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Chairman: Thomas L. German

It is time once again to bring you up to date on activities in the Department of Entomology and as the saying goes; I've got some good news and some bad news. The good news is that there have been a number of positive changes and accomplishments in the department over the last several months in spite of the bad news created by the difficult political and economic times that are negatively affecting the State and the University. In the following paragraphs I will provide a few examples to illustrate how we are maintaining a positive direction in spite of the challenges we face.

We continue to build strength for the future by investing in bright young faculty. In our last news letter, I pointed out that we were moving towards having five assistant professors in the Department and we have achieved that goal. Claudio Gratton has been with us since January and is making life more fun for us all with his infectious enthusiasm for his program in insect pest landscape ecology. We have also completed a very competitive search process to replace the expertise lost by the retirement last year of John Wedberg. We were delighted when Eileen Cullen who recently received her Ph.D in entomology from the University of California at Davis agreed to join our faculty. She arrived in May and is already busily establishing contacts with her colleagues, industry representatives and growers to form the network she will use to develop her research and extension program in field crops entomology. It is comforting to know that the department is structured to maintain quality programs in a variety of disciplinary areas for many years to come. These newcomers join Que Lan, Chris Williamson, and DeWayne Shoemaker as our junior faculty.

As measured by funding success it would appear that the quality of our current research and extension programs is on solid ground. This year faculty received substantial grant support from a variety

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of sources including, United States Department of Agriculture Competitive Grants, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and both public and private corporate enterprises. In view of the fact that the competition for diminishing funds is becoming increasingly complete this is a strong indication that we are doing well.

Several of our faculty have been recognized with program awards. **Que Lan** received a Women in Science and Engineering Leadership Institute Award that will help her complete work to be used for leveraging additional funding. **Jeff Wyman** was the recipient of the 2003 USDA Secretary's Honor Award. This is the most prestigious and competitive annual award given by the USDA. Jeff and his colleagues won this award based on their work towards "maintaining and enhancing the Nation's natural resources and environment. The breadth and quality of Professor **Walt Goodman's** extraordinary contributions to teaching were recognized in the form of a Distinguished Teaching Award. This award is particularly gratifying because the winners are selected from their peers across the entire UW Campus which is nationally known for quality teaching. We are pleased for the well deserved recognition that these awards bring to our faculty and by association to the Department. In an effort to maintain the upward momentum of our teaching programs we held a one half day retreat in March to consider ways to improve our curriculum, make it more efficient and to better serve our graduate and undergraduate students both in the Department and across the campus.

The following item fits squarely in the good news bad news category. **Carole Scheehle**

has decided to retire after 14 years of service to the Department as an Administrative Program Specialist. The official date was July 4 of this year but she will work a flexible schedule for a few months to help us during the transition to a new person. During her tenure she has provided outstanding administrative support for five different Chairs and served the Department and College with distinction. When new faculty, staff and students arrive they soon become aware that she is the reason that the Department runs so smoothly. Indeed, Carol's reputation as an efficient and effective administrator extends well beyond the boundaries of the Department. Although her departure is definitely not good news for us we are pleased that she will be able to have some time to enjoy other adventures. We wish her well and hope that she will enjoy her retirement years to the fullest extent possible. To express our appreciation for her outstanding contributions we are planning a retirement recognition on July 21 to be held in the Allen Gardens.

And now for the clearly bad, if not at least annoying news. The department is dealing with our share of the approximately \$100 million cut to the UW system which translates to about a \$40 million dollar cut to the UW Madison and in turn some \$2.7 million for CALS. To address this, all departments have been asked to reduce their budgets by something on the order of six percent. This may seem like a fairly simple belt tightening exercise until you consider that by far the largest portion of our budget is in fixed salaries. With the expert assistance of the above mentioned Carol Scheehle, and significant ringing of hands at a half day departmental retreat in March, we have been able to provide CALS administration with a budget reduction plan.

