

Entomology@Purdue

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

What's Inside

From the Head Bug
Department 5-Year Review

Department News

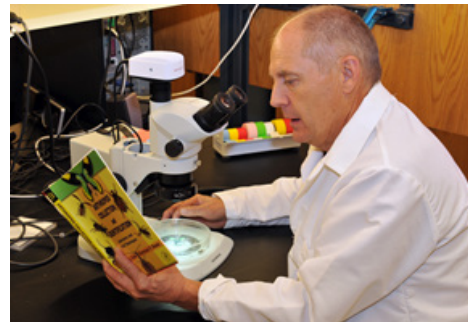
Entomology Students

Alumni News

Calendar

Insect Diagnostics – A Tradition of Service at Purdue University

It is difficult to place a monetary value on insect diagnostics. In health care professions, it goes without saying that correctly diagnosing and treating patients saves lives. Properly identifying and recommending controls for insects and other arthropods also protects health, but the most obvious value of insect diagnostics lies in protecting plants, crops, foods, and structures. Even so, placing a monetary value on 'protection' provided by diagnostic services is not easily done.



Timothy Gibb

Perhaps assessing the satisfaction of clients becomes the best measure of the value of insect diagnostics. Clients demand the services provided by insect diagnosticians. People finding an insect want to know what it is, will it hurt them, and how can it be controlled.

Purdue University has a solid tradition of providing insect diagnostic services. J. J. Davis, head of the Department of Entomology from 1920 until 1956, is reputed to have personally answered every letter that came into the department from the public concerning insect questions. He was followed by early extension faculty members who regularly received insect samples through the mail or via pillboxes or film canisters handed to them whenever they traveled. Glen Lehker, Dave Matthew and Daryl Sanders found that diagnostic work was a significant portion of what their job duties entailed. As the extension program grew, so did the diagnostic responsibilities - so much, in fact, that a formal position as Insect Diagnostician was created

in 1971. John Sillings was the first to fill that position, followed by Gary Walker who served until 1987. Bob Meyer held a position with the Experiment Station as Insect Survey Specialist and worked closely with insect diagnostics. These two assignments were so complementary that when Bob retired, and Walker resigned, a full time position of Insect Diagnostician/Survey coordinator was created. **Timothy Gibb** then took the reins. He and **Rich Edwards** wrote a proposal to centralize the functions of all diagnostics in the school of Ag, including insect pests as well as plant diseases, horticultural, and crop diagnostics. This interdepartmental laboratory, including a full time director and secretary, received funding from the Indiana State Legislature and continues today. It has become one of the premier diagnostic facilities in the nation, with diagnosticians and specialists housed in several different departments.

Other states also support a public diagnostic laboratory - many housing both insect and plant disease diagnosticians. These laboratories are most often located at land-grant universities. County-based extension personnel are always more effective and confident if they are backed by a professional diagnostician. As described in his latest book, Dr. Gibb explains that an Insect Diagnostician is an entomologist who not only identifies insects but also provides pertinent insect-related information to clients. An insect diagnostician functions much differently than an insect taxonomist, who constructs name classification systems based on relationships of form or morphology.

In the real world, as opposed to the scientific world, most laypeople are less interested in scientific names than in practical information. If a person finds an insect and seeks its identification, in most cases a common name will suffice. However, even a common name without additional information would be considered insufficient. Most submitters want to know something about the insect in addi-

(Continued on page 2)





Steve Yaninek

From the Head Bug

DEPARTMENT 5-YEAR REVIEW

Spring semester is over and students have taken their final exams; some are preparing for graduation and moving forward with their lives. Our performance as a department is also evaluated periodically. Two years ago, the administration asked us to prepare a self-study document and identify a team of independent external experts to review our programs. We identified Ric Besin (KY), Bryony Bonning (IA), Dan Herms (OH) and Tiffany Heng-Moss (NE) as our review team. Preparing the self-study document was a key part of the review process that engaged everyone in the department. We reviewed the progress made on our previous strategic plan, then used a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis to identify new issues and opportunities to be addressed in a new strategic plan. The document was completed by August and the review was conducted in October. Feedback from the review was very positive with room for improvement, but no real surprises. Among the highlights, we received high praise for our collegiality and collaborative and supportive climate; appro-

priate balance and integration of basic and applied research with extension; nationally recognized teaching and outreach programs; critical mass in arthropod genomics, urban entomology, forestry/urban landscape entomology and systematics; sustained commitment to globalization; strong administrative and fiscal management of limited resources; and a forensic science initiative that adds value.

