



# Entomology

## Alumni Newsletter

KANSAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Fall 2012



### Welcome.

It is a great pleasure and honor to join the Department of Entomology at Kansas State University. I have been

very fortunate throughout my career to work at institutions and among people where I felt very much at home and supported. I feel that Kansas State will continue that trend, as I have had the privilege of meeting some great people here already and feel that this is home.

There is a rich entomological history that weaves through this department from the days of Benjamin Franklin Mudge and Edwin Popenoe, and which serves as a springboard for what we hope is an equally or surpassingly rich future – one to which each of us will contribute as members and alumni of the department.

I look forward to building that future with each of you, and collectively adding to the remarkable legacy that we already share as members of the KSU Entomology Department.

*John*

John Ruberson  
Professor and Head

### Applause!



**Gregory Zolnerowich (center), Associate Professor of Entomology, received the 2012 K-State Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching** from K-State President Kirk Schulz (right) and donor Chris Curtin. He teaches seven courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels and serves as the curator for the K-State Museum of Entomological and Prairie Arthropod Research. For the past 13 years, Greg has been providing students in his entomology courses with a top-tier education in addition to securing over \$1.3 million in research funds.



**Dr. Frank Arthur (right), USDA-ARS Research Entomologist and Adjunct Professor of Entomology at K-State, received the ESA-NCB Recognition Award in Entomology** for making significant contributions to agriculture through the field of entomology during the preceding five-year period. The award was presented by ESA-NCB President Fred Baxendale (left) and ESA President Grayson Brown.



**Dr. Bhadriraju (Subi) Subramanyam (right), Don Wilbur Professor of Stored-Product Protection in the Department of Grain Science and Industry, and Ancillary Professor of Entomology, received the ESA-NCB Entomological Foundation Award for Excellence in Integrated Pest Management.** This award is presented to an entomologist who has made outstanding contributions to IPM, demonstrating independence of thought and originality.



# Where are they now



**Mr. Cletus Asanga** was born in the village of Bambili, Cameroon, and received his early education in Cameroon and Great Britain. After working for the Cameroon Ministry of Agriculture and Research, he came to the US and obtained his B.S. in Agronomy and Horticulture at Oklahoma State in 1983, and his M.S. in Entomology at KSU in 1985

under Dr. Bob Mills. Upon returning home, he was appointed Researcher with a National Mandate in charge of Grain Post Harvest Problems. During his career he represented Cameroon in the West African Rice Development Association, and also in the Regional Project for Maize and Cassava. His laboratory was located in Dschang, West Region of Cameroon, where he also taught part time at the University of Dschang. He retired from civil service in 1998 and settled in Bamenda, where he took up teaching at the Bamenda University of Science and Technology until his second retirement in 2010; from 2005-10 he also served as Head of the Department of Agronomy and Soils. More recently, he has taken on leadership of several national development and social programs.



**Dr. Kirby C. Stafford III** is Vice Director of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), Chief Entomologist (Head) of the Department of Entomology and State Entomologist (State Plant Regulatory Official). Kirby received a

B.S. in Entomology from Colorado State and his M.S. in Entomology from KSU in 1979. He obtained his Ph.D. in Medical-Veterinary Entomology from Texas A&M in 1985. Kirby joined the Experiment Station in New Haven, CT in 1987 following a postdoctoral position at Penn State. At CAES, his research focuses on the ecology and control of the blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, which transmits the agent of Lyme disease and other human pathogens. Dr. Stafford has authored or co-authored over 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 2 review chapters on tick management, produced a Tick Management Handbook and Fly Management Handbook, and given over 1,000 public talks and media interviews, including a picture in National Geographic. He lives in Hamden, CT with his wife Sara and two children, Geoffrey and Brittany.

