Expanding Our Graduate Program

With the completion of our faculty hiring, and having 20 Tenure Track faculty in our Department, the plan for the immediate future is to expand our graduate program. We have identified two primary research focal areas for the next five years: (1) Biomedical research and (2) Natural/Agro ecosystems.

Although the number of state-funded staff positions has remained static, the overall number of technical staff has increased due to hiring of grant-funded technical staff by several growing programs. Our success in increasing the number of technical staff is equally matched by our success in graduating and recruiting an increased number of students during the past year. For the first time in the history of our department, we graduated 7 Ph.D. and 2 M.S. graduates in a single academic year. Our faculty has admirably met the challenge of filling resulting graduate student vacancies with the recruitment of 7 new Ph.D. and 5 M.S. students in 2006. Thus, we began the 2006 Fall semester with an enrollment of a total of 39 graduate students, 25 Ph.D. and 14 M.S. students, a historic landmark number for the Department. Room 301B has undergone renovations this past year, providing students with improved individual desk space in Price Hall.

I am very optimistic about our future as our talented and dedicated faculty and staff work cooperatively to guide and support graduate student training. Our five-year goal of having 40 graduate students by 2010 is now likely to be exceeded as we continue to recruit and train highly motivated students, thereby enabling us to provide quality service to the State of Virginia. With a very supportive College Administration, I feel confident that we will be able to meet the goals and expectations of our department.

Significant physical relocations have occurred with regard to faculty offices and labs. Three of our faculty moved from Price Hall to Latham Hall, and two to the Fralin Biotechnology Center during the summer. With the Pesticide Unit in Agnew Hall, the Dodson Urban Laboratory on Glade Road, the Insectary & Greenhouse on Washington Street, and the Quarantine Lab in Prices Fork, we are now physically spread across seven buildings. However, this should not hinder the scholarly contributions and continued growth of our research, teaching and outreach activities.

I would like to turn the spotlight in this newsletter on the Alwood Society, our graduate student club, for being honored for significant outreach contributions with the 2005 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Outreach Award. The recognition plaque and $500 honorarium check will provide incentive for the Alwood Society to continue serving over 1,400 K-12 students visiting the department and campus each year.
On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, I would like to extend a standing invitation to all our alumni/alumnae, emeritus professors, and friends to visit us whenever they are in the area. Last, but by no means least, I extend my personal appreciation and thanks to our very loyal alumni/alumnae and friends who made regular and generous donations to the Department.

L. T. Kok  
Professor and Department Head

**Awards, Honors and Grants**

**Tim McCoy** was awarded the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Employee of the month award for January, 2006.

**Jeff Bloomquist** was awarded the 2006 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Award for Basic Research.

**Ames Herbert** was awarded the 2006 Gamma Sigma Delta Faculty Extension Award of Merit.

**Tom Kuhar** was awarded the 2006 Gamma Sigma Delta Faculty Research Award of Merit.

The James McD. Grayson Scholarship for 2006 was awarded to **Robbie Flowers**.

The Michael J. Kosztarab Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in Systematic Entomology for 2006 was awarded to **Marc Fisher**.

**Dhana Raj Boina** received the David and Lillian Francis Memorial Fellowship for 2006/2007. Raj also received a research grant from the Graduate Student Assembly’s Graduate Research Development Program.

**Nathan Herrick** is the recipient of the 2006 Cunningham Fellowship.

**Daniel Frank** was awarded the 2006 National Garden Club Scholarship.

**Justin Vitullo** was awarded the Florida Entomological Society Scholarship for 2006.

**Nancy Troyano** was awarded the William T. Steele Jr. Graduate Fellowship.

Congratulations to **Chris Bergh** for being granted promotion and tenure to Associate Professor by the University Promotion and Tenure Committee.