Areas that need attention include undergraduate recruitment; over reliance on a few faculty to cover our primary teaching responsibilities; unreliable support and inconsistent assessment of Extension program outcomes and impacts; uncertain future of outreach; few research programs that lead the college and the nation; increase in number of publications; increase in rigor and shared oversight of our graduate program; elevating the value of globalization in all mission areas; and continuous promotion of diversity and inclusiveness. We prepared a response to these recommendations and indicated that existing committees were already working on many of the action items. Two additional working groups have been created to address critical infrastructure needs and develop a roadmap to better align our department activities with college, university, national and global initiatives. We have a lot to be proud of, and continue to make improvements. Our new strategic plan outlines our current priorities and action items for the next five years, and includes metrics to help us measure our progress and performance. The bottom line is that Purdue Entomology is doing well and continues to make a difference around the world.

~Steve Yaninek~

Department News

DEPARTMENT HEAD SEARCH

Dean Jay Akridge announced in May that Dr. Steve Yaninek will be stepping down as Head of the Department of Entomology to return to his scholarly activities. The Dean expressed his deepest appreciation to Steve for his leadership as department head over the past 15 years. Dean Akridge noted that Steve has been a great ambassador for the Department of Entomology in the College, on campus, and nationally. The Dean

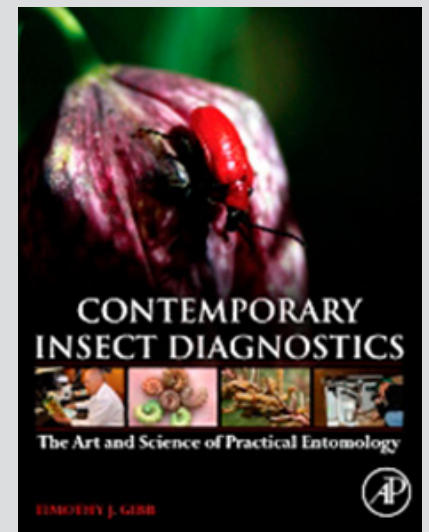
commented that Steve is a part of a great department, with strength in all phases of our land grant mission, thanks in no small part to Steve's passion and commitment. We will look for an appropriate time to celebrate Steve's leadership next spring or early fall 2016.

(Continued from page 1)

tion to its identification. Will it bite or harm me? Does it spread disease? Why is it in my home? Will it damage my tomatoes? Should I attempt to control it? When and how is the best method of managing it? What should I use to control it with? Will it persist? Answers to these questions, whether formally asked or not, make up an insect diagnosis. A diagnostician must therefore understand people as well as insects. Providing the information that people need to know – even when they do not know they need to know it – is part of what diagnosticians do. Insect diagnostics is therefore an art as well as a science, but above all else it is an educational service that can be best provided by professionals at a land-grant university. Based on informal surveys, client satisfaction of insect diagnostics at Purdue has always been extremely high.

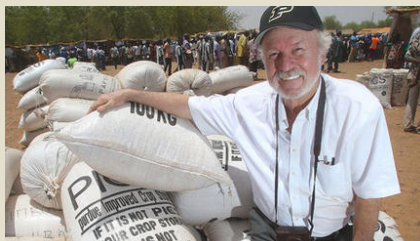
~Timothy Gibb~

Contemporary Insect Diagnostics, The Art and Science of Practical Entomology



Contemporary Insect Diagnostics is a textbook recently written by Dr. Timothy Gibb to aid entomologists as they negotiate the expectations and potential pitfalls of the practice. It describes methods for networking with regulatory agencies, expert laboratories, first detectors, survey specialists, legal and health professionals, landscape managers, crop scouts, farmers and the lay public.

Larry Murdock Named Distinguished Professor of Entomology



Larry Murdock with PICS bags

On Friday, May 15, 2015, the Board of Trustees named Larry L. Murdock a distinguished professor of entomology. This is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a faculty member in the university and the first designation like this in the department. Following a rigorous evaluation process that included a committee of distinguished professors from across the campus, and approvals by the Dean of Agriculture, the Provost and the President, the nomination was ratified by the Board of Trustees. After the BoT meeting, a well-attended reception honoring Dr. Murdock was held in the department. Dean of Agriculture Jay Akridge and Steve Yaninek offered comments, and former department head Eldon Ortman also attended. The honor is something Murdock still finds overwhelming. "I was born the grandson of a Scottish coal miner," Murdock said. "When I was growing up in Linton, Indiana, Purdue University was always a place where really smart people went to school. To think that one day I could be honored by the leaders of a university like Purdue is something I never could have imagined."