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that does not require dismissing any current employees. However, we had to give up vacant staff positions and reduce our supply and expense budgets to such a degree that there is no opportunity to provide funding for unexpected situations or even some of the most rudimentary functions of the office. Faculty will have to provide funding for services formally thought of as basic support for research, extension and teaching programs.

The most serious effect this will have is that we will no longer be able to provide the less tangible things that have kept us on the cutting edge scientifically and among the elite teaching and service departments in the country. We are deeply concerned about our ability to maintain programs such as Insect Ambassadors, student travel awards, infrastructure improvement, support for untenured faculty, the research insect collection and an interesting and informative colloquium series. These are the types of events and activities that former chancellor David Ward so often referred to as providing the margin of excellence.

Since state monies are not going to be provided for more than bare bones operational expenses, we will need to devise ways to raise money through gifts, donations or other means. A very positive example of such an activity took place in the Department this year when we held the first in a series of distinguished guest colloquia to be funded through a generous gift from **Winifred Doane** in memory of her late husband **Charles Doane**. We were pleased to host Ms. Doane and invited speaker **Dr. Charles Eckienrode** during a day long event in early March. Another generous alumnus, **Dorothy Feir**, provided support for the Alex and Lilian Feir Graduate

Research Fellowship, which was awarded for the first time this year to Jun Wang, an incoming student in Walt Goodman's lab.

I believe that if the Department is to continue to thrive we will have to make fund raising a high priority item on our agenda in the near term. In the coming months we will be developing strategies to address this need.

For better and worse, such is the current state of affairs in the Department of Entomology. As always we welcome your comments and suggestions by snail mail, electronic mail or better yet a personal visit. Take a look at our new and improving web site at <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/> for more information

Eileen Cullen

Greetings! My arrival May 5, 2003, as the new field crops Extension entomologist coincided with spring corn and soybean planting, along with several emerging field crop insect pest developments. I am looking forward to a busy growing season generating preliminary data, making connections with county agricultural agents and growers, collaborating with UW Extension research teams and laying the groundwork for my research and Extension programming. My research program will define and quantify field ecology, behavior, seasonality and biology of key pest and beneficial insects and apply this knowledge to field crop IPM programs and educational outreach.

Projects in my lab this summer include field experiments on the bean leaf beetle – bean pod mottle virus dynamic in soybean. These trials at the Rock County Farm, in

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collaboration with Craig Grau, Extension Plant Pathologist, will evaluate efficacy of various combinations of early and mid-season chemical control tactics to mitigate virus transmission. Separate trials are underway at the Arlington Agricultural Research Station to assess corn rootworm and European corn borer management strategies. In cooperation with the UW-IPM program and UW-Extension county agricultural agents, we are establishing a trapping network in soybean and corresponding root damage survey in corn throughout several southern Wisconsin counties to determine the impact and range expansion of a new “rotation-resistant” biotype of the western corn rootworm, making its way into southeastern Wisconsin. (This biotype has outwitted the corn-soybean rotation, which has historically controlled rootworm in corn following soybeans – soybean was a non-host, by laying its eggs in soybean fields in ‘anticipation’ of corn the following year).

Ms. Nina Richtman has joined the lab as a summer hourly for the field season upon graduating from UW Madison with her B.S. in Biological Aspects of Conservation. Welcome Nina, glad to have you on board!

