

NEWSLETTER

Executive Committee

President Mike Roe

Vice-President Ed Vargo

Secretary Dawn Calibeo-Hayes

Treasurer Mark Abney

Committee Chairs

Auditing Nolan Newton

Awards Ron Stinner

Banquet Local Arrangements
Ed Vargo

Teacher Awards John Meyer

Nominating Dave Stephan

Outreach Lisa Jackson

Photography Andy Deans

Website/Publications
Steve Toth

Newsletter D. Calibeo-Hayes

Historian Steve Toth

Membership Mike Roe

Dr. Ron Stinner named Entomologist of the Year



The 2007 North Carolina Entomological Society annual business meeting and banquet was a huge success. Eighty-five members and guests gathered at the E. Carroll Joyner Visitor Center for the memorable event.

The evening started off with a poster competition and social hour. Afterwards a fantastic dinner was served while guests enjoyed one another's company and discussed the images from the insect photography contest that were presented on screens during the meal.

After dinner the group was welcomed by the society's president, Woody Bailey who presented the 2007 NCES awards. The 2007 awards for outstanding elementary/secondary school teachers were presented to Iris Mudd of Winston-Salem, NC and Lisa Wishart of Broadway, NC. The outstanding graduate student award was presented to Ph.D. candidate Matt Bertone of North Carolina State University.

The 2007 award for outstanding contribution to entomology award was presented to Dr. Ron Stinner, director of the IPM Center in Raleigh, NC. Dr. Stinner was also the F. R. Lawson Memorial Lecturer. He presented a talk on world travels undertaken during his career titled, *Confessions of a Recovering Entomologist: Slides and Stories from Around the World*.

After the talk, the tallies were in from the judges of the photography and poster competitions. There was a tie for best adult Lepidoptera photographs between Ignacio Baez's photo *Exploring Red* and John Meyer's photo *Buckeye in the Morning*.

See Banquet pg 3

Newsletter: Call for submissions

Got News?

This is **your** newsletter.
Like what you see? Let us know.
Have a suggestion? Let us know.
Please send your submissions on

Research
Events
People in the News
Awards
Trivia

to Dawn Calibeo-Hayes, Secretary
North Carolina Entomological Society
BASF 26 Davis Drive,
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
dawn.calibeo-hayes@basf.com

Membership Drive Renew Your Membership Now!

If you have not renewed your membership for 2008, what are you waiting for?

DO IT NOW!

See the North Carolina Entomology Society webpage <http://cipm.ncsu.edu/ent/ncentsoc> for membership information.

New Rates for 2008!

Student	\$10
Regular	\$20
Lifetime	\$200

New Educational Resource from Entomological Foundation

The Entomological Foundation announces a new program, which provides you with electronic access to quality entomology educational materials and resources.

The EntDigital Library provides easy one-stop access to the best entomology teaching materials available for educators working with undergraduate and graduate science and non-science students. You can access these materials from <http://www.entlibrary.org/> currently; there are approximately 150 materials and resources in the Library. Our goal is to include at least 400 materials by 2009. Your help is needed to make this program a success.

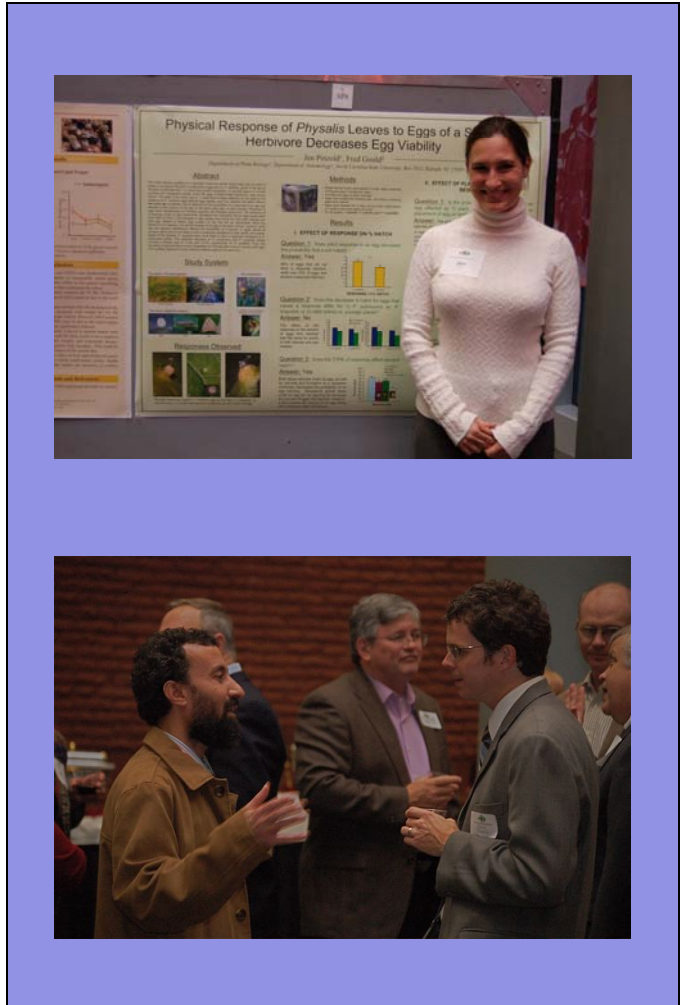
The Entomological Foundation would like to ask for your help in nominating a resource for the Library. To nominate a resource go to [<http://www.entlibrary.org/user/register.cfm>](http://www.entlibrary.org/user/register.cfm) once at the site, you will need to register. Once registered, you can nominate a resource. We are seeking educational materials and resources on the following disciplines: Cultural & Historical Entomology/Bioethics; Forensics, Medical & Veterinary Entomology; Behavior, Ecology, Evolution, Biodiversity; Molecular/Physiology, Toxicology Entomology & Genetics; Morphology, Systematics, and Taxonomy; and Pest Management.

