of the SIPS Executive Committee and Communications & Logistics Committee, becomes full-time Senior Administrative Director 1 July 2016.
- **Tami Payne** and **Tracy Holdridge** replace Andy’s part-time effort as Business Manager for the Plant Biology Section (Tami is an Administrative Manager supporting the Sections of Horticulture, Plant Biology, and Plant Pathology & Plant-Microbe Biology, and Tracy is the Finance and Budget Manager for SIPS).
- **Larry Smart** becomes Program Leader for the Horticulture Section Geneva Campus 1 July 2016 (Marc Fuchs continues as Program Leader for the Plant Pathology & Plant-Microbe Biology Section).

Searches:

- Greg Martin was chosen by Dean Kathryn Boor to lead a national search for a new SIPS Director.
- Ying Sun was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Soil & Crop Sciences Section in the area of Geospatial Land Processes, and she will join our faculty February 2017.
- Three faculty searches are ongoing: Disease Mechanisms and Resistance of Rosaceous Fruit Trees (Plant Pathology & Plant-Microbe Biology – Geneva), Quantitative Genetics (Plant Breeding & Genetics), and Plant Metabolomics (Plant Biology).
- Two new faculty searches will be launched this summer: Specialty-Crops Systems (Horticulture – Geneva), Plant Diversity, Genomics, and Evolution (open Section).

Facilities, Communications, and Resources:

- The Liberty Hyde Bailey Conservatory was officially opened with a ribbon cutting May 5.
- The SIPS office suite grand opening May 18 celebrated the new offices and conference room as well as the new fossil display outside the offices and the network of Plant Science Destinations for visitors to the Conservatory and the Ithaca campus.
- **Plant Transformation Facility**: Matthew Willmann became the Director of the Plant Transformation Facility January 2016 and hosted an open house May 25.
- The SIPS website 2.0 was released with many useful resources and lots of news about the activities and achievements of our amazing SIPS community. The website ([https://sips.cals.cornell.edu/](https://sips.cals.cornell.edu/)) currently features the Liberty Hyde Bailey Lecture video on the home page.