EGSA and Insect Ambassadors

Andy Bouwma (Jeanne Lab)
EGSA President, 2002/2003

Greetings from the Entomology Graduate Student Association! I have enjoyed my tenure as president of the EGSA. Thanks to our talented and supportive faculty headed by Tom German and Carol Scheele, with her

outstanding crew of administrative staff, our department continues to be a truly excellent place to complete a graduate degree. I would also like to thank all of the alumni for their continued support of the department. The EGSA provides a student voice for departmental affairs by holding elected seats on all departmental committees. This privilege, along with the continued student enthusiasm for departmental service, helps to ensure that the needs of our graduate students continue to be met. Here are the newly-elected EGSA officers and committee members for 2003/2004:

President: Craig Brabant, Young Lab

Vice President: Chris Perry, Wyman Lab

Secretary Treasurer: Nadine Kriska, Young Lab

Fundraising committee: Jenny Jandt, Jeanne Lab

Finance committee chair: Michelle Price, Young Lab

Finance committee member at large: Emily Mueller, Hogg Lab

Colloquium student representative: Celia Boone, Raffa Lab

Academic affairs student representative:

Irena Vyazunova, Lan Lab

Research committee student rep: Jack Donaldson, Lindroth Lab

Extension committee student rep: Reid Durtschi, Hogg Lab

Computer committee student rep: Jack Donaldson, Lindroth Lab

Thanks to everyone for volunteering their time for the department! These officers should be a resource to new graduate students as well as the faculty. If you would like to talk to someone who has been through it all before, feel free to get in touch with one of these veteran students.

Lastly, the EGSA would like to extend a warm welcome to Claudio Gratton and

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Eileen Cullen. Claudio arrived at the beginning of the spring semester to fill the Landscape Entomologist position and Eileen has just arrived to fill the Vice-Wedberg Extension Entomologist position. We are excited that you both are here and are very much looking forward to getting to know you and your future graduate students.

Walt Goodman

It seems as if change is the constant in the Goodman lab. Josh Young who earned his MS last year is now at Pioneer in Iowa genotyping genetically engineered corn. Tony Orth and Elisabeth are doing well in their positions in Southern California. Mike Tesch who got his MS in 1998 is still climbing the corporate ladder at Sigma Chemicals in St. Louis. There is also word from Yan Soo Han who did his MS in the Goodman lab and his Ph.D. in the Paskewitz lab, that he has taken a teaching-research position in Korea. A new addition to the lab this fall includes Jun Wang. Jun won the Alex and Lillian Feir Distinguished Graduate Student Award given to students who are working in insect biochemistry, physiology, or molecular biology.

Dr. Sharon Doll is still with the lab working on the molecular mode of action of JH. Teaching duties took on a new dimension this year with Entomology 201 exploding in size. There were 140 students both semesters which is a far cry from when I first started in the early 1980's. While these numbers are daunting, they have helped us increase departmental visibility and class enrollment.

Bob Jeanne

Bob Jeanne has been serving as PI on a three-year project to develop on-line learning modules for introductory biology, Biology 151/152. This project will wind down at the end of June, allowing him to devote more time to research. This summer he will return to Costa Rica for a month of field work on *Polybia* wasps, followed by a ten-day scientific photography excursion around the country. Then in September, he will participate in the meeting of the Russian section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects in St. Petersburg.

Cristie Hurd's Ph.D. dissertation research focuses on how carbohydrate-foraging labor is distributed among *Vespula germanica* yellowjacket workers. She has found that the frequency distribution of worker trips follows a power law and is investigating possible causes for this distribution. Specifically, she is testing whether age, experience, temperature, size, weight, ovarian development or social status influence a worker's likelihood of foraging. Despite significant effects of some of these variables, individual differences among workers account for most of the variation in foraging behavior.

Andy Bouwma is finishing up his Ph.D. work with *Polybia occidentalis*, a Neotropical social wasp, and is scheduled to graduate in December. In his Ph.D. work, he discovered a new species of protozoan parasite in *P. occidentalis* that greatly reduces both forager work rates and colony productivity. Andy has received a Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Short Term Fellowship to follow up his Ph.D. work in Panama this summer. Andy will study *Polistes canadensis*, which may

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also harbor the parasite, in order to see if the results of his Ph.D. work can be generalized across disparate social wasp taxa. In January, 2004, Andy will start a post-doc with DeWayne Shoemaker, a newly arrived assistant professor in our department. He will be studying the phenotypic effects of *Wolbachia* in fire ants.