Milestones! In April, several of our faculty and staff were recognized for their years of service at Virginia Tech. **Warren Mays** 30 years, **Andy Roberts** 25 years, **Eric Day** 20 years, **Sandra Gabbert** and **Curt Laub** 15 years each, and **Sally Paulson** 10 years. Thanks for your dedication!
Faculty

This past summer Rick Fell co-taught a study abroad course in Ecuador that included a trip to the Galapagos Islands. The course was taught with Drs. Ignacio Moore and Art Buikema in the Biology Department, and involved a spring semester course and then 3 ½ weeks of travel in Ecuador for the first summer session. Travel in Ecuador included trips to the high Andes, visits to biological stations in the cloud forest and Amazon rain forest. The group of 13 students and three faculty members also spent a week in the Galapagos Islands, visiting six of the major islands and several islets.

Andy Roberts spent 10 days in Uganda in June as part of the IPM CRSP Regional IPM Program for East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. There he met with cooperators Greg Luther from the World Vegetable Center in Taiwan and Samuel Kyamanywa and Michael Otim from Makerere University in Kampala. Andy is developing a GIS component to their project which is to investigate biologically based interventions for managing Helicoverpa armigera on tomatoes. In addition, he is working with Ugandans to implement a GIS component to a new insect and disease survey in Arabica coffee in the eastern highlands near the Kenyan border. While in Uganda, Andy divided his time between Kampala (where he attended the National Workshop on Geo-spatial Information and Development held on the Makerere University campus) and Mbale near 14,000+ ft. Mt. Elgon.

Other news from Andy mentions that Daniel Frank, Ph.D. student advised by Chris Bergh, has assumed the GRA provided by the Gypsy Moth Slow The Spread Program. Daniel is working with Mannin Dodd on the GIS portion of the STS information system.

Jeff Bloomquist and Sally Paulson were featured in the “Spotlight on Impact” section of the Virginia Tech website in September/October 2006. The article highlighted some of the cutting-edge research being performed in Latham Hall.

You may view the article at:
http://www.vt.edu/spotlight/20060922_latham.php
Tom Kuhar and wife, Stacey, are enjoying their children growing up on the Eastern Shore. In July the family went on a 10-day Caribbean cruise with 20 other Kuhar clan members. Tom says that it was hard to leave work at such a crucial time during the field season, but the 22 field experiments left behind at the Eastern Shore AREC were well taken care of by four outstanding ladies (technician, Helene Doughty, and grad students, Erin Hitchner, Anna Chapman, and Meredith Cassell). “Maybe I’ll take more vacations now (-;,” he says. In 2006 Dr. Kuhar was awarded the Gamma Sigma Delta (Virginia Tech Agriculture Honor Society) Research Award of Merit for his accomplishments. In addition to his field research, Tom has been busy writing manuscripts, grant proposals, reports, and extension documents, and serving as Senior Entomology Editor for the journal, Plant Health Progress, as well as Subject Editor for Arthropod Management Tests. In his free time, Tom is playing a lot of softball and trying to improve his golf game (when Stacey lets him play). He is submitting his Promotion & Tenure Document this Fall.

VT Entomology’s link to Hollywood! U. S. Coast Guard rescue swimmer Matt Laub (Curt Laub’s nephew) was in the first wave of helicopters over New Orleans the day after Hurricane Katrina hit. In one almost sleepless week he was personally involved in the rescue of more than 350 people from rooftops, attics, and balconies. On the side, he got an acting role and was a technical advisor in ‘The Guardian’, a movie about Coast Guard rescue swimmers. While filming, Matt made a few friends along the way - Kevin Costner, Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore.