Murdock earned an associate degree from Vincennes University in 1962 and a BA in chemistry from DePauw University in 1964 before earning his MS and PhD in entomology from Kansas State University. He served as an instructor at the University of Konstanz (Germany) for six years, then worked at the University of Wisconsin Medical School for two years before becoming a Purdue faculty member in 1977.

While his research has spanned the breadth of the entomology field, his work over the past 28 years with the Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) project is where Murdock has made his most significant worldwide impact.



The Honor Roll recognizes new gifts to the department July-December of 2014.

Monarch Club (\$1000 up)

Mr. David and Mrs. Mary Beth Mueller
Mrs. Dortha Osmun
Mr. Kenneth P. Kuckartz
Mrs. Karen and Dr. Robert Tarver
Mrs. Margaret Fischang
Dr. Robert and Dr. Marianne Anderson
Dr. Donald and Mrs. Nadine Parman

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

Anonymous
Dr. J. Kevin DeMarco
Mr. Juan Torres

Firefly Club (\$101-\$499)

Dr. Bruce Eldridge
Dr. Lawrence and Mrs. Harriet Richman
Mr. John Gedeon
Dr. John and Mrs. Jean Burton
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Nancy Waltz
Dr. Stella Wen
Dr. Peter and Mrs. Georgia Dunn
Dr. Eric H. Smith
Mr. Kelly M. and Mrs. Amy C. Murillo
Mrs. Ann and Mr. David Fincannon
Mr. George and Mrs. Rose LaRocca
Mr. John and Mrs. Mary Thieme

Mayfly Club (up to \$100)

Dr. Albert and Mrs. R. Dorette Lund
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Louella Shade
Dr. Robert Bitner
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Pamela Crozier
Dr. Richard Miller
Mr. Charles Agnew
Dr. G. Allan Samuelson
Mr. Kenneth Kendall
Mr. Larry Godfrey
Dr. Henry Lawson
Dr. John Hart
Ms. Shauna Stapleton
Mrs. Nancy and Mr. Ronald Gardner

New Staff

Mardelle Lorton is the new Administrative Manager for the department effective August 13, 2014. She has two children, Andrew (11) and Lauren (8). Mardelle is a graduate of Purdue University and moved around after graduation, living in Georgia, Texas and Florida before she decided to return home to Indiana. She enjoys spending time with family and friends. She loves to help with and cheer on her kids' baseball and softball teams.

Gwen Pearson is the new Outreach Coordinator effective January 5, 2015. Gwen has an 80% appointment for Purdue, and the rest of her time she works for WIRED Magazine as a science writer. When she's not playing with the animals in the Bug Barn or writing, she enjoys watching Monty Python movies and reading science fiction books.

Eric Imboden is our new Academic IT Specialist, effective June 1, 2015. He has been at Purdue for 5 years, most recently with the College of Science Web & Database group. Eric is a Purdue graduate, and he had over 20 years of experience in the IT industry before joining Purdue, working with companies like Ernst & Young, Eli Lilly & Company, and many other (smaller) software and consulting firms. He has 3 sons, ages 22 (Sr at Purdue), 20 (Jr at Milligan College in TN), and 17 (Sr in High School). Eric has no free time, as he spends ALL of his time with his family, volunteering at his church (music, leadership, IT support, etc.), roasting coffee, reading, watching movies, and trying to keep up with all of his favorite sports teams.

Retirement

Susan Schecter (CERIS) joined Tom Turpin and Larry Murdock in phased retirement last July.

Departing Staff

Judy Loven retired from her position as State Director of the USDA-APHIS program at the end of March. Judy has held this position in excess of twenty years and is looking forward to returning to her native Lone Star State to pursue other interests. Lee A. Humberg will serve as the new Indiana Wildlife Services (WS) State Director. Lee's effective date will be August 9, 2015.

AP Staff & Faculty Promotions



Krispn Given

Congratulations to **Krispn Given** in Entomology and **Susan Schechter** in CERIS who were both promoted to rank 5. The purpose of the AP Advancement system is to recognize and reward excellence in the performance of assigned responsibilities and to encourage continued achievement and service.