Ken Howard is studying reproductive alternatives in *Leptothorax longispinosus*, a cavity-nesting forest ant. Preliminary results suggest that this species has a queen dimorphism, in which smaller-sized queens are likely to found nests dependently while larger queens found nests independently. The distribution of queen sizes differs between two collection sites, with small queens much more common at one of the sites. Ken is running experiments to test the effects of population density, size of patches of favorable habitat, nest-site limitation, and food limitation on the production of small or large queens in the field. Observations on nests of *L. longispinosus* in the lab will determine if large or small queens are more likely to move as part of a fissioned colony, seek readoption into their natal nests, and found nests dependently.

For Jenny Jandt, the past six months have mostly consisted of statistical analyses and writing. She has spent most of her time analyzing and writing up the study she performed last summer, showing that yellowjackets do not leave a scent mark at food sources, but instead use local visual and odor cues to relocate a food source. This upcoming summer she plans to focus her attention on forager interactions with nestmates inside the nest. She also plans to follow up on a few preliminary tests she did last year involving the insertion of scented reward directly into the nest and the

response of foragers. Finally, she will start on creating an optimal foraging model for yellowjackets foraging on fructose solution.

Sainath Suryanarayanan recently joined our group as a Ph.D. candidate. Having just completed a masters degree in pharmacology at UW-Madison, he decided he is more interested in the behavioral scale of biological phenomena than the molecular. He is exploring vibrational communication in social wasps as a potential dissertation topic, and plans to spend July and August in Costa Rica recording preliminary data on signals used by as many species as he can find.

Known whereabouts of past students:

Randy Morgan (MS 1980): Curator of Insects, Cincinnati Zoo.

Monica Raveret Richter (MS 1981): Professor of Biology, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York.

David Post (MS 1980, PhD 1984): Adjunct Faculty, Black Hills State University, Spearfish, SD

Holly Downing (MS 1982, PhD 1986): Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Black Hills State University, Spearfish, SD

Gregg Henderson (PhD 1989): Professor of Entomology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Sean O'Donnell (PhD 1993): Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Washington, Seattle.

Karen London (MS 1994, PhD 1998): Ethologist, *Dog's Best Friend*, Black Earth, Wisconsin

Sarah Day (MS 1999): High school biology teacher, Maryland

Lee Clippard (MS 2002): Instructional Specialist, DoIT, UW-Madison.

Steve Krauth

Thanks to Susan Paskewitz for giving me a chance to speak up for the Insect Research Collection (IRC) aka the Entomology Museum.

The IRC outreach program continues to be popular with various users for our circulating material also known as “display packets”. I coordinated the reservation and loan of “Outreach Display Packets” to 42 groups numbering 8,200 people. Summer school programs and visitors to campus have provided an always entertaining source of visitors to the IRC. Over the past year there were visits to the IRC by 36 groups, including College for Kids (a program sponsored by the School of Education) and Waunakee Summer Science program, totaling 518 individuals.

The School of Journalism, Ag. Radio Facts program and several small regional newspapers have connected to the grapevine and helped getting the word out about the IRC and the department. More traditional contacts via the phone (106 calls) and walk-ins are always welcome. Thanks to the internet, I received 10,667 e-mails from listservers, the public, and colleagues at other institutions.

We have maintained contact with the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers (WSST) by offering workshops on the use of insects in the classroom at the societies annual convention. The workshops have been well received over the years and received high marks on the WSST evaluation.

In support of research programs in other labs the IRC accommodated 1,276 visitors and assistance requests. The director and I

continue to participate in two “Research Explorations” for Ways of Knowing: Biology (InterAg494), an immersion experience designed to introduce gifted freshman students to research and the laboratory setting.

