Newsletter Spring 2006

# Entomology@Purdue

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

## What's Inside



## The Body Farm: Forensic Entomology

The Anthropology Research Facility, commonly called the Body Farm, is located at the University of Tennessee. The center was instituted by Dr. Bill Bass, a forensic anthropologist, in response to the lack of information available concerning the decomposition of human remains. "The Farm" is used for a variety of studies all concerned with taphonomy (the study of an organism after death). Although The Farm is headed by Dr. Bass and staffed mostly by anthropologists, other disciplines such as entomology and ostiology are represented.


**FORENSIC SCIENCE STUDENTS: Forensic Lab Director, Pat Jones (far right) and Instructor, Dave Tate (far left) visit the Body Farm with the 2005 Entomology 418 class.**

Forensic entomology plays a large role in determining the "time since death" in many investigations. Students at The Farm learn proper procedures to collect and preserve entomological evidence which, combined with weather data, can be used to give degree hours and degree days. This information can help lead to the arrest and prosecution in homicide cases.

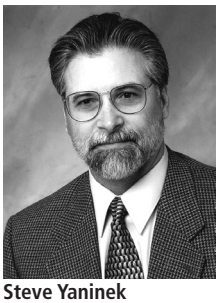
Advanced students in forensic sciences are offered an opportunity to tour the Body Farm. Last year 14 students attended and were able to observe the work firsthand.

In addition to support from the University of Tennessee, the Anthropology Research Facility receives funding from the Government and private agencies for specific projects. An example of such work was a study contracted by the FBI. The Bureau wished to have accurate data on the changes which occur in human hair during the various stages of decomposition, focusing on remains left in the trunks of vehicles. A cadaver at The Farm is being used in this scenario, allowing researchers to harvest and test samples of the hair at various stages in the decomposition process. This experiment allows researchers to obtain accurate results, especially since the body is decomposing in a "real world" environment.

All of the bodies used on The Farm are provided by individuals who have decided to donate their bodies to science. The program is so popular that there is a waiting list! Because of broadcasts on the Discovery Channel and The Learning Channel, the Body Farm has received national attention. Individuals have bequeathed their bodies to science, specifically to the Anthropology Research Facility for use in research studies. There are approximately 70 bodies in various stages of decomposition at any given time at The Farm. After a particular study is completed, the remains are covered with a tarp and left in place, allowing future researchers to examine and use the remains for their studies.

More information on the founding of The Farm and on many of its past and ongo-

*(Continued on page 2)*



Steve Yaninek

# From the Head Bug

## Insects and Ag Genomics

The genomics revolution has propelled genetics and its applications to the edge of a new horizon of discovery and applications in the life sciences. Completion of the human genome punctuated the genomics era and marked the beginning of a post-genomics flurry characterized by investigations of gene expression and regulation through a variety of "-omics" approaches including transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, ionomics, etc. There are now dozens of eukaryotes and scores of prokaryotes, and new species being added every year, that have (or soon will have) their entire genomes sequenced. This provides a new genetic template for investigating gene expression and regulation in a growing number of important biological model and homologous species.

Insect genomics have been a central part of this effort. *Drosophila melanogaster* was the first insect and an early model species to have its whole genome sequenced. Since then, 11 other *Drosophila* species and 12 other insect whole genomes have been (or soon will be) sequenced including the mosquitoes *Anopheles gambiae*, *Aedes aeqypti*, and *Culex pipiens*, the honey bee *Apis mellifera*, the silkmoth *Bombyx mori*, the red flour beetle Tribolium castaneum, the parasitoid *Nasonia vitripennis*, the aphid *Acyrthosiphon pisum*, the triatomine kissing bug *Rhodnius prolixus*, the body louse *Pediculus humanus*, the Mediterranean fruit fly *Ceratitis capitata*, and the tsetse fly *Glossina palpalis*, plus the non-insect arthropods *Daphnia pulex* and the tick *Ixodes scapularis*.

