

A late spring with above normal rainfall delayed some planting and caused many insects to be a few weeks late throughout the Midwest. By midsummer normal insect patterns re-emerged in all but those areas hit by too much or too little rain. Neither rain nor weather thwarted the changes underway in Purdue administration. President France Córdova, who recently celebrated her first year in office, introduced Randy Woodson, the former Dean of Agriculture, as the next Provost. Jay Akridge from Ag Economics was appointed interim Dean of Agriculture until a national search finds a successor. This vacancy will slow strategic planning in the college and put a freeze on recent vacancies until the next dean is hired. Entomology currently has four open faculty positions. The search for a field crops entomologist has been underway since spring, and could be completed very soon – we're currently talking to some candidates. The specialty crops entomology position has been authorized and the search will get underway this fall. Two other positions in biological control and molecular entomology are currently pending approval by the next dean.

Among the research highlights this summer is a high profile publication in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on eliciting the genetic code of the so-called "selfish" gene in the red flour beetle (*Tribolium castaneum*) by a team of entomologists that includes **Jeff Stuart** and his student **Rajat Aggarwal** (PhD 2008), a discovery by Grzesiek Buckowski that insecticides in gel baits kill up to three generations of cockroaches when fed off each other, and a multi-million dollar research grant to **Greg Hunt** and colleagues to study colony collapse disorder in honey bees.

Some extension work was delayed this year by the long and late spring but by midsummer the usual assortment of pests, natural enemies and seasonal curiosities showed up even if the numbers were somewhat below normal. Bed bugs continue to be a growing concern throughout the country, as is the spread of emerald ash borer in Indiana and throughout the Midwest. **Larry Bledsoe** (MS '81) assumed responsibility this season for the USDA- funded Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey as Indiana coordinator on behalf of Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Likewise, **Tim Gibb** recently took responsibility as our liaison with the 4-H program in Indiana. Internationally, our cowpea post harvest storage project in West Africa, led by **Larry Murdock**, Barry Pittendrigh, and colleagues from Ag Economics, moved into its second year. The novel triple-bag storage technology is now being demonstrated in scores of villages throughout the region.

With summer comes the annual butterfly count at the Eli Lily Wildlife Habitat Recreation Area in July and a series of insect-oriented events at the Indiana State Fair in August. Arwin Provonsha was ring leader of the butterfly count with help from **Jon Neal**, Tom Turpin, **Cliff Sadof**, Larry Bledsoe, **Melissa Shepson**, **Kapil Raje**, and **John Shorter**. Butterfly species and numbers were down from the records set the previous year, but public participation continues to grow with more than 100 eager and enthusiastic participants from all over the state attending this year's event.

Cockroach races ran twice a day throughout the two weeks of the State Fair again this year, thanks to Arwin Provonsha. We also offered cricket spitting to willing and curious participants on Purdue Day, led by Tom Turpin and his gang of helpers from the department, **Jamal Faghihi**, Mino Faghihi, **Tabby Carroll**, **Jonathan Larson**, and Melissa Shepson. The interim Dean of Agriculture, Jay Akridge, stepped up to try his skills with cricket spitting as did Indiana's First Lady, Cheri Herman Daniels. **Ralph Williams**, **Pat Jones** and forensic science graduate student, **Kristin Zurawski**, put on a crime scene skit for the fair crowds on Purdue Day. A new event this year at the fair was "Bug Day" - a whittled down version of Bug Bowl with a selection of live and dead insect displays and hands-on material. This one-day event attracted about 30,000 visitors.

The forensic science team (Ralph Williams, Pat Jones and graduate students) had a major presence at the National Black Expo held in Indianapolis this summer. The fair is an outreach and recruitment forum for African American students heading to college. The Purdue exhibit won second prize, thanks largely to the forensic exhibit and permanent staffing over the 4 days of the expo.

We had undergraduate students all over the map this summer. **Kevin Norman** traveled to South Africa on tour to perform as part of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club. **Amber Vinchesi** finished a semester abroad studying in New Zealand. **Jonathan Larson**, the current president of the Thomas Say Society, spent the

summer at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. working on moth taxonomy. **Kristi Jukovich** (BS '08) also had a taxonomy internship working on spiders at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago during the summer before starting another internship this fall with Disney/EPCOT center - the same IPM program that **Shauna Stapleton** worked for this summer. **Amy Lockwood** had an internship with Dow AgroSciences in Remington just north of West Lafayette, and **Katie Buckley** had an internship with USDA APHIS in Gainesville, Florida. We'll discover other interesting experiences our students had this summer when they return to campus in the fall semester.

This summer about a half dozen faculty and staff joined a handful of alumni as part of the 2000 strong contingent at the XXIII International Congress of Entomology in Durban, South Africa. I attended this conference and thoroughly enjoyed the trip, the country, the meeting (including the strong participation by our department) and a rare chance to see friends and colleagues from my years in Africa. The next ICE conference will be in Daegu, South Korea in 2012.

It is always a privilege to acknowledge alumni and staff who have been recognized by others. This summer two of our faculty received honors for distinctions in different areas. Tom Turpin was recognized as an Honorary Master Farmer in recognition of "a combination of farming skills, community activities, and public service" at the 2008 Master Farmer Awards Presentation hosted by Indiana Prairie Farmer and Purdue University. Chris Oseto received the 2008 regional USDA Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award for "promoting effective and innovative pedagogy evidenced by successive years of sustained, meritorious and exceptional teaching." He was also selected to be included in the Purdue University's Book of Great Teachers which "... bears the names of 267 faculty members, past and present, who have devoted their lives to excellence in teaching and scholarship." Tom Turpin and Al York are the other Entomology faculty members in this book.

The Department will celebrate its centennial in 2012 - just four years from this fall. This summer a group of interested faculty, staff and alumni came together to brainstorm about how best to celebrate. A centennial steering committee is being established to help identify activities and plan events that resonate with alumni and department staff. Some examples include an online e-community to facilitate the exchange of stories and photos between interested alumni and staff members, archiving in perpetuity department documents of historical significance as part of the library collection, special events leading up to the centennial, recognition for alumni and members of the department who deserve special attention for their achievements, and perhaps a gala event among others during 2012. These efforts will require more help than we can expect from a single committee, so four subcommittees are being established to more efficiently distribute the effort. These include subcommittees on communications, events, history/archives, and recognition. Alumni and department staff interested in contributing to any of these efforts are welcome and should contact me directly to learn how they can help.

As the summer days become shorter and the corn and beans begin to senesce and turn brown in the fields, we know the summer "tans will fade, but the memories will last forever". I hope your summer was as good as mine, and I wish you a terrific fall!