**Dr. Donald C. Cress**

(left) grew up on a ranch at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Colorado. Don holds a BS from Colorado State University (1964), MS from the University of Wyoming (1966), and PhD from Oklahoma State University (1969), all in Entomology. In June 1970, Don started as an Extension Entomologist at Michigan State University, where he was an early implementer of auto-tutorial training methods for Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicators. After a brief stop in Garden City, KS where he was Research Entomologist, he and his family moved to Manhattan when Don became Extension Pesticide Coordinator. For the next 28 years, he coordinated the Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training and compiled the monthly Kansas Pesticide Newsletter. On a year leave at Purdue University in 1982, Don helped develop and implement the National Pesticide Information Retrieval System. Don served on ESA editorial boards, Publications Council, and on the Governing Board. Don retired in 2001, and he and his wife, Sharon, moved to Colorado Springs, CO in 2003. For fun, Don (at the age of 69) climbs mountains, preferably over 14,000 ft.!



**Dr. Rizana Mahroof**

(center) received her Ph.D. in Entomology at K-State in 2004 working with Subi and Kun Yan Zhu. She is now Assistant Professor of Biology at the Department of Biological Sciences in South Carolina State

University (SCSU), where she has been since 2007. SCSU is a Historically Black Institute established in 1890 to serves minority students. Her research is focused on innovative and chemical alternative methods to manage stored product insects. Currently she has a USDA-NIFA funded grant and four students working with her. She also teaches 7-9 courses per year. Rizana has been recognized as an outstanding faculty member many times; she was named both Professor of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology and 2012 Professor of the Year at SCSU. She also received the Dean's Award for Excellence two years in a row and a Dedicated Service Award for mentoring undergraduate research.







# Meet someone new



**Dr. John Floros**, a renowned food scientist and academic leader, is Kansas State University's new Dean for the College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research and Extension. Dr. Floros received his doctoral degree from the University of Georgia and has spent virtually his entire career working for land-grant institu-

tions. He comes to K-State from Pennsylvania State University where was Professor and Head of the Department of Food Science. John is also a highly respected researcher and has an expansive network of international contacts. His research field is food process engineering and packaging.



**Dr. John R. Ruberson** started as Entomology Department Head on August 20th. John earned a B.S. in Biology Teaching and an M.S. in Zoology at Brigham Young University, and his Ph.D. in Entomology at Cornell University. John was a professor at the University of Georgia's Tifton Campus, where he was also site coordinator for entomology activi-

ties involving 8 entomology faculty, 9 staff, and 6-8 graduate students. His research focus is biological control of insect pests and IPM in conventional and organic row-crop and vegetable systems. John will remain active in research. He and his wife Mary Lu have four children, one of whom (Jonathan) is still at home and will attend Manhattan High School.



**Dinesh Erram**, a Ph.D. student with Ludek Zurek and Marcelo Ortigao, is interested in the vector competence of insects and how vector-borne diseases can be controlled. He studies the interactions between parasites that cause leishmaniasis and the endogenous gut bacteria of sand flies that vector the parasites. Dinesh obtained an M.S. in Biology from Southeast

Missouri State University (2011) and a B.S. in Biotechnology from TKRCET, Andhra Pradesh, India (2008). After graduation, he plans to work in academia developing new strategies to control vector-borne diseases.

**Barbara Amoah** comes from the Southern part of Ghana, West Africa. She has an M.Sc. in Natural Resources (Sustainable Environmental Management) from the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, England in 2010. She is working on her Ph.D. with Tom Phillips on *Tyrophagus putrescentiae*, a major mite pest of the ham and pet food industry.

Her studies include the development and deployment of traps for monitoring mite populations in ham facilities and the application of such information to IPM for the mite. Barbara hopes to continue with research and teaching in the field of Entomology.



**Maricela Robles-Murgula** is from San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas in México. She received her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Pharmacy from Universidad de las Américas-Puebla, México. Her professional experience includes work in the pharmaceutical industry and research on cancer, circadian rhythms, and biology of disease vector. Currently, she is pursuing her Master's degree with Marcelo Ortigao. Her research focuses on the vectorial capacity of sand flies and their competence to transmit *Leishmania*. Her future interest is on vaccine and drug discovery to prevent and treat infectious diseases. During her spare time Maricela enjoys tennis and swimming.



## Tell us about yourself!

*Feel free to contact us about your hobbies, your family, stories from your time at KSU, or whatever you like. We would love to hear from you.*

**E-mail [entomology@k-state.edu](mailto:entomology@k-state.edu) or fill out this form and return it to:**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

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