There are many other insect and non-insect arthropods species under consideration for future whole genome sequencing given the tremendous interest in arthropod genomics both for its utility in basic science, as well as, for more practical applications in public health, pest management, and conservation biology. With medically and agriculturally important organisms such as blood-feeding arthropod vectors and crop pests, the applicability of genomics to understanding the molecular and genetic basis of the biology at hand is intuitively obvious.

The entomology research community has responded accordingly. The first arthropod genomics meeting was hosted by USDA and held in Washington D.C. in the fall of 2001. The meeting identified the need for more arthropod genomics research in agriculture and helped outline a genomics agenda for USDA. Since that time the arthropod genomics community has made significant advances in protecting human health, food, and property. However, most genomics research groups remain isolated by discipline, commodity interests or target species.

The Department of Entomology, along with other departments in the College of Agriculture at Purdue University is planning a national conference on Agricultural Genomics next year. The goal will be to facilitate the exchange of scientific expertise and experiences between genomics researchers and stimulate new discussions with applied researchers, stakeholders, and decision makers that do not normally interact with the genomics community. There will be more about this meeting and our specific objectives in the next newsletter.

*~Steve Yaninek~*

*(Continued from page 1)*

ing studies can be found in "Death's Acre: Inside the Legendary Forensic Lab the Body Farm Where the Dead Do Tell Tales," a book written by Dr. Bass and Jon Jefferson in 2003 (see <http://www.deathsacre.com>).

The Purdue Forensic Club takes about 20 of our advanced students to visit The Farm annually and it is always interesting to see their reactions to real cadavers in a natural setting. This visit helps round out our students' education, allowing them to see the taphonomy of actual human remains as opposed to pictures in their textbooks.

Here at Purdue our students in ENTM 319 and 418 do laboratory exercises using remains of pigs in natural settings. This is appropriate since studies conducted at The Farm confirmed that decomposition processes in pigs and humans are quite comparable. In these labs, students are able to collect live blow flies from the pigs' remains and use them in "time since death" analysis. Students also collect maggots for the same purpose. Additional live maggots are reared to adulthood in a "maggot motel," a cup prepared with liver as a food source. The students also return to "the scene of the crime" a week later to dig and sift through soil for fly pupae which is also an important part of the process for establishing time since death.

All of the pig cadaver exhibits are examined by Purdue's forensic entomologist, Dr. Ralph Williams, who combines this information with weather data to calculate degree hours and degree days, giving student investigators of "The Case Of The Petulant Pig" a good idea of the time since the pig's death. These field experiments give our students real world experience with the use of forensic entomology in death investigation.

To visit the Anthropology Research Facility online, visit <http://web.utk.edu/~anthrop/FACresources.html>

*~Pat Jones~*

# Department News

## New Staff

**Matthew Ginzel** will begin in Fall 2006 as an Assistant Professor in Forest Entomology. Matt received his MS and PhD from the University of Illinois where he worked with Dr. Larry Hanks on chemically-mediated mate location and recognition in cerambycid beetles. Matt is currently finishing a 2-1/2 year post-doctoral fellowship with Dr. Gary Blomquist at the University of Nevada-Reno where he works on endocrine regulation of pheromone production in the bark beetle Ips confusus. Both he and his wife Christine, an oncology nurse, are from the Peoria, IL area and are looking forward to returning to the Midwest.

**Vishal Lodha** is the new Computer Services Specialist in the department and brings seven years of computer technology experience. Vishal and his wife live in West Lafayette.

**Mahmoud Nour** is a lab technician working with **Changlu Wang** and **Grzegorz Buczkowski**. He is from Cairo, Egypt and plans to be a graduate student in Urban Entomology.

**Carl Vogelwede** is a new member of **Judy Loven's** group in the APHIS Avian Influenza Surveillance program. A Purdue graduate in Forestry and Natural Resources,

Carl worked for Wildlife Services in Nebraska before returning to the Lafayette area. Carl is the brother of Chris Vogelwede, BS '86, MS '91, PhD '91.

