



THE BUG'S BUZZ

Becky Hoffman (Raffa Lab) is busy these days.

- Engaged 10/29/05
- Attended the annual ESA meeting in Florida and received the President's Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Presentation in her section
- Defended her MS thesis 1/06
- Planning a 7/06 wedding
- Building a new house
- DATCP LTE appointment beginning 2/06 - working on Gypsy Moths

Congratulations, Becky!

There's more to **Tom Dettinger** than just a hammer and nails! For 20 years he and his wife, Tami, have been members of a performing folk dance troupe, Narodno International Dancers. The international folk troupe, 30 years in existence, perform dances with an emphasis on the Balkan region (central and eastern Europe). They rehearse once per week giving eight performances per year, mostly at schools and festivals upon request. Tom's favorite dances are Hungarian, Cajun and Swing. You can check out Tom's website for the dance troupe at <http://plantpath.wisc.edu/~td/mfdu.htm>. Who knew!

Insect Ambassadors are still alive and "wiggling" their way into local schools, clubs, and organizations teaching them about insects and the positive things they do for our environment. **Heidi Kraiss**, Coordinator, reports "The interest in Insect Ambassadors has been steadily increasing as word of our exciting, buggy presentations is shared by satisfied recipients. The Ambassadors have shared the fascinating world of entomology with just over 3,000 people in the last year. Groups requesting presentations have ranged from girl scouts to elementary school science nights and even a school for the blind! The Insect Ambassador's booth at the yearly UW Science Expeditions day on campus is always a big hit, sharing insects

with hundreds of families from around the state. We are enticing a new generation of entomologists! Let's keep up the good work!" More volunteers are always welcome!

Jim Butts said "aloha" on March 1st as he and his wife headed for Hawaii in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to **Alex Kendrick** (Raffa Lab) for successfully completing his M.S. degree.

Kudos to **Mary Domann** for receiving the CALS Classified Staff Award. She will be recognized at a reception on April 26.

Susan Paskewitz spent the week of February 18-25 in Costa Rica on a trip organized by UW Space Place. Entomologically interesting observations included many Morpho butterflies near Carrara National Park, lots of different kinds of bee and wasp nests in trees and around buildings, nasute termites (the ones with the nozzleheads), bullet ants, ant lion doing its tricks with an ant (big hit with the others in the group), many leaf cutter ants, the bullhorn acacia harboring ants, and one big katydid with a dead leaf spot in the middle of the wing. Astronomy and birding were good too, with the resplendent quetzal a highlight of 220 bird species seen on the trip.

Welcome to **Arnaud Costa**, a Ph.D. graduate student in Insect Ecology from Southern Illinois University, who will conduct predator in bark beetle dispersal field work in Wisconsin for the summer in collaboration with Ken Raffa.

Lan will soon be regularly eating Peiking Duck! She's been invited to teach a 1-week summer course at the Zoology Institute of the Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing, P.R. China. How about bringing back some take-out, Lan!?!?

A big **thank you to faculty, staff and students** for their participation in the Vice-Wyman candidate selection process. Russell Groves was the #1 ranked candidate and is currently in negotiations with CALS.

Did you know that over 200 undergraduate and graduate students are registered for Entomology courses this Spring Semester?

Janet Deutsch is 1 of 5 employees recently chosen to receive the 2006 Classified Employee Recognition Award. This award affords her the opportunity to attend an employee development program and to receive a cash award. In addition awardees will be officially honored in *Wisconsin Week* and at an awards ceremony held at the Chancellor's home in April. Salute, Janet!

Friday's **Bugs n' Suds**, Entomology's social event each week, typically draws 15-20 beer drinkers, "winers" and snackers from both faculty and student populations. Good company, good food, good drink...come one, come all!

Our get well wishes go out to **Rick Lindroth** as he continues to recover from neck/spine surgery. The "medicine" from the Department of Entomology is sure to guarantee a speedy recovery, Rick!

Congratulations are extended to **Eileen Cullen** as the recipient of a USDA CSREES Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program - North Central Region - "Decision making tools to accelerate adoption of variant western corn rootworm IPM." Eileen is the Project Director along with Co-PD, Paul Mitchell, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, UW Madison Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

A Little Entomology Trivia:

Which faculty member bears the same name as the following insect species?

Minus the cap, goggles and scarf, the Department of Entomology has its own version of the "Red Baron." **Walt Goodman** recently aced his flying tests and now holds a private pilot's license. Good flying, Walt!

Did you know that **Claudio Gratton** had an article, "Melding Agriculture and Ecology" (and even his picture!), featured in the latest issue of Science Report 2006-2007? Referencing growers' involvement in the scientific process from the start, Claudio states, "We're engaging in conversations rather than taking a top-down approach. We think this will make our scientific studies more relevant and will help growers understand the applications of the work."

An update by Scott Chapman--"The past few months have been filled with numerous meetings and intensive data analysis. The 1st annual Wisconsin Pest Management Center's annual report, a collaborative effort between Scott Chapman (vegetable and field crop entomology), Daniel Heider (vegetable crop weed management) and R. S. Perry (cranberry pest management) was released in February. This spring and summer are expected to be as busy or busier than last year. Many of the chemical and seed company representatives have already come in with trial protocols. One of the key issues facing the potato industry nationwide is dealing with increasing resistance to the nicotiny insecticides. CPB populations remain susceptible in Wisconsin but a couple of populations in Michigan have shown high resistance levels in 2005. The IR-4 studies (15) and my first APHIS project are also underway. All the plot plans will be finished soon and planting will begin next month. I am also looking forward to the hiring of and working with the new vegetable entomologist in the Department."

Entomology Trivia Answer: Phidole jannet (new species) is a member of the *gertrudae* group, easily distinguished in the major from the other two known members (*capitata*, *gertrudae*) by the extensive regurgitulum on the head, transverse carinae on the pronotal dorsum, and lack of any propodeal spine or denicle, with the basal and declivous propodeal faces in side view forming a blunt right angle. Named after the collector and distinguished hymenopterist, Robert L. Jannet!