In the continuing search for biological control agents of the hemlock woolly adelgid, Ashley Lamb and Tom McAvoy traveled to Japan in late February for two weeks of collecting. Japan is much like home except they drive on the wrong side of the road, not all food is cooked and cars talk to the drivers. Their female car computer gave very polite directions on where to turn and traffic conditions ahead, although their host did not always obey her. Tom and Ashley were guided by a wonderful host, Shigehiko Shiyake. Shiyake is an entomologist with the Osaka Museum of Natural History who discovered a new species of Laricobius (Coleoptera: Derodontidae) about a year ago. This new species is a predator of hemlock woolly adelgid. They visited about 15 sites in the Osaka area. Most of these sites had one to a dozen hemlock trees and were located at temples or shrines. So these sites are old and protected. They were fortunate enough to collect 300 adults of this species. They are now awaiting the emergence of the second generation in the quarantine laboratory to begin host feeding studies.

Ashley also went to China in April to help Chinese collaborators with HWA and predator sampling.
In July, Deborah Carlier and Sally Paulson traveled to Kenya for a field site visit hosted by collaborating partner, John Githure, head of the Human Health Division at the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). The duo made the trek to Mbita on Lake Victoria, where the project’s controlled field trials with candidate insecticides will be conducted under John’s supervision. They also spent time visiting malaria researchers in Kisumu, Mwea, and Kilifi. The trip afforded them the opportunity to cover three of the four malaria epidemiological zones in Kenya. ICIPE researchers are working on various fronts, with the aim to develop new control strategies and tools to break the cycle of malaria transmission. This multidisciplinary project, led by Jeff Bloomquist, is part of the Grand Challenges in Global Health program, spearheaded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and funded by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health. Other Virginia Tech collaborators include Eric Wong from Animal and Poultry Science and Paul Carlier from Chemistry.

For more information about this project please see our website:
http://www.courseware.vt.edu/users/dcarlier/GCGHMalaria/MalariaProject.htm

Doug Pfeiffer traveled to the participating countries in the IPM CRSP (Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program) regional project: Albania, Ukraine and Moldova. For the past several years, this project has focused on olive pests in Albania. The focus now has not only expanded geographically, but has switched to high-value horticulture crops. In May, researchers in the project performed a participatory appraisal, visiting farmers and other stakeholders to determine the pest management problems, and the obstacles to their solution. In addition to Pfeiffer (Site Chair), other American team members were Tony Bratsch (Virginia Tech Horticulture Department), Sally Miller (Ohio State University Plant Pathology), and Milt McGiffen (University of California Weed Science). Host country collaborators were an integral part of the team. Problems related to inadequate pest management information were found, complicated by the economy after the collapse of the centralized system, and the development of a large group of inexperienced farmers in the post-privatization period.
Students

Jessica Thompson went to Malaysia from August 26-September 7. Grace Lim, her fiance Spencer, and Jessica visited around the capital of Kuala Lumpur and the surrounding area for a few days, took a jungle hike, and then went to Pulau Tioman (Tioman Island) for 2 days of snorkeling for Jessica and scuba diving for Grace and Spencer. Jessica then flew to Malaysian Borneo (state of Sabah), where she climbed Mt. Kinabalu, the highest peak in southeast Asia at 4095 meters. She recovered from this at Poring Hot Springs and on Pulau Manukan (Manukan Island) off the coast of Kota Kinabalu, and flew back to Kuala Lumpur on the 5th. The best parts of the trip were the great (and cheap—you’re not going to get a complete Indian meal in the U.S. for about $1.50, that’s for sure) food, and the climb up the mountain.

At the National Conference On Urban Entomology held May 21-24, 2006 in Raleigh, NC, Preston Brown won first place in the Student Oral Competition and Marc Fisher won second place in the Student Oral Competition.

Dhana Raj Boina was married on June 2, 2005. His wife, Suneeta, was unable to come to the U.S. at that time because she was unable to obtain her visa. Luckily, everything was worked out and she joined him here in June 2006.

Dave Mausel and Dick McDonald, Ph.D. ‘90 (aka, the wildman, Dr. Broccoli, bugman) went to Seattle and collected ~3,000 L. nigrinus for classical bio-control of the hemlock woolly adelgid. They particularly liked golf courses because they could successfully land golf carts and get lazy with them. At one point Dick may have had too much coffee and on hole number 9 they met a group of golfers on the path and Dick said without introduction, “we got hailed on around hole no. 12,” then he sped away. We did get hailed on, it was February. The golfers were baffled. Hopefully Dave and Dick will do it again this year.