## 2006 IPRI Workshop

In April, participants from seven different countries attended the 17th Biennial International Plant Resistance to Insects Workshop, one of the most successful in IPRI history. It was held at Purdue University and hosted jointly by the Department of Entomology and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) Crop Production and Pest Control Research Unit.

Dr. Ian Baldwin, Director for the Department of Molecular Ecology at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology kicked off the meeting as the keynote speaker discussing his work on the use of transgenic plants to study plant-insect interactions.

The workshop emphasized research in five important areas: Population Biology and Risk Management, Breeding for Insect Resistance, Transgenic Insect Resistant Crops, Genomics/Transcriptomics of Insect Pests, and Molecular Analysis of Host Responses. Evening festivities included a barbecue dinner at the Purdue Agronomy farm with a wagon ride tour of the farm and music from the folk artists Bittersweets and Briars. Roger Ratcliffe, USDA-ARS (retired), gave an interesting and reflective seminar on the history of host-plant resistance.

The next workshop will be in the spring of 2008 at the University of Colorado, Fort Collins.

## 2006 North American Forensic Entomology Conference

The NAFEA annual meeting will be held July 12th-14th at Purdue University, West Lafayette. Events include entertainment by fellow entomologist, Dr. **Tom Turpin** and a collecting trip at Dr. Neal Haskell's ranch. For information and registration visit <http://www.nafea.net>.

## Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher in Entomology

Congratulations to **Al York** for being selected as the 2005-2006 Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher in the Department of Entomology. Al was honored at the College of Agriculture spring awards reception in April.

## 2006 ESA-NCB Meeting

The 2006 Entomological Society of America-North Central Branch meeting was held in Bloomington, Illinois. President Mike Culy presided over the four day meeting that attracted nearly 400 participants. **Rick Foster** was the program chair this year and did an outstanding job creating a program that reflected the diversity of interests in the branch. Purdue was well represened as an institution with 20 students, staff and faculty in attendance at various times throughout the meeting. The meeting next year will be in Winnipeg, Canada.

## Distinguished Ag Alumni

**AWARD PRESENTATION: Mike Culy (left) receives award from Randy Woodson, Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture.**

The department hosted a coffee social for Mike where he was presented with gifts from the College of Agriculture. He also enjoyed a round table discussion with students and lunch with friends and mentors. Mike gave the following address at the formal banquet later in the evening:

"Follow Your Passion...Success Will Find You." Since the age of 5, I have held a passion for bugs. And, I was fortunate to have parents who were supportive of my interests from those early years; providing encouragement to their skinny first-born child who was chasing butterflies and grasshoppers instead of collecting baseball cards and perfecting his jump shot. Dad helped build display boxes, spreading boards and pinning blocks ... and Mom kept me supplied with insect pins, blotter paper and rubbing alcohol. She also ran the repair shop for my collecting nets, using her talents as a seamstress to keep unwanted holes to a minimum. Their faith in my unconventional interests became fully evident in the courage they displayed while supporting my college education in entomology -- a major for which I'm sure they had doubts would ever lead to a "real job."

When I became a student at Purdue 30 years ago, I was thrilled to find that there were others (an entire department full of people) who shared my passion for insects, spiders and the sort. I was hooked from the very first class I took with Dr. R. C. Dobson - the Indiana Jones of Entomology. His enthusiasm was wildly contagious and his lectures were nothing short of insect adventure stories. I found a home on campus where I was not a number and my successes mattered. I found teachers and mentors that cared and who took a personal interest in my well-being. They were all brilliant people.