Susan Schechter



Dean Akridge and Christian Krupke

Christian Krupke has been promoted to Professor. The Board of Trustees gave final approval for this promotion on Friday, April 10, 2015. The promotion took effect on July 1, 2015.

Awards

Entomology faculty and staff received numerous awards at the Spring Awards Program held on April 27th. Listed below are the honorees:

- Richard L. Kohls Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher: **Jonathan Neal**
- Richard L. Kohls Early Career Award: **Ian Kaplan**
- David C. Pfindler Outstanding Undergraduate Counselor: **Jonathan Neal**
- Outstanding Service to Students: **Cara Fila**
- Outstanding Graduate Educator: **Jeffrey Holland**

Matt Ginzel was an advisor for the winners of the Purdue University Student Soybean Product Innovation Competition. Students on the winning team were, Evan



Matt Ginzel

Anderson (ABE), Sean Anderson (Forestry) and Sara Richert (PR & Strategic Communications). This competition encourages students to come up with new and innovative ways to use soybeans and is jointly sponsored by Purdue University and Indiana Soybean Alliance. The team created a soybean-based air freshener and was awarded the top prize of \$20,000.



Holly Fletcher-Timmons, Jeff Holland, Greg Hunt, James Kruse, Tammy Luck, Ben Prickel, and Beth York were all chosen to receive Bravo Awards this year. These individuals were nominated and it was determined that they have gone above and beyond their normal scope of job responsibilities. We appreciate all you do for the department!



Dean Akridge and Ian Kaplan

Ian Kaplan was selected as a 2015 University Faculty Scholar from the College of Agriculture. Ian is being recognized for advancing the fundamental body of knowledge in insect-plant interactions, and his commitment to excellence in the classroom.

Congratulations to the Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) team for their award from the Purdue Office of Engagement on May 13, 2015. The Corps of Engagement Award was received by the team that included **Larry Murdock** and **Dieudonne Baributsa**.



The 2014 OSA recipient, Eileen Luke receives her plaque from Steve Yaninek

Eileen Luke, the director of CERIS, was named the Outstanding Service Award recipient for 2014. The OSA reception for 2014 was held this past December. In addition to testimonials from entomology and the CERIS department personnel, department head Steve Yaninek presented Eileen with an engraved plaque with a built-in clock to hang on her office wall, and she received a monetary award as well.



Steve Yaninek with CERIS Staff Members Preston Wiley, Joe Hegarty, and Eileen Luke

CERIS staff members **Joe Hegarty** and **Preston Wiley** received Provost Awards at the luncheon held Thursday, January 22, 2015 in the Purdue Memorial Union ballrooms. Joe has been with Purdue for 30 years, and Preston observed his 10th anniversary with the University. Other award winners were **Tammy Luck** (35 years) and **Susan Schechter** (20 years) Congratulations to all!



Tim Gibb

Timothy Gibb, Insect Diagnostician and Turf Pest manager, was selected to receive the 2014 Distinguished Service Award by the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation. The

award was presented on January 22, 2015 at the MRTF Award Ceremony in Indianapolis as part of Indiana Green Expo.

Entomology Students

In December of last year the department recognized three outstanding students. **Aaron Myers** received the Outstanding MS Student award; **Faith Weeks** was selected for the Outstanding Service by a Student award; and **Mahsa Fardisi** received the Outstanding PhD Student award. Each student received a certificate of award at the gathering, as well as a monetary award.

NCB - ESA 2015 Awards



Andres Sandoval-Mojica, Bridget Blood, Alli Duffy and Gabriel Hughes

The Purdue Linnaean team boiled up and earned second place after a 4 question sudden death final match in the Linnaean games at the North Central Branch meeting in June. The team qualified to participate at the national meeting in Minneapolis this fall! Other awards received were:

BS/MS Ten Minute Presentations P-IE: **Bridget Blood** - 3rd place
 PhD Poster Presentations PBT, SysEB, P-IE: **Andres Sandoval-Mojica** - 3rd place
 Triplehorn Challenge Pinning Competition: **Yan Yan** - 5th place
 Student Travel Scholarships: **Bridget Blood**, **Alexandra Duffy**, **Gabriel Hughes**

ESA 2014 Student Awards



Ulianova Gomez, Donnie Peterson, Morgan Lucke, Adam Witte, and Adam Salyer

The Entomological Society of America held its annual meeting in November in Portland, Oregon. Purdue was well represented by 19 graduate students, 10 staff and 14 faculty. Our students did an

outstanding job presenting their research and representing the department. **Brittany Peterson** won a Monsanto Research Grant Award, **Michael Garvey** was awarded a USDA-AFRI Student Travel Grant, and we received ESA President's Prize recognition for a poster by **James Feston** (1st place) and a talk by **Kira Nixon** (2nd place).