Devin Grim and Matthew Roller were married on June 17th, 2006 at the River’d Inn in Woodstock, Virginia. Following the wedding, the couple honeymooned in Belize and now reside in Richmond, VA. Contact information: 5264 Whetstone Road, Richmond, VA 23234. Devin is now working as a research specialist in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at VCU and Matthew is a 3rd year dental student.
Erin Hitchner, along with her sister, Tara, also visited Grace Lim in Malaysia this summer. They enjoyed the sight-seeing, visiting with Grace’s family, and even tried durian fruit.

Tim Jordan reports he’s back for the fall semester with nearly one year of research under his belt. He will be busy this fall harvesting and soil sampling but welcomes a change in stride. Tim spent the summer in Blacksburg and did not take any eventful trips outside of town. He did, however, buy a house around Prices Fork with his longtime lady, Mary Kate, and they have been busy with it ever since. Tim and Mary Kate welcomed their first pet to their home on the day they moved in, a beagle named Giacomo, who’s got a real loving character. He came to them by the caring kindness of Nancy Troyano, thanks Nancy! Mary Kate just began her first year in a Ph.D. Psychology program at Virginia Tech and Tim is glad to be sharing the campus with her. Glad to see everyone!

Daniel Frank and Aijun Zhang have been working on the GC-EAD response of female dogwood borer to apple volatiles in Beltsville, MD this summer.

Justin Vitullo has been in South Florida most of the summer monitoring and collecting the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug and doing some microscopy in the lab.

Brian Eisenback married Ashley Dietz on April 30, 2006 at Tuckahoe plantation (Thomas Jefferson’s boyhood home) in Richmond. Ashley is a 4th year student at the vet school. Brian and Ashley honeymooned in Vieques, a small island that is part of Puerto Rico, were they swam in the Bioluminescent Bay, relaxed on the beaches, and even saw a sea turtle while snorkeling.

Congratulations to the following students who completed their degrees this past year:

Roberto Cordero held his Ph.D. defense on October 19, 2005, entitled “Contributions Toward the Integrated Pest Management of Diamondback Moth, Plutella xylostella (L.), on Collards in Virginia”. Roberto is now employed as Senior Entomologist at B & W Quality Growers Inc. in Fellsmere, FL.

Jinghong Kou held her Ph.D. defense on November 18, 2005, entitled “The Neurotoxicity of Insecticides to Striatal Dopaminergic Pathway”. Jinghong Kou took a postdoctoral position with professor Masami Yoshimura of the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
Charles Hannum held his MSLFS defense on February 3, 2006, which was entitled “Pest Ant Response to a Non-repellent Spray Formulation Insecticide (Fipronil 0.06%)”. Charles is now working with Dr. Brent Opell in Biological Sciences following his lifelong dream of making money by studying spiders. Specifically he is performing taxonomic and systematic identification of spiders that nest on the coastline of New Zealand using both traditional and molecular techniques.

Scott Longing held his Ph.D. defense April 7, 2006, entitled “Ecological Studies on Benthic Macroinvertebrates for Determining Sedimentation Impacts in Chattahoochee National Forest Streams”. Scott is now working as a Research Assistant with the Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR.

Robbie Flowers held his Ph.D. defense on April 10, 2006, entitled “Competition and Compatibility Among Two Specialists and a Generalist Predator of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Adelges tsugae (Hemiptera: Adelgidae)”. After a very short stay in Athens, GA, Robbie has now moved to Salem, OR and is working as the State Forest Entomologist for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Vonny Barlow held his Ph.D. defense on April 13, 2006, which was entitled “Use of the Egg Parasitoid Wasp, Trichogramma ostriniae (Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae) as a Biological Control Agent of the European Corn Borer, Ostrinia nubilalis (Lepidoptera: Crambidae): An Approach to Integrated Pest Management in Bell Pepper”.