Dr. Deyrup shared a giddy joy for insect diversity, structure, and function with a delightful sprinkle of eccentricity. Professor Wilson shared the importance of discipline and professionalism in the science. Dr. York took me on as a "special project" helping me shore up an undergraduate GPA damaged by Organic Chemistry and ultimately serving as the catalyst that made graduate school a reality. Dr. Osmun was an oasis ... a student safety net. He assured that education was not interrupted by temporary lapses in finances or an empty stomach. He kept a list of jobs for those who needed some extra work to

## Distinguished Agricultural Alumni in Entomology

*2006-Mike Culy, BS '79, MS '82, PhD '87*

*2003-Albert Lund, MS '74, PhD '78*

*1999-David Mueller, BS '75*

*1994-William Bowers, MS '59, PhD '62*

*1992-Max Summers, PhD '68*

meet the rent, and a spot at his dinner table for those who needed a good meal.

As I entered the workforce after my MS degree, my ties to Purdue Entomology once again guided my fate. **Dr. Rich Edwards** took the opportunity on an extension outing to visit ongoing research associated with my R & D position at Pioneer Hi-Bred. In short order, he had convinced me to leverage my job activities as the basis for a PhD program, all of course while working full time and starting a family! As you would guess, friends like Rich are hard to find. It all worked out well and I owe him many thanks for refueling my passion.

As I have pursued my career in entomology through the various degrees and work opportunities, it is fully apparent that successes I have enjoyed would not have come without the strong support of colleagues, friends and family. I am thankful for all of them who have taught me the value of contribution, not only to one's work, but to one's profession and to community. Thanks to all of you for helping me follow my passion. May Success Find You as You Follow Your Passions!"

# Development Update

## Your Gift Support

If you are not currently a member of the President's Council at Purdue then you may be interested to learn the President's Council Challenge remains available. Your three-year pledge could qualify for $750 in matching funds. Please note these will be available for a limited time. The Challenge is limited to the first 1,000 matches and less than 40 remain. Details can be found at: <www.purdue.edu/udo/campaign/pres_challenge_match.shtml>.

# Outreach Update

## Day in the Department

Nine Indiana high school students and their parents visited the department for a day to learn more about insects, discover what entomologists do, and find out about career, scholarship, and financial aid opportunities. 4-H and FFA members were recognized for their achievement at the Indiana State Fair and/or the State Entomology Career Development Event.

Morning sessions delivered topics on international research programs, invasive insects, and what it's like to be an undergrad and graduate student in the department. Following lunch at Hillenbrand residence hall with faculty, staff, and students, participants attended **Dr. Jon Neal's** entomology class, toured the Aquatic Lab, museum collections, and the Urban Area.

The day concluded with talks on the use of insects in crime investigation, careers, scholarships and financial aid, and a presentation of certificates.

## Tom Turpin Takes Purdue Entomology to Southwest Michigan

The Purdue Club of Southwest Michigan has a goal to occasionally bring Purdue people to interact with local school students. So at their request on April 20th **Tom Turpin** took his "Bug in a Bag" program to Michigan.

First stop was Southshore High School and a presentation to 70 students from advanced science and math classes. It was then on to Dowagiac High School for a class of general science students taught by a Purdue-trained Vocational Agriculture teacher.

Next venue was "The Curious Kids' Museum" in St. Joseph for kids and their parents. That night the tired insects, tarantulas, millipedes, and entomologist put on a last show for the Purdue alumni.

It was a great day of human and arthropod interaction courtesy of the Purdue Club of Southwest Michigan and the Department of Entomology.

Howard Poole, a member of the Alumni Club of Southwest Michigan reported that Tom "educated, informed, and entertained everyone he interacted with and has left a lasting impression of the quality of professors and education programs at Purdue. He also assisted in helping the local Alumni Club in its outreach efforts and in its efforts to provide scholarships to Purdue students from our three county area of Michigan."

## Images of Bug Bowl 2006

**New Visitors and Old Favorites:** Bug Bowl had some exciting new guests this year. Betty Bee (top) performed the waggle dance in the Honey Bee and Honey Tasting Room. The world's largest grasshopper (center) was amazing to see and a real conversation piece. Although the Cricket Spitting Event isn't new, it continues to be a favorite attraction and crowd pleaser.