OVEA Awards



Brittany Peterson and Bridget Blood

The 2014 Annual Forum of the Ohio Valley Entomological Association (OVEA) was held on Friday, October 31, 2014 at the Ohio Union at Ohio State University. A total of 35 students presented their research in the 10-minute paper competition. **Bridget Blood** received third place in the MS category and **Brittany Peterson** won third place in the PhD category.

Celebration of Graduate Training Excellence



Brittany Peterson

The Purdue University Teaching Academy and the Center for Instructional Excellence hosted the 17th Annual Celebration of Graduate Training Excellence in Ross-Ade Stadium's Shively Club in April. **Brittany Peterson** attended the event and received the Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award. **Faith Weeks** earned her Advanced Graduate Teacher Certificate and **Mahsa Fardisi** was nominated for the Graduate School Excellence in Teaching Award.

New Postdocs

Hossam Abdel Moniem – With Brandi Schemerhorn since May 2014.

Mahsa Fardisi – With Michael Scharf since April 2015.

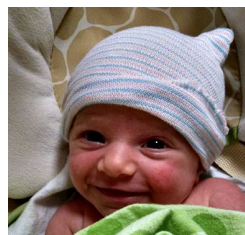
Laura Ingwell – With Ian Kaplan since March 2014.

Sally Taylor – With Christian Krupke since May 2015.

Graduations

Lauren Beebe, BS
Carmen Blubaugh, PhD
Scottie Brittsan, BS
Mahsa Fardisi, PhD
Serena Gross, PhD
Alicia Johnson, PhD
Morgan Lucke, MS
Carly Morris, BS
Aaron Myers, MS
Donnie Peterson, MS
Elizabeth Rowen, MS
Susanna Sisk, BS
Yanlin Tian, MS
Faith Weeks, PhD

Births



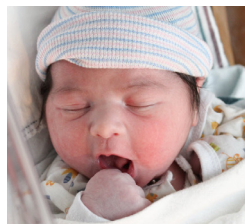
Nadia Angelella White

Gina Angelella (PhD student) and her husband Joel White welcomed their daughter Nadia Angelella White on March 25, 2015.



Maya Rose Lynn Ingwell

Laura Ingwell (Postdoc) and her husband Carter welcomed their daughter Maya Rose Lynn Ingwell on April 25, 2015.



Amyra Gulia Nuss

Andrew Nuss (Postdoc) and his wife **Monika Gulia-Nuss** (research assistant) welcomed their daughter Amyra Gulia Nuss on April 27, 2015.

Beyond “El Dorado”



Ulianova Vidal Gomez

When Spaniard explorers reached the Coasts of South America (C.XVI), they heard stories about a tribe of natives from the mountains of Colombia who used to cover their bodies with gold and jewels to celebrate the appointment of a new leader: “El Dorado”, which means “the gilded one”. To the European conquerors, El Dorado was not only a story, but the name of the unseen land of gold, a place to find in order to achieve wealth and fortune.

I grew up in this mythical place, but it is not everything the stories say. El Dorado is the vast beauty of landscapes that can only be found in the Andes of Colombia—the high snow-capped peaks, large highland plateaus, deep canyons and wide valleys. Unfortunately, because of strip mining, poor agricultural practices, insufficient urban and rural planning, global climate change, and many others reasons, this treasure is rapidly disappearing.

I was not aware of this until I took my first entomology course as part of my BS program in Biology at the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional in Bogotá. Soon, I understood that insects are the best model to quantify the richness of these environments. Initially, I worked in taxonomy, but while in my master’s program at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá, I became interested in their behavior and ecology. At that point, I also started thinking about pursuing doctoral studies, but it only became real when I was awarded my own “treasure”: a fellowship by Colombia’s Institute for the Development of Science, Technology

and Innovation (COLCIENCIAS). The goal of this fellowship program was to sponsor advanced training to students who wish to become researchers, so that when they return, they would be able to guide the scientific and technological progress of the country. This program represents on a small scale the change that Colombia wants to experience... There is still much to do!