Marc Fisher held his Ph.D. defense on April 25, 2006, entitled “Comparison of Subterranean Termite (Rhinotermitidae: Reticulitermes) Gut Bacterial Diversity Within and Between Colonies and to Other Termite Species Using Molecular Techniques (ARDRA and 16S rRNA Gene Sequencing)”. Marc accepted a position as Product Technology Specialist for Dow AgroSciences for the East Coast. His territory spans from Maine to South Carolina. Basically, Marc is the field biologist and is charged with performing and analyzing the field experiments for DAS in this region.

Therese Schooley held her MSLFS defense on May 4, 2006, entitled “Historical Use of Lead Arsenate and Soil Residues in Former Apple Orchards in Virginia”. Therese is now living in Augusta County raising her son.

The W. B. Alwood Society has been quite busy this year. In April, Devin Grim, Justin Vitullo and David Moore traveled to Martinsville to set up displays at the 1st Annual Bug Daze, sponsored by the Virginia Museum of Natural History. They answered many questions about insects and sold chocolate covered crickets.
Also in April, the Alwood Society participated in the Agricultural Discovery Days at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena. They presented dead and live insects to kindergartners and 1st graders.

In August, they had a booth at Steppin’ Out. Lots of students volunteered to help sell honey for the society. It was the sweetest booth at the entire festival. Thanks to Dr. Fell and Lisa Burley for the honey donation.

In September, the Alwood Society presented displays and live insects to approximately 500 4th grade students and teachers from Pulaski, Giles, and Floyd counties at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena.

Our students are really becoming active in the intramurals. In the Spring, the inner tube water polo team wreaked havoc on the other teams. For fall, the volleyball team and the flag football team (aka “The Legion of Doom”) are terrorizing their opponents.

**New Students**

We have TEN new students joining our program this fall.

**Nancy Adamson** (Ph.D.) has a background in native plant ecology and ecological restoration. She comes to Virginia Tech from Frederick, Maryland, where she worked as Horticulturalist and Master Gardener Coordinator for the Cooperative Extension. As Education Coordinator and Nursery Manager at a native plant arboretum on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, she started a local ecotype propagation program. She also worked for the Natural Heritage Program and Chesapeake Natives as a field botanist. She loves teaching people about connections between themselves and the natural communities we live in. Another interest of hers is cross-cultural education and she has led students on an agro-ecology course in Costa Rica and worked as a volunteer in Guatemala and Tunisia. Nancy will be working with Rick Fell and Don Mullins.
Hamilton Allen (MSLFS) is a new student in the Urban Pest Management program. Hamilton’s research focuses on evaluating the spread of the Red Imported Fire ant in Virginia and potential control methods. Hamilton is very involved in student activities, both at Virginia Tech and at his alma mater, Norfolk State. Hamilton is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, established in 1911. Omega Psi Phi is a postgraduate service fraternity dedicated to scholarship and social action programs.

Shana Beirne (MSLFS) from Roanoke, received her B.S. in Biology from Virginia Commonwealth University. Shana will be co-advised by Doug Pfeiffer and Rick Fell.

Meredith Cassell (MSLFS) is from Poquoson Virginia and received her B.S. in Biology from Virginia Tech in 2003. She played two years on the women’s varsity soccer team while obtaining her degree. Meredith spent this past summer at the Eastern Shore AREC working on her Master’s project in the Management of Bean Leaf Beetles in Snap Beans. She is co-advised by Tom Kuhar and Pete Schultz.

Serena Ciparis (Ph.D.) from New York, received her B.S. in Biology from Virginia Tech and her M.S. in Biology from College of William and Mary. Serena will be working with Reese Voshell.