Recently through timely contact, the IRC has inherited several large, excellent, orphaned collections. The family of Ken Weisman, a trained systematist and scientific illustrator, gave the IRC his insect and literature collection. The collection of 8,118 insects is housed in two 20 drawer Cornell cabinets and one custom cabinet with “large format” drawers. Weisman's collection emphasizes the families of Coleoptera (Curculionidae, Cerambycidae, Cicindellidae, Lucanidae, Scarabaeidae) and Diptera (Syrphidae, Calliphoridae, Tachinidae). His collection is in excellent condition and world-wide in representation. Additionally, 170 items of technical reference literature accompany the Weisman collection. The UW-Arboretum transferred a large collection of insects collected in Dane and surrounding counties. The Arboretum collection is housed in three 12 drawer USNM cabinets and 54 schmidt boxes. The collection is in need of some refurbishment before interpolation into the research collection. The Department of Natural Resources transferred 1195 research related insect to the IRC. The family of Dr. Robert Dicke donated much of his library and mosquito collection in addition to the four 12 drawer USNM cabinets donated earlier.

The IRC received and processed 43 research loans of 6,045 insect specimens to collaborators at other institutions and on campus. Identification requests numbered 15,469 submitted specimens some of which

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were not retained. I continue to develop the IRC by preparing, identifying and interpolating 17,580 specimens into the IRC from a variety of DNR and student survey samples.

We also have a web-connection which keeps me busy monitoring IRC webpage hits and submitting updates of the catalog of IRC holdings to Janet Deutsch, our Information Technology Specialist, for posting to the web page as a contribution to the knowledge of Wisconsin's insect fauna (currently 14,822 species in the IRC).

The previously \$3,000.00 IRC budget suffered a 50 percent cut in 2002 which can only negatively impact collection operations. The budget cuts have made it necessary to impose a schedule of fees for the use of the collections outreach materials and IRC visits. In addition, the traditional participation in meetings of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections has become financially impossible. Even with 50 percent matching funds from a UW-System Professional Development Grant, repetition of past efforts at representing the IRC at meetings such as the International Society of Hymenopterists, the International Congress of Entomology, the Symposium on Gall Producing Arthropods and the Congress on the Future of Natural History Collections will be financially out of reach.

Publications:

Krauth, S.J., 2001. First Records of *Aethes heleniana* Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) in Wisconsin. Great Lakes Entomol.34(3):29-30.(appeared Dec 2002).

Krauth, S.J., First Records of *Phyllobius oblongus* Coleoptera: Curculionidae) from Wisconsin: with a key to the North American species of *Phyllobius*. Entomological News. (accepted, being revised)

Krauth, S.J. 2002. "Type" material in the University of Wisconsin Insect Research Collection.
<http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/irc/ircatype.html>

Aukema, B.H., G.R. Richards, S.J. Krauth and K. F. Raffa. 2002. Species assemblage of natural enemies arriving at and emerging from trees colonized by *Ips pini* in the Great Lakes region: Partitioning by time since colonization, seasonal phenology and host species. Ann. Entomol. Soc. Amer. (in press).

Aukema, B.H., G.R. Richards, S.J. Krauth and K. F. Raffa. 2002. Effect of host species on the attraction and reproduction of natural enemies in trees colonized by *Ips pini*. poster Entomological Society of America annual meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. USA.

Que Lan

Time flies when you are busy. It has been a very busy year.

Miss Eleanor J. Blitzer is awarded a Hilldale scholarship to conduct an independent research project in the lab. She will be working on a mosquito female specific gene.

Dr. Dave Bowen continues his research in the bacterial toxins. He has been using the insect cell culture systems to study the

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mechanisms of those bacterial toxins. He has also made protein crystals of the toxins so that we can solve the 3-dimensional structures of the toxins.

Mr. Min-Sik Kim is a new graduate student to the lab. He will work on the functional analysis of an insect sterol carrier protein.