## Friends of Entomology

The Honor Roll recognizes those who made new gifts to the Department July - December 2005.

### Monarch Club ($1000 up)

Mr. C. W. Bartholomai
O. Wayne Rollins Foundation

### Honey Bee Club ($500-$999)

Anonymous
Dr. Eldon E. and Mrs. Margene Ortman

### Firefly Club ($101-$499)

Dr. Clarence Arthur Callahan
Mrs. Bernice B. and Dr. J. Kevin DeMarco
Dr. Peter E. and Mrs. Georgia C. Dunn
Dr. Jack D. and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Maxwell
Dr. Erik Stephan Runstrom

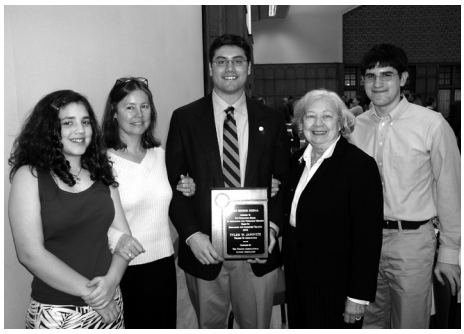
### Mayfly Club (up to $100)

Dr. Kenneth Ash
Mrs. Karen McIntosh Bernhard
Mr. William W. Blue
Mr. Frank E. Bohman Jr.
Mr. R. Bruce and Mrs. Louis A. Cummings
Dr. Wei Dai and Dr. Xiao Chun Luo
Mr. Gregory Lee Davies
Mr. Mark E. and Mrs. Stacy A. Doub
Dr. Robert S. and Mrs. Patricia A. Edgecomb
Dr. Bruce F. Eldrige
Mr. Ronald D. and Nancy Crane Gardner
Mrs. Suzanne M. Gens
Mr. Bruce Allan Godby
Mr. Larry Don Godfrey
Mr. Frederic and Mrs. Dolores Barton Goldberg
Mr. George Thomas and Mrs. Rose I. LaRocca
Mr. James R. and Mrs. Pamela M. Larson
Dr. Michael L. and Mrs. Katherine A. McManus
Ms. Judy Ann Neff
Dr. Eric Lee-Chien-Hsin Pang
Mr. James C. and Mrs. Sharon C. Porter
Dr. Robert Peter Stone
Robert S. Trueman, M.D.
Dr. Tianqi Wang and Mrs. Yueping Xu
Ms. Carolyn Workman

# Entomology Students

## Outstanding Senior in Agriculture

**Tyler Janovitz** received the Outstanding Senior in Agriculture at the annual Spring Awards Ceremony. Tyler was also selected as the Outstanding Senior in Entomology, the Outstanding Senior in Science, and was awarded membership in the 400 Club for having a perfect 4.0 grade average.



**SPRING AWARDS CEREMONY: Tyler Janovitz (center) receives congratulations from his family for his outstanding scholastic achievements.**

## 2005-2006 Outstanding Entomology Students

*Freshman*
**Mike Skvarla,** Irwin, Pennsylvania
*Sophomore*
**Shauna Stapleton**, Springfield, Ohio
*Junior*
**Kyanne Reidenbach,** Ft. Wayne, Indiana
*Senior*
**Tyler Janovitz,** Cranbury, New Jersey

## 2006 Spring Graduates

**Walter Baldauf,** BS, has applied for graduate school at Purdue.

**Casey Butler**, MS, will attend the University of California, Riverside, and continue working in entomology in the field of biological control.

**Kate Girsch**, MS, signed up for summer work as a gypsy moth trap collector for the state of Wisconsin in the Eau Claire region.