Tiffany Gross (MSLFS) from Fredericksburg, VA, received her B.S. in Biological Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech. She will be working with Zach Adelman.

Nathan Herrick (Ph.D.) is from Syracuse, NY. Nathan comes to us from USDA-ARS-CMAVE-CBC, Tallahassee, FL. He has a M.S. in Agricultural Science (emphasis: entomology/biological control) from Florida A&M University and a B.S. in Zoology from the State University of New York at Oswego. Nathan will be working for Scott Salom and Loke Kok on biological control of Ailanthus altissima, Tree-of-Heaven.

Elaine Morazzani (Ph.D.) from Vienna, VA., received her B.S. in Biology from Virginia Tech. Elaine joined us as part of the Vector-Borne Disease Graduate Rotation Program. She will be working with Kevin Myles.

Brenna Traver (Ph.D.) from Bethlehem, CT., received a B.S. in Biology and a B.S. in Biochemistry from Eastern Connecticut State University. Brenna is also a part of the Vector-Borne Disease Graduate Rotation Program and will be working with Zach Adelman.

Tara Willey (MSLFS) from Washington, DC., received her B.S. in Environmental Science and Engineering from Virginia Tech. Tara will be working with Reese Voshell.
**Staff**

**Eric Day** and The Insect Identification Lab moved to a great new space just down the hall and is now located in the old Bloomquist/Eaton lab. Room 205A is much larger and gives more space for processing field samples as well as a place to clean and store the various insect traps. The lab got a lot of help from the kids this year, Inga Schultz, daughter of Peter Schultz started her 3rd year working part time between her classes and Ryan Mays, son of Warren Mays, returned for a second summer. Both of them took care of a great deal of processing, mailing, data-base work, and identifications which made for a smooth running lab. Amanda Koppel, a graduate student in our Department, interned in the lab and worked through a formidable pile of tough samples with nary a complaint.

![](image1)

![](image2)

**Susan Nessler** reports her family news this year centers around the kids, as usual. Graham (24), a history graduate student at University of Michigan, spent a month in Spain doing research at an archives in Valladolid. He also studied Haitian Creole in Miami for a month. Reed (21), a rising fourth-year student at University of Virginia, spent seven weeks traveling in India. Laura (18), a recent high school graduate, spent three weeks in Richmond at a play writing workshop. She will attend the University of British Columbia (Vancouver) in the fall.

**Holly Gatton** has moved to LaPlata, MD. She is still working for Mike Weaver as Project Manager of the Virginia Component of the Southern IPM Center. Holly married to Brian Yohn on Saturday, October 28. Ashley Lamb was the Maid of Honor.

In December, **Scotty Bolling** portrayed one of the three wisemen for a live nativity at his church, Community Christian in McCoy.

![](image3)

**Brian and Holly**

![](image4)

“**Tinker, did you eat my frankincense?**”

**Artist**

**Naomi Benn**

"**Farmer Hokie**"

**Naomi Benn**
Lane Tabor Kreitlow has accepted a new position as Entomological Program Specialist for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. She will be working on several regulatory programs, including those dealing with the gypsy moth, boll weevil, imported fire ant, blueberry maggot, and sweet potato weevil. Lane is still figuring out the details but basically, she is working as an Entomologist in the Plant Industry division, stationed in downtown Raleigh; so that is really cool. The commute is 10 miles closer than her job at Bayer.

Lois Swoboda has relocated to her former home in Apalachicola, Florida, to set up a pest management business, leaving her position as state black fly control coordinator in West Virginia. She is an Adjunct Faculty member at West Virginia State University, and is also affiliated with the West Virginia Odonata survey and the West Virginia Master Naturalist program.

Averett S. Tombes says he sincerely appreciates the transition provided him by Dr. Grayson and the faculty in 1954-6 between his undergraduate years at University of Richmond and his Ph.D. at Rutgers University. In 1998, he retired as Professor of Biology and Vice President for Research and Economic Development at New Mexico State University and moved back to Northern Virginia where he has been consulting for a few colleges, universities, and research organizations. Averett is very proud of the tremendous growth of the department as well as that of the university.