Miss Amanda Pitterle is graduating from the Verona High School. She completed her biotechnology training, required by the regional work-based training program. She is going to be a freshman in pre-pharmacies in UW-Madison starting this Fall. She will continue work in the lab as a part-time research assistant.

Miss Irina Vyazunova is going to continue her doctoral training here. The research will focus on the sterol carrier protein gene of *Aedes aegypti*. She will be studying how the gene is regulated during larval and pupal stages.

Ms. Vilena Wessely joined the lab at the beginning of the year as an Assistant Researcher. She is working on cloning stage-specific genes from mosquitoes. She will also study the function of promoters of stage-specific genes.

Ken Raffa

Forest Entomology and Insect Ecology

Since the last newsletter, Shahla Werner has begun a permanent job with the Pennsylvania Dept. of Natural Resources, and is working on a variety of projects, including Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Recent grads Kimberly Wallin and Jaimie Powell are both working in Oregon--Kimberly with

Oregon State Univ.'s Dept. Envir. and Molecular Tox., and Jaimie at Portland St. Univ. Jaimie's position expands in the Fall, when she will start teaching General Biology. Two former lab members achieved tenure this year--Lynne Rieske at Kentucky and Karl Kleiner at York College. Congratulations Shahla, Kimberly, Jaimie, Lynne, and Karl!

My current students include postdoctoral associates Italo Delalibera and Brian Kopper, doctoral students Brian Aukema, Celia Boone, Nichole Broderick, and Shahla Werner, and Master's student Renee Pinski. Two new MS students, Becky Hoffman, a longtime labmate returning from Portland and Alex Kendrick from OSU will be joining us in the Fall. So, our east-west flow remains at about equilibrium. Several undergraduates are doing independent studies: Kristina Hintz, Jacob Frie, Lisa Chan, Colin Attoe, and Ben Burwitz. Our former star lab manager, Sara LaFontaine has rejoined us and is assisting Italo and Lisa with molecular analyses of insect gut microbiota. Brian Aukema won the Western Forest Insect Memorial Fellowship Award; the first time ever by someone outside the region. Nichole Broderick won a P.E.A. award. Congratulations Brian and Nichole--well deserved! We're participating in a number of collaborative projects: Barb Illman, Skeeter Werner and Ed Holsten in Alaska; Don Dahlsten and Nadir Erbilgin in California; Diana Six in Montana; Kier Klepzig in Louisiana; Rick Harrison in New York; Allan Carroll in Victoria, B.C.; Jesse Logan and Barb Bentz in Utah; John Reeve in Southern Ill. Univ.; Bill Mattson in Rhineland; Sandy Liebhold and Kurt Gottschalk in WV; and Jo Handelsman, Murray Clayton, Rick Nordheim and others at UW-Madison.

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I've had a chance to do some fun traveling this year, especially to a meeting in Vienna on bark and wood-boring beetles organized by the European Union. I'm a member of the Norwegian group on conifer defense physiology, and am off to Norway next week--hoping to do some nice biking there. I now have a post for one of my canoes along Lake Mendota, which should make for fun lunch-time outings.

We have a few new toys in the lab. Especially new molecular equipment that Italo uses, my first ever laptop (Mac, of course) and a continuing infestation of new IBM clones to meet lab demands. We've had a number of grant-writing wins and losses on balance enough to keep things moving along--thanks especially to Carol's and Mary's knacks for guiding me through the financial waters.

I just completed my final year of service on the campus Biological Sciences Strategic Planning Committee and have one more to go on the campus Graduate Fellowship Committee. I'm serving as Chair our the Ent. Dept. Academic Affairs Committee which is a lot more fun. And, being on Faculty Senate is a healthy reminder of our place in a much larger university community; membership in which continues to fill me with pride.

Research in our laboratory concentrates on aspects of plant-insect, predator-prey and insect-microbial interactions affecting forest insect population dynamics. Some ongoing studies include tritrophic interactions in the epidemiology and chemical ecology of bark beetle-root beetle-fungal complexes, bacterial symbionts of leaf feeding caterpillars and subcortical beetles, and invasive species affecting forest health.

