

### Welcome. For some of

you, it feels like only yesterday that you were here, while for others it really was. However

long it has been, to us you are still a part of the department and we want to keep that connection strong. I hope this newsletter will reintroduce you to the excitement of the department and reconnect you to other alumni. Inside you will find news about former faculty and students, as well as introductions to new faces and new programs.

With new people and new programs come some great opportunities. In 2009 Kirk Shultz became the 13th President of Kansas State University, and one year later April Mason became our Provost. They are leading an initiative to make Kansas State University a top 50 public research university by 2025. Our department already ranks among the top national entomology doctorate programs, so we are poised to help the university achieve the 2025 goal.

There will be more about this and other new initiatives in coming newsletters. For now, welcome back.

David

David C. Margolies Professor and Interim Head

### Applause!



**Entomological Society of America 2010 Presidential Prize winners:** Carl Doud (left) - 1st Place, Oral Presentation, Ph.D. level (advisor: Dr. Zurek); Wendy Johnson (center) – 1st Place, Oral Presentation, Ph.D. level (Dr. Nechols); Hong Geun Kim (right) 2nd Place, Poster Presentation, M.S. level (Dr. Park, Dr. Margolies).



Kun Yan Zhu, Professor of Entomology, Kansas State University, was the 2011 recipient of the ESA North Central Branch Recognition Award in Entomology. His group was the first to document an acetylcholinesterase paralogous gene in the greenbug; which was cited as "a breakthrough in this toxicological riddle" in 2007. Zhu's research in nanoparticle based RNAi is expected to have great potential for developing innovative technologies for insect control. He has authored or co-authored nearly 100 peer-reviewed articles and 11 book chapters. He has served as a subject editor for Journal of Economic Entomology, associate editor for Pest Management Science, and editorial board member for Acta Entomologica Sinica, Archives of Insect Biochemistry and Physiology, and Insect Science.



C. Michael Smith, Professor of Entomology, Kansas State University, was the 2010 recipient of the Entomological Society of America Recognition Award in Entomology, sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. His research group identified numerous genes and their expression in barley and wheat plants resistant to the Russian wheat aphid, *Diuraphis noxia*. Smith has served as Chair of former ESA Section Fa, Section F Governing Board Representative, and is an ESA Fellow. He is currently a subject editor for Journal of Economic Entomology, a founding editor of Arthopod Plant Interactions, and author of three host-plant resistance textbooks, the most recent being *Plant Resistance to Arthropods: Molecular and Conventional Approaches*.

# Where are they now



#### Dr. Punya Nachappa

earned a Ph.D. in entomology from Kansas State University in 2008, working on genetic improvement of a biological control agent under of David Margolies and Jim Nechols. She was a

postdoctoral associate with Anna Whitfield in Plant Pathology, exploring the interactions between tomato spotted wilt virus, western flower thrips, and twospotted spider mites on tomato, using transcriptional profiling and plant metabolite analysis to link plant defenses with herbivore preference for virus-infected plants. In April 2010, Punya accepted a postdoctoral position with Cecilia Tamborindeguy in Entomology at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. There Punya is studying the potato psyllid, which transmits the bacterial pathogen responsible for zebra chip disease in potato. The move to College Station brought Punya closer to her husband, Vamsi, who is at the University of North Texas in Denton. Punya enjoys the amenities to be found in College Station (especially the local winery and antiquing).



**Dr. Theodore (Ted) L. Hopkins** received B.S. and M.S. degrees at Oregon State University, and worked as research entomologist for the USDA-ARS in Corvallis, Oregon before he returned to school and received a Ph.D. in entomology at Kansas