**Tyler Janovitz,** BS, will be entering medical school at Cornell University.

**Alisha Johnson**, MS, will retain her position in the department as a USDA-ARS lab technician.

## Students Receive Scholarships at the 70th Annual Pest Management Conference

**Seated (l-r): Presenter Assoc. Dean Dale Whittaker; Jesse Hoteling, Shauna Stapleton, Kyanne Reidenbach, Scholarship Committee Chair, Linda Mason, Tabatha Carroll, Kristi Jukovich, and Jessica Platt. Standing (l-r): Amber Vinchesi, Nick Seiter, Ed Russell, Jeff Webb, Emily Shebish, Casey Butler, Kate Girsch, Michael Skvarla, Tina Tsai, Jonathan Larson, Anne Radavich, Jay Bailey, Margaret Schwinghammer, Nick Geraci, Marissa Fusco, Marcus McDonough, Victoria Caceres, Ashley Walter, Jody Green, Jacob Rowland, and Ruth Allhands. Missing from the photo are Walter Baldauf and Jorge Wilson.**

## Poster and Presentation Awards

Two students won awards for their oral presentations at the 17th Biennial International Plant Resistance to Insects Workshop held in April at Purdue.

**Jeff Webb** - 1st Place - "Molecular Barcodes Based on Intra- and Interspecific Sequence Divergence of Cytochrome Oxidase I in North American Species of *Hetagenia (Ephemeroptera: Heptageniidae)*." Jeff studies aquatic entomology with **Pat McCafferty**.

**Shujuan Li** - 2nd Place - "Characterization of sunflower seed weevils populations using molecular markers." Shujuan is in the field of molecular sytematics with **Virginia Ferris** and **Chris Oseto**.

**Carolyn Foley** won the graduate student poster competition at the Indiana Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference in Indianapolis. Carolyn made a model in GIS to predict where habitat is for some speicalist longhorn beetles. The maps are being validated with forest inventory data. Carolyn studies landscape ecology with **Jeff Holland**.

Carolyn Foley

**Kate Girsch** won 2nd Place in the BS/MS competition at the 2006 ESA-NCB conference for her presentation "Field Trial in 2005 Frontenac Wine Grapes Using Imadacloprid for Management of *Harmonia axyidis* (*Pallas*) (*Coleoptera: Coccinellidae*) Adults." Kate studies Field Crops IPM with Rick Foster.

## Entomology Graduate Organization

The Entomology Graduate Organization held its first ever officer elections in March of 2006. Twelve students were voted into new positions, and already many new ideas have arisen regarding EGO activities and goals.

The latest and very successful EGO activity was the Survival Skills Workshop. The topic of the night was "job interviews."

Dave Mueller from Insects Limited, Inc. was the evening's guest speaker, and to demonstrate the skills needed for a successful job interview, he conducted three mock job interviews with entomology graduate students.

## Casey Butler Follows His Passion

Casey Butler

For as long as I can remember I've been fascinated with insects. One of my earliest childhood memories is playing with 'June bugs' by the trees in front of my childhood home on the outskirts of South Bend, Indiana. Later my family moved to the rural setting of Walkerton, IN where I spent the rest of my childhood and adolescence; often with a jar or butterfly net in hand and roaming around the countryside of our family farm chasing insects. My mother got me involved in 4-H at an early age and the thing that excited me the most was the insect collection for the entomology project. I never realized at the time where such an interest in collecting insects would take me, but it ultimately led me to Purdue University and on the path to becoming a professional entomologist.

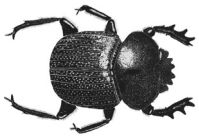
I received my B.S. in Entomology from Purdue University and after graduating I returned to Purdue University to begin working on a master's. Currently, I am working in the biological control laboratory with my major advisor, **Bob O'Neil**. My research focuses on the life history characteristics of the generalist predator Orius insidiosus fed a focal pest, soybean aphid, and an alternative prey, soybean thrips. Soybean aphid is a serious pest of soybeans throughout the Midwest and O. insidiosus is a key predator of this aphid early in the soybean crop season. However, what is not known about this predator are its life history characteristics (i.e. how well it survives and reproduces) on a diet of soybean aphids and soybean thrips. Data from this research will be used to assess this predators' importance to early season soybean aphid dynamics and inform IPM strategies that incorporate the impact of O. insidiosus to soybean aphid population growth and damage potential.