Outreach program interfaces various state and federal agencies on insect pests and invasive species such as gypsy moth.

My teaching program includes Insects and Disease in Forest Resource Management, Plant-Insect Interactions and Methods of Scientific Presentation. My biggest push in teaching this year has been converting all of my instruction slides to PowerPoint: thanks Janet and Saloni for all your help--it would be impossible to do this without you.

Jeff Wyman

Vegetable Entomology

There have been significant changes in the Vegetable Entomology program since our last newsletter--both happy and sad.

I am sad to say that Betty Chapman passed away in May after a battle with cancer. We will miss Betty who has long been a valued friend and a positive influence for our program. She accomplished great things professionally in an era when little was expected and she has helped pave the way for her contemporaries to achieve their potential. Chip is still living in Verona and continues to provide valuable inputs into our aster yellows research.

This area has expanded greatly in the past two years with the infusion of new federal funding and the leadership of our newest graduate student, Lisa Granadino. This summer two undergraduates, Jessica Turner and Beth Wyman will join the "Carrot Crew" as those efforts expand and even go molecular!

Elsewhere in the lab it has been a transition time with Carlos Granadino (Ph.D.),

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Scott Chapman (Ph.D.) and Chris Capozzi (M.S.) all finishing up in May. Carlos will continue with potato research as a Post Doc while he investigates permanent employment (While Lisa completes her research, of course!). Scott will also stay on and will assume the IR4 and insecticide screening research for our group when Jerry Longridge retires in July. Scott and Carlos have been with the Vegetable Program for a long time and we are indeed fortunate to be able to retain this invaluable knowledge resource. (This may also allow me to play an occasional round of golf before the snow flies!)

Chris Capozzi finished his M.S. working with aphid transmission of viruses to snap beans and is now on his way to West Point to reassume his commission in the Army and teach chemistry. Chris was a good infusion of new talent in the lab and we will miss him.

Chris Perry (“cool guy”) is in his second year as our mite expert working with a new bud mite on peppermint which has been reeking havoc with the mint industry. This is quite a responsibility but Chris works well with growers and has eyes sharp enough to see these critters which are invisible to most of us.

Chris Perry is also the first recipient of the R. Keith Chapman Wisconsin Distinguished Fellowship which is awarded annually to a student in the Vegetable Entomology group. This award which is made possible through the generosity of the Chapman Family and many of our Alumni, is a vital component of the Vegetable Entomology Program which allows us to focus our resources on solving

practical problems facing the industry. We thank the Chapman’s and all of you who have made this dream a reality.

In March of 2003 we also welcomed back a 1970 Chapman Ph.D., Chuck Eckenrode, who came out of retirement in Wyoming to present the first Charles Doane Memorial Lecture in the department. Chuck’s excellent synopsis of the anthomyidae put the research of the Doane’s and many other alumni in perspective and will serve as an excellent inaugural to what we anticipate will become an important annual event for the whole department. Thanks to Winefred Doane who was on hand for the big event, and the whole Doane family who have made this possible.

To end on another positive note, we were delighted to learn recently that our Wisconsin Potato Pest Management Program with Deana Sexson and myself as co-leaders was selected as the recipient of one of the 2003 Department of Agriculture, Secretary’s Honor Awards in the category of Maintaining and Enhancing the Nations Natural Resources and Environment. This award reflects the great work of Deana Sexson but is has also resulted from the hard work and dedication of many people over the past decade and it builds on the foundation established by Veg. Ent. Alumni over the past 50 years. The group of us who are off to Washington DC in June for the festivities includes three growers, the growers association, two environmental groups and three University researchers. This diversity and strong linkage between the vegetable industry, the environment and the research program perfectly reflects the philosophy of our vegetable program in the department and we are proud to carry on this tradition.



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