State University. He joined the faculty of the department in 1960, where he worked until retiring in 1998. His research on insect cuticle formation and sclerotization was supported by numerous grants from NSF and USDA. He is author or co-author of more than 100 research articles, book chapters and review articles. In 1995, he received the Conoco Distinguished Graduate Faculty Member Award. The Ted Hopkins Colloquium was established in the department to bring in internationally renowned scientists to present new and developing research in insect physiology and biochemistry. Hopkins lives in Manhattan with wife Arlene and enjoys numerous hobbies and activities. He maintains his interests in entomology and in the tall grass prairie, serving as a docent at the Konza Prairie Biological Station. **Dr. Jeff Stuart,** a Kansas native, earned an M.S. in entomology (1982) with Gerald Wilde, and a Ph D. in Entomology/Genetics (1987), with Jimmy Hatchett at Kansas State University. After a postdoc with the USDA/ARS, Stuart joined the Department of Entomology at Purdue University in 1990, where he is



now professor of entomology. Stuart has studied Hessian fly throughout his career, focusing on genomic analyses of plant-insect interactions and the evolution of the insect genome in response to those interactions. He has authored or co-authored numerous groundbreaking studies in Hessian fly genetics and genomics, including a physically anchored genetic map of the fly genome and placement of five Hessian fly avirulence genes on fly chromosomes. Most recently, Stuart has had a major involvement in the project to sequence the Hessian fly genome. He received the DowElanco Young Investigator Award in 1992, was a co-recipient of the 2000 Purdue University Dean of Agriculture Team Award. He was the 2005 Department of Entomology Distinguished Alumnus.

Dr. Gerald (Gerry) Wilde (standing on right) received

a B.S. in entomology (1962) from Texas Tech and a Ph. D. in Entomology (1966) from Cornell. Gerry came to Kansas State in 1966 and retired in 2007. He has 145 publications,



two book chapters, and numerous presentations on insect pest management in field crops. Gerry received the 2001 North Central Branch C.V. Riley Award for Excellence in Pest Management, the 2001 Entomology Educational Project Award presented by Board Certified Entomologists of Mid-America, the 2005 National Grain Sorghum Recognition Award, and was the 2007 NCB-ESA nominee for the Entomological Foundation Award for Excellence in Pest Management. He spent sabbatical leaves in Colombia South America, the Philippines, and New Zealand. Gerry and wife Linda retired to Mountain Home, Arkansas, where they live in a house along the White River. He enjoys volunteer work, grandkids, fishing for trout in the White River and bass and walleye in Bull Shoals lake.

## Meet someone new



#### Dr. Raymond (Ray) A.

**Cloyd** grew up in California, where he received degrees in ornamental horticulture from Monterey Peninsula College and California Polytechnic State University. He worked in commercial horticulture before going to Purdue University for his M.S. and Ph.D. in

Entomology. He spent five years as extension specialist in ornamental entomology at the University of Illinois before joining us in 2006. Ray has a 70 percent Extension, 30 percent Research appointment. He enjoys his outreach responsibilities, and has a wide range of research interests focusing on greenhouse pest management. Cloyd and his family enjoy living in the friendly atmosphere of Manhattan, Kansas. Kabita Kharel, a new M.S. student, graduated from Tribhuvan University in Nepal with degrees in entomology and conservation ecology. Kabita published several articles in Nepal and served on the editorial board of Annual Agricultural Information Book published by Post Graduate



Students' Society in Chitwan. Her M.S. research will focus on evaluation of non-fumigation based pest management approaches for food-processing facilities. She is under the guidance of Frank Arthur and Kun Yan Zhu. Kabita plans to continue for a Ph.D. and hopes to join a research institute to promote environmentally friendly pest management.



Numbers of visitors to The Insect Zoo are going up! After a successful transition from donation to a set admission in 2006, the Insect Zoo has continued to grow in popularity, from 7,400 visitors in 2006 to 8,400 last year. Visitor numbers in March 2011

set a record due to visits during spring break when kids are out of school and families are looking for a fun, educational activity. If you can't come to the Insect Zoo to see what the excitement is, visit us on the web at *www.ksu.edu/butterfly*.





Open House has always been the busiest day of the year, and 2011 was no exception. The Insect Zoo hosted 914 visitors in 6 hours on March 16. There were fun activities such as cockroach races, and for most of the day there was a line of people outside waiting to get in.

We are always looking for ways to update and expand the exhibit. We have a new fundraising group, Friends of the Insect Zoo, to support the zoo's operation and raise money for expansion. There are opportunities to gain more space in the Dairy Barn, and we are negotiating with the KSU Gardens for space to build a new butterfly exhibit. To join Friends of the Insect Zoo, please contact Kiffnie Holt at *kiffnie@ksu.edu*.