I plan to graduate this May and my career goal is to obtain a PhD in entomology to work in the field of biological control. I see my future in entomology as one focused in academia, in which I would like to become a professor with the aim to research and teach about the theory and practice of biological control. So far, I have been accepted to a couple of universities, but I'm still waiting to hear back from others I've applied to so I can make a more informed decision on where I will be off to next.

I have had a good time here at Purdue. I have made life long friends, experienced many joys, and have been fortunate to take part in two study abroad trips (Poland and New Zealand). I feel grateful and deeply indebted to this department for the skills and education I have received here. I am especially thankful to Bob O'Neil for all the time, encouragement and advice he's provided as I've worked through my master's.

My parents have always told me growing up to choose a career that will make me happy and I have no doubt that I have made the right choice.

*~Casey Butler~*



*Student Drawing by Alana Jacobson*

## Thomas Say Society

Members of the Thomas Say Society visited Insects Limited, Inc. for a tour of the facilities and a talk on the company's international efforts in ecologically sustainable insect control. A highlight of the visit was a glimpse of some rare original books by Thomas Say and LeConte and an original engraving of the society's namesake.

# Alumni News

**John M. Thieme** (BS '72) recently retired from Syngenta Crop Protection after 31 years of service. Upon graduating from Purdue, John worked two years for Professor Tom Turpin as a field research supervisor working with corn soil insects. In 1974 he went to work for Stauffer Chemical Company which was acquired by ICI Americas in 1986, became Zeneca Agricultural Products in 1992, and ultimately became Syngenta Crop Protection in 2000. During his career, he earned the company's elite 5 million dollar club and pacesetter awards.


John M. Thieme

Currently, John and his wife, Mary K., (married nearly 28 years) reside in Zionsville, Indiana and have a daughter Monica, (also a Purdue graduate) living in Columbus, Ohio. John is still undecided as to what his future holds, but enjoys cycling, insect collecting, writing music, armchair sports, yard work … and a good nights sleep.

**Ken Preuss** (BS '55) was honored for 50 years of membership in the Entomological Society of America-North Central Branch. Ken recevied recognition in March at the 2006 ESA-NCB meeting in Bloomington, Illinois.

**Eric Smith** (MS '70) was elected as president of Pi Chi Omega, a pest management fraternity founded by Dr. John Osmun in 1950. Eric is the Director of Technical Services with Dodson Pest Control, headquartered in Lynchburg, Virginia.


Eric Smith

Eric is also the inaugural winner of the Crown Technical Excellence Award. The announcement came from PCT (Pest Control Technology) Magazine and Syngenta Professional Products.

**Joao Pedra** (PhD '04) Since graduating, Joao moved to Yale School of Medicine, married Tanja Dresp in Munich, Germany; traveled a bit in Germany, Austria and Italy; and had their first daughter Kiara Dresp Pedra. Needless to say, Kiara is the first American in their house and the Dresp-Pedra family is very proud of this accomplishment (see picture). His wife, Tanja, finished her PhD in Political Science and became involved at Yale with the International Scholars and Students Center.


PROUD PAPA: Joao and Kiara.

Joao was recently selected as one of the Brown-Coxe Fellows of Medical Sciences at Yale School of Medicine for the year 2006-2007. The Brown-Coxe Fellowships are given to outstanding PhD and MD professionals with no more than two years of degree completion that are conducting research at the School of Medicine.

He sends thanks to his former supervisor **Barry Pittendrigh** for believing in his potential; **Larry Murdock** for nice philosophical conversations; and Steve Yaninek for giving great departmental support. "Ciao."

