



KANSAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Entomology

## Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2013

### Applause!



#### Welcome.

This year we are preparing to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Kansas State University, the nation's first land-grant university, founded in 1863. We will also celebrate the centennial of our Entomology Department, which came to be with the permanent appointment of George Dean as head in 1912-13. A lot of remarkable history!

It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the giants on whose shoulders we stand – Benjamin Mudge, Edwin Popenoe, George Dean, Reginald Painter, Roger Smith and many others – and to glance forward. What will be our legacy 100 or 150 years from now? How will we build on our storied past to shape the science of Entomology, and the world in which we live?

We will be looking back over the coming year, but we do it so we can look forward with a renewed sense of purpose and a richer appreciation for the depth and strength of the roots from which we spring. Happy 100th and 150th to all!

John Ruberson  
Professor and Head



**Dr. Kun Yan Zhu** has been named a **Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science**, a prestigious recognition given to association members by their peers. His research specialties are insect toxicology and molecular biology. His research encompasses biosynthesis and metabolism of chitin, Bt toxin and insect gut interactions, functions of insect acetylcholinesterases, mechanisms of insecticide resistance, toxicogenomics of pesticides and gene silencing-based insect control methods. He has a patent pending for double-stranded RNA-based nanoparticles for insect gene silencing. Zhu has written more than 130 journal articles, books and book chapters.



*From left to right: Andy Kim, Josh Urban, Kabita Kharel, and Maricela Robles-Murguia.*

Graduate students **Donghun 'Andy' Kim** and **Josh Urban** received **Presidential Prizes** at the **2012 Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting**! Andy's poster took 1st place in the Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology Section, and Josh's oral presentation took 2nd place in the Physiology, Biochemistry, and Toxicology Section. Both are students of Dr. Park. **Kabita Kharel**, doctoral candidate advised by Dr. Zhu, was selected as one of nine presenters to represent K-State to the State Legislature as part of the Research and the State Poster Competition. She competed against more than 50 posters from across campus. **Andy Kim** and **Maricela Robles-Murguia** (advised by Dr. Ortigao) were semi-finalists.



**Ximena Cibils-Stewart**, an M.S. student with Dr. McCornack, was one of three national finalists for the first Future Legend Award sponsored by the Plant-Insect Ecosystems section of the Entomological Society of America. The award is a national recognition of students who have demonstrated significant achievement in entomology through research, teaching or outreach.



# Where are they now



**Dr. Terry Mize, Product Development Manager for North America for FMC Corporation, received the 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Entomology at Kansas State University.**

Terry, a native of west Texas, earned a Master of Science in 1980 and Ph.D. in 1985, both in Entomology and with

minors in plant breeding and genetics, from Kansas State University working under Dr. Gerald Wilde. Terry joined FMC Corporation in 1987 as a market development field biologist in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. He is now in the national FMC office in Kansas City directing a staff of 30 scientists and business professionals. Terry is responsible for creating new crop protection solutions from concept to market launch. He has received the FMC Corporation Key Achievement Award and Bell Ringer Awards and the FMC Corporation Master Technical Representative Award. He is a Past President of the Entomological Society of America-Southwestern Branch. Terry remains active in professional societies and has authored or co-authored papers in the fields of entomology, weed science, and plant pathology.



**In May 2012, Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy was sworn in as Director of the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.**

Sonny started his career on the faculty at Mississippi State University. He then served as head of the Department of Entomology at K-State (1997-2005) while maintaining a

vigorous research, teaching, and outreach program; he was University Distinguished Professor as well as the 2002 Outstanding Department Head. Sonny's proudest legacy at Kansas State University was envisioning and creating the KSU Insect Zoo. Sonny left KSU to become Associate Dean for Research in the Purdue University College of Agriculture (2006-09). In 2009, he moved to Oregon State University to serve as the dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. Sonny is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow of the Entomological Society of America, and Distinguished Graduate Alumnus of Cook College, Rutgers University. Sonny and his wife Gita now live in Annandale, VA. Their daughter, Megha, an assistant professor at the University

of Kansas-Medical Center and her husband, Andrew Park, an emergency room physician at KUMC, recently became parents of a baby boy, Siddhartha Park. Sonny and Gita are in Kansas City quite often to enjoy being grandparents.

**Chris Albrecht** grew up in Columbus, Ohio and served 4 years in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era. After leaving the Navy, he earned a B.S. in Horticulture from The Ohio State University ('76). He and his wife, Mary Lewnes Albrecht came to K-State in 1980 when Mary joined the faculty in the Department of Horticulture.