I chose Purdue because of my advisor Dr. Ian Kaplan. However, when I submitted my application, I was not aware of the privilege to work in his lab. Nowadays, I regret not having enough time and speed to exploit his great ideas and advice. Under Dr. Kaplan’s guidance, I am trying to evaluate the capability of predatory insects to recognize chemical signals released by plants undergoing herbivore attack. Ultimately, this information would lead the design of agricultural practices that would enhance these predators’ beneficial effects in order to efficiently locate and eliminate insect pests in different crops. Dr. Kaplan, thank you for your patience and support, and for having the Colombian flag on your desk!

Trying to accomplish the aims I initially proposed in my research project, I experienced some ups and many unexpected downs. Nevertheless, I started feeling how the time I have spent at Purdue has transformed me as a scientist. I noticed I am more persistent, confident and analytical. My writing has improved as well as the accuracy of my ideas. It has taken time, maybe too much, but better late than never!

I also work for the Colombia-Purdue Institute (CPI) in a program called UREP-C: Undergraduate Research Experience Purdue–Colombia. This fall, UREP-C is hosting 50 students from the Universidad Nacional to work alongside Purdue faculty and researchers in nearly 40 labs across campus. This experience has also marked my life here because it is not only part of my job as a research assistant, but the possibility of sharing my experience with these enthusiastic students. It is a

chance I have to reimburse my country.

I hope to come back home soon to continue studying the ecology and behavior of tropical insects; hopefully, those that inhabit the mountains. Not only because they constitute the richness of those systems, but also because it is in the mountains where more than 80% of our agricultural goods are produced.

Finally, I do not want to finish without saying that I also find El Dorado at Purdue, in the entomology department: it is the patience of my lab and officemates, the valuable comments of my committee members, the support of many faculty, the care of the staff and the chance of meeting amazing people in and out of academia.

Can you do me a favor please? Do not stop giving me your smile. It makes me feel like I am at home in the mountains.

~Ulianova Vidal Gomez~

Alumni News

THE ALLMON BROTHERS - No, they don’t have a band – the Allmon brothers **Charles** and **Ross**, grew up on the east coast, children of the depression and World War II. They were, fortunately, each able to attend Purdue University in Entomology, with Chuck graduating in 1941 and Ross following in 1952.

Chuck went to work right out of college on a banana plantation in Honduras (United Fruit Company), but left his entomology roots after a few years to become a writer and photographer for National Geographic. They traveled in 62 countries while working for NatGeo, but he ended his career as a financial consultant. He and his wife Gwen met in Barbados and have been married 60 years. They have two daughters and five grandchildren and one GREAT-grandchild. They divide their time living on the east coast, on a ranch in Montana, and in Maui.

Ross Allmon followed up his years at Purdue with a 31-year career with the Hercules Powder Company in Delaware, producing pesticides. During his tenure with that company, he lived in Dallas, Texas; Lubbock, Texas; Raleigh, North Carolina; Columbia,

South Carolina; Denver, Colorado; San Francisco, California; Atlanta, Georgia; and back to Wilmington, Delaware. Upon retirement, Ross had achieved the position of Vice President of Sales, and the company is now a part of Ashland Oil Company.

Ross relates that he really enjoyed his time living in Texas, so upon retirement, that's where he headed, since the kids were close by in Texas, Colorado and New Mexico – one in each state. He remembers his Entomology 101 class with J. J. Davis "like it was yesterday." He remembers John Osmun's first year as an instructor. His time at Purdue, as Vice President of the Junior and Senior classes and President of Thomas Say, helped launch the leadership ability that would see him through his career. He founded and wrote the by-laws for the Ag Council. He was active in student politics. And now that his youngest grandchild has graduated from college, he looks back on his life with no regrets.

This summer **John W. Reynolds** (MS '66) and his wife Wilma will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their 3 daughters, their husbands and 5 grandchildren. Since retiring from Schneider National Carriers, Inc., Dr. Reynolds has operated a private research and consulting business from his home office and laboratory. This has allowed John to work globally on projects of his choosing. At present Dr. Reynolds has published in excess of 330 books and papers, in 12 disciplines which have appeared in whole or in part in 50 languages. Recently Dr. Reynolds received the Alumni Citation Award from Wilmington College for outstanding contribution to science. Dr. Reynolds and his wife still keep in touch with other Entomology alums. Last summer they visited their good friends **Rick** (PhD '72) and **Arlene Kutz** and for several years now on July 12th John speaks with **Jim McBrayer** (MS '70) as they share the exact same birthday.