**Max Summers** (PhD '68) is a Distinguished Professor and holder of the Endowed Chair in Agricultural Biotechnology at Texas A & M University. In addition to being the first recipient of both the John V. Osmun Award in Entomology and Distinguished Ag Alumni Award at Purdue, Max was listed in the top 250 Most Highly Cited Authors in Microbiology by the Institute for Scientific Information, and honored as the 1999 Inventor of the Year by the Houston Intellectual Property Law Association. His list of his outstanding accomplishments is overwhelming and continues to grow.

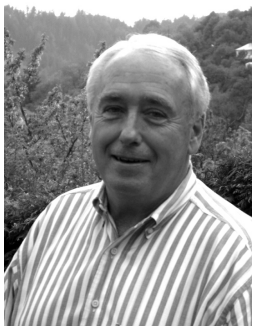
**In Memory**

**Sheldon West** (MS '73) died May 2nd from injuries he suffered when a tree fell on his van as he drove to work. Memorial contributions may be made to the Purdue Alumni Association, 403 W. Wood St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2007

**Curt Hale** (BS '76) recently joined Fumigation Service & Supply/Insects Limited in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Curt specializes in food allergens and was featured in the Winter 2006 issue of Fumigants & Pheromones.

**John Gretencord** (BS '05) is the Assistant Chem/Fert Mgr. at Beck's Superior Hybrids. His duties include preparation and application of pesticides on production seed corn, and soybean acres, as well as the fertilizer and lime application in the fall. In the off season, John works with an agriculture program called Easi Suite, and makes record of all the spray/fertilizer applications, new tilling, as well as set up for the next year. Most all is done through GPS and the majority of the fertilizer done through variable rate technology. John's degree was in Crop Protection.

**Michael L. McManus** (BS '59, MS '62, PhD '66) is retiring from the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station on March 31, 2006 after 40 years of service. Mike joined the Northeastern Center for Forest Health Research [formerly the Forest Insect & Disease Lab] as a Research Entomologist in March 1966 after completing his degree requirements at Purdue. Since 1973, he served as a Project Leader except for the period from 1975-1980 when he was the Research Coordinator for the USDA's Gypsy Moth Research & Development Program.


Michael L. McManus

Mike has been awarded "Emeritus Scientist" designation by the Northeastern Research Station. He will continue an active association with the Station as a Volunteer and plans to continue his involvement in organizing the annual USDA Research Forum on Invasive Species [Annapolis Meeting], and serving on the Executive Committee of the National Gypsy Moth Management Board, and as a Working Party Coordinator for the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO). He also plans to continue his activities with the Purdue Club of Connecticut and represent the University at local College fairs that are held annually for high school students within the state of Connecticut.

# Calendar

## June

| | |
|---|---|
| 14 - 15 | 4-H Entomology Science Workshop |

## July

| | |
|---|---|
| 12-14 | North American Forensic Entomology Association Meeting<br>Purdue University, West Lafayette |
| 15 | Tippecanoe County Butterfly Count |
| 15 | Forensic Science Workshop for the Public |
| 19 | Crime Scene Investigation - Law Enforcement In-Service Training |
| 24 | Forensic Photography - Law Enforcement In-Service Training |

## August

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 | Fingerprints (Recovery) - Law Enforcement In-Service Training |
| 9 - 20 | Indiana State Fair |
| 15 | Advanced Evidence Collection - Law Enforcement In-Service Training |
| 16 | Purdue Day at the Indiana State Fair |

### *From the editor*

With each issue of **Entomology @ Purdue** we keep you up to date on what's happening in the Department of Entomology and with Alumni. Won't you please take a moment to help keep us up to date with you?

Paula Layden
Editor, **Entomology @ Purdue**
Department of Entomology
Purdue University
901 West State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2089
plloyd@purdue.edu
Phone: 765-494-4553
Fax: 765-494-0535

**Please include your name, address, degree, major and year of graduation. Photographs, if submitted, will be returned.**

To update your contact information online, go to:
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