Chris worked as a Research Assistant in the Agronomy Department until 1983, when he came to Entomology to work with Alberto Broce. In 1985 he split his time working for Jim Nechols and John Reese. In late 1986, Chris left the university to go to work at a local radio station. For the next 10 years he worked as sales/station manager for several stations; his voice was also heard on radio and television commercials. In 1996, Chris, Mary and their son Will moved to Knoxville, TN where Mary became Head of the Horticulture Dept at University of Tennessee, where she is now Associate Vice Chancellor. Chris returned to school, earning a degree in Video production. He recently produced a PBS documentary *The Mysterious Lost State of Franklin*.

## Tell us about yourself!

**Fill out this form and return it to:**

Department of Entomology  
124 W. Waters Hall  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS USA 66506-4004

Or e-mail [entomology@k-state.edu](mailto:entomology@k-state.edu)

Feel free to attach more information to share about your hobbies, your family, stories from your time at KSU, or whatever you like.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_





# Meet someone new



**Shelly Wiggam-Ricketts** is our first Popenoe Ph.D. Fellow. She is from Burleson, TX, and graduated from Austin College with B.A.s in Biology, Environmental Studies and Art. She received an M.S. in Biology at K-State working on pollination biology. Shelly and her husband, Drew, have run their own native prairie and wildlife restoration business. For her

Ph.D., Shelly is investigating the effects of patch-burn grazing, a land-use management technique that increases vegetative and habitat heterogeneity, on pollinator ecology and behavior. Her advisors are Drs. Margolies and Zolnerowich.



**Dr. Sarah Zukoff** will be joining the Entomology Department in April and will be located at the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Garden City, where she will have a dual role in extension and research focuses on pests of corn and other field crops.

Recently, Sarah received her Ph.D. in Plant, Insect, and Microbial Science (entomol-

ogy emphasis area) from the Plant Science Division at the University of Missouri; her work there focused on western corn rootworm resistance management. Dr. Zukoff received her B.S. and M.S. from Georgia Southern University where she documented over 90 species of other insects and spiders living with the subsocial spider *Anelosimus studiosus*. Her work also led her to the discovery of an interesting behavior of the southeastern beach tiger beetle, the first documented case of wind powered wheeling locomotion. In her free time, Sarah enjoys hiking, camping and photographing nature with her husband, Anthony.

**Jessica Kivett** is from Wichita, Kansas and now resides in Manhattan with her husband Ryan. Jessica earned her B.S. in Horticulture from Kansas State University in 2008. Now she is pursuing her M.S. in Entomology with Dr. Raymond Cloyd. Her research is focusing on the development of an integrated pest management plan that incorporates entomopathogenic fungi, with conventional pesticide rotation schemes for the control of western flower thrips. After graduation, Jessica plans on pursuing a career in research and extension. In her spare time, Jessica makes and sells her own line of hand-made soy candles as Flint Hills Candle Company.



## The Insect Zoo



The K-State Insect Zoo celebrated its 10th Anniversary in October with lots of people, beautiful weather, and terrific bugs! We appreciate the attendance and support of KSU President Kirk Schulz and College of Agriculture Dean John Floros.

And, of course, we

had Willie the Wildcat visit us to release some Monarch butterflies! A big thanks to Zoo Coordinator Kiffnie Holt, Friends of the Insect Zoo, the Popenoe Entomology Club,

and lots of other folks for a terrific event.

Looking forward to the next 10 years, the Insect Zoo is poised to begin fundraising for the addition of a Butterfly House, imagined in an artists rendering (below). This addition will be set to the north of and attached to the Insect Zoo. Stay tuned for more details.



Kansas State University  
Department of Entomology  
123 Waters Hall  
Manhattan, Kansas 66506-4004

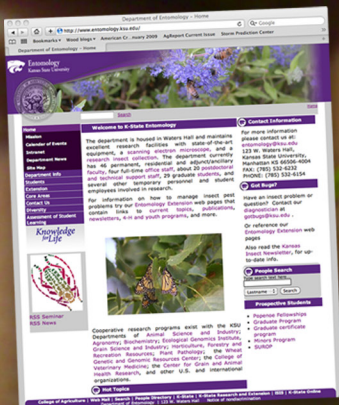


# Entomology

## Alumni Newsletter

KANSAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Visit us online at:



[www.entomology.ksu.edu](http://www.entomology.ksu.edu)

[www.facebook.com/kstate.entomology](https://www.facebook.com/kstate.entomology)