Ray Layton (MS 1985, Ph.D. 1989) is currently a research fellow in the regulatory sciences group at Pioneer Hi-Bred International in Iowa. He leads the global product safety group that provides the human health and environmental risk assessments for transgenic crops such as corn, soybeans, etc. His son, Christopher, is at University Chicago Law School, daughter, Lauren, is teaching middle school science in Utah (including an entomology section), son, Jordan, is just coming home from serving a mission for the LDS church in Portugal and headed off to BYU to study music, son, Taylor, is in High School and full of teenage angst, and wife, Cozanne, is figuring that an empty nest may not be so bad.

Dan Hilburn continues to serve as the Administrator of the Plant Division for the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Excluding harmful invasive species, including gypsy moth and Japanese beetle, is a major focus. Dan also serves on the Oregon State Weed Board and will chair the Oregon Invasive Species Council in 2007. He lives in Salem with his wife, Lucy. Their daughters are both attending Oregon State University.

Chris Fettig (M.S. 1996) was honored with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). This is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers. Awards are conferred by the President at the White House to the finest scientists and engineers who, while early in their research careers, show exceptional potential for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge during the 21st century.

Gabriella Zilahi Balogh (Ph.D. 2001), has taken a new position with Canadian Food Inspection Agency, 1905 Kent Rd. Kelowna, BC V1Y 7S6 CANADA. Email gzilahib@alumni.sfu.ca.

Mary Rhoades is off to New Zealand the end of October for a nine day tour of the south island. She also will be flying to Florida with her children for a short stay at Christmastime. Yes, she is still enjoying living near Claytor Lake. Her main activities are playing with the Blacksburg Community Band and a recorder group, and hiking with a group of retired people and with friends.
New Entomologists!

This has been the year for population growth among Virginia Tech Entomology.

Ksenia Tcheslavskaiagave birth November 23, 2005 to her baby boy, Andrei Alexey Onufriev.

Marc Fisher and wife, Sarah, welcomed the arrival of their new daughter, Liriel Mercedes, in January 2006.

In February, Kevin Myles and wife, Niki, welcomed a new addition to their family, Joseph Patrick.

Geoff Preston and wife, Samantha, welcomed their baby girl, Elise Charlotte, on March 22, 2006.

Jinghong Kou gave birth on May 6, 2006 to her baby girl, Shuyi Zhang, which means “do her best to be wise, smart and strong”.

Shicai Yan and wife, Suming Jin, welcomed their new baby girl, Jing Jenny Yan, on June 4, 2006.

Scotty Bolling became a grandpa for the third time with the birth of Cassidy Diane on June 15, 2006. Cassidy is the baby girl of Scotty’s daughter and son-in-law, Tracy and Jason Price.

Ai Xia had a baby boy on August 8, 2006 named Max Dou.

Sarah Saterlee and James Maxted welcomed their new addition, Vanessa Chloe, on August 31, 2006.
The Hokie Birds you see throughout this newsletter are just a few from the Gobble de Art project, which is sponsored by The Blacksburg Partnership. The purpose of the project is to increase awareness and interest in Blacksburg and to bring attention to the visual arts. The Hokie Birds will soon be auctioned off and placed in a permanent home. Proceeds generated by the project will fund The Blacksburg Partnership’s efforts to enhance the quality of life in Blacksburg and surrounding communities and to add to the current attractive tourism and retirement destination.

For further details, locations, and a gallery of all the Hokie Birds, you may visit the Gobble de Art website at http://gobbledeart.com/.

Thanks to Denise Dodd for providing photographs of the Hokie Birds!

A special thanks for Eric Day for his input on the name of this newsletter, “The News Bee”. Thanks to everyone who submitted ideas for a name.