Phillip Sloderbeck (MS '77) retired in August 2014 from the Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service after 28 years as an Extension entomologist at the southwest area extension office and then 5 years as the southwest area Extension director.

Dr. Bernice DeMarco (BS '78) completed her PhD in Entomology at Michigan State University on May 8, 2015. Her husband, Kevin, (BS '78 Chemical Engineering) is an



Bernice DeMarco pictured with her husband Kevin holding the Driesbach award for outstanding PhD student in Entomology.

associate Professor at Michigan State University and had the honor of hooding his wife at graduation. Bernice began working on her PhD in 2008 after she retired as she wanted to continue working on ants. She took on the interest in ants after she volunteered at the Bug House at Michigan State and worked in the lab of Dr. Cathy Bristow helping with identification of ants. After she graduated from Purdue, Bernice worked at the Smithsonian for a year, then did her Master's degree at University of Missouri in St. Louis working on *Polistes* sp. (paper wasp) biology and ecology. In 1982, Bernice and her husband moved to Oakland, California. She worked at California Academy of Sciences for 5 years, and spent most of her time raising their two children, Paul and Stephanie. They moved to San Diego in 1990 and Bernice worked for a company called Insect World, selling insects to private collectors. The DeMarcos moved to New Jersey in 1993 and Bernice found a job at a children's museum called Discovery House. She did programs on insects for children and taught summer "bug camp". In 2004, they moved to East Lansing, MI. By that time their children were in college, and she began her interest in ants which led her to obtain her PhD. Bernice's dissertation was on the systematics of *Aphaenogaster* ants in North America using morphology and DNA. Bernice's first published paper resurrected the genus *Novomessor*. She is also writing a key to *Aphaenogaster* in North America and hopes to eventually work on the group worldwide. Bernice is still involved with the MSU Bug House teaching young students about insect and is currently the Adjunct Curator of Hymenoptera for the Department of Entomology at Michigan State.

Mark Shelton (MS '80) is returning to teaching entomology part-time in September, after 18 years as Associate Dean, two years as department head, and 14 years as a professor at Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo, CA. After receiving his MS degree in Entomology at Purdue, Dr. Shelton worked

at Oregon State in entomology research for 2 years. He then completed his PhD



Mark Shelton

in Biology at Utah State and has been at Cal Poly since 1982 in several roles. Since 2012, Mark has also served as Executive Director of the CSU Agricultural Research Institute, a 6-campus research consortium for the California State University system. He has very fond memories of his time at Purdue, where Rich Edwards, Tom Turpin, Al York and other outstanding faculty supported him as he developed skills as an entomologist. Dr. Shelton also says that he benefitted greatly from the friendship and guidance of Larry Bledsoe, who broke him in at the FELPAC research farm.



Nick Seiter

its way into Arkansas.

Stoy Hedges (BS '81) was honored in April by his high school as their "Alumnus of the Year". He was presented with a plaque by Mooresville High School.



Paula Davis from DuPont Pioneer presented the plaque to **Dave**.

Dave Hogg (BS '71, MS '74) was recently honored at the ESA NCB meeting in Manhattan, Kansas, when he was presented the C. V. Riley Achievement Award.

In Memoriam

John (Jack) Hart (BS '42) passed away on March 4, 2015 in Milton, IN.

Daniel W. Bloodgood (BS '80) passed away on June 11, 2015 in West Lafayette, IN.



Calendar

July

18 Butterfly Encounter

August

7-23 State Fair

18 Purdue Day at State Fair

October

13 Insectaganza

November

6 The John V. Osmun Award ceremony

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. Please take a moment to let us know any of your own updates.

Mardelle Lorton
Editor, **Entomology @ Purdue**
Department of Entomology
Purdue University
901 West State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2089
lortonm@purdue.edu
Phone: 765-496-1119
Fax: 765-494-7197

Please include your name, address, degree, major and year of graduation. Digital photos (.jpg or .tif) are preferred. Photos received by mail will be returned upon request.

Update your contact information at:
www.purdueinsects.org