This program is a component of the Biological Sciences Education Network Collaborative Biological Digital Library (BEN project). Funding is provided by the American Association for the Advance of Science. The Entomological Foundation is working in partnership with North Carolina State University, Clemson University, and Iowa State University to create the Library. For questions concerning the submission process, please contact April Gower, Entomological Foundation, (301) 459-9083 or April@entfdn.org

Banquet, from pg. 1

There was also a tie for best adult insect/arthropod photograph between the photograph *Salticid* by Susan Ellis and *Orchid Mantis Flex* by Paul Wagner. Wagner additionally took home a number of awards for his photographs including most unusual/extreme close-up for his photograph entitled *Fruitfly Luvin'*, best immature insect entitled *Tobacco Hornworm*, and best in show for his photo entitled *Orchid Mantis Flex*.

The winners of the poster competition were Jennifer Petzold in 1st place, Matt Bertone in 2nd place, and Brooke Witting in 3rd place. The evening drew to a close with the society's business meeting and the election of the 2007-2008 officers. Woody Bailey passed the gavel to the new society president, Michael Roe. Ed Vargo was chosen to serve as vice president, Dawn Calibeo-Hayes as Secretary, Mark Abney as Treasurer, and Steve Toth as Historian. All in all the 2007 NCES annual meeting and banquet was a wonderful



Photos from the Annual Meeting and Banquet



Message from the President

On the behalf of the North Carolina Entomological Society, I want to thank the membership for their outstanding support of our 2007 outreach program including an expanded involvement in Bugfest and one of our most successful annual poster meetings and banquets in the history of the society. At the annual meeting, which met for the first time at the North Carolina State University Joyner Visitor Center, we had over 20 poster submissions, over 85 members and guests in attendance, a great F.R. Lawson Memorial Lecture by Dr. Ron Stinner on the subject *Confessions of a Recovering Entomologist*, and an impressive Insect Photography Contest.

The membership thanks all of the working committees in 2007 for an excellent job, well done. In addition, our activities were successful in attracting three industry sponsors to our society to help support our student travel fund. Last year we had several new initiatives which contributed to our success which you may have noticed. These included collecting dues at the beginning of the calendar year, an active and successful membership drive with a special effort to attract members from industry, government and the general public, the development of a society newsletter, searching for new and exciting venues for our banquet, expanding our scientific poster meeting, increasing sponsorships of our outreach activities, and having a pre-registration process for our annual meeting.

In 2008, we want to build on our success and at the same time try to address some of the challenges we are facing as a growing society and with the increasing costs to conduct the activities of our group. We also have a goal of providing more service to the general public

that are interested in our discipline, providing greater relevance to the needs of our membership, advancing the science of entomology and promoting entomological education. This effort includes widening our membership throughout the state.

The members at the 2007 business meeting approved a 100% increase in our society dues to assist with increased costs. We were also challenged to find better and more cost effective ways to conduct society activities. We will do our best to honor this request. At the same time, we very much want to do more to serve our discipline in North Carolina. We can not achieve these goals without your help.

As president and on behalf of the executive committee, we would greatly appreciate your comments and suggestions as we move forward in 2008. We also appreciate all of the volunteers and welcome your continued contributions. You can contact me at Michael_roe@ncsu.edu.

Did You Know?

In June 2006, an emergence of mayflies from the Mississippi River in LaCrosse, Wisconsin was dense enough to be detected by Doppler radar.

Mayflies are an ecological indicator. They only pick healthy rivers as habitat.

Meet Dr. Vonny Barlow

Dr. Vonny Barlow is just beginning his second year as a post-doctoral research associate for Dr. Jim Walgenbach at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center. The center is located in Fletcher, North Carolina which is 251 miles from the main campus in Raleigh.

He is a native of San Jose California and began his entomology career with a B. Sc. from San Jose State University with a concentration in entomology. While at San Jose State he worked as an entomology assistant to Dr. David L. Wood at the University of California at Berkeley. His work explored the potential of bark beetles as vectors of the pitch canker fungus. This was followed by a M. Sc. in Plant Protection & Pest Management from the University of California at Davis where he worked on the thesis topic "Effects of Monocot and Dicot Spring Weeds on the Population Dynamics of the Western Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus hesperus* Knight): Implications for Integrated Insect/Weed pest Management in the Alfalfa Hay Cropping System".

From there he went on to the University of Wyoming where he concentrated on biological control of the adventive weedy plant, *Euphorbia esula* L. (leafy spurge). In 2006, a transfer to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) led to a Ph.D. in Entomology. His dissertation topic, under the advisement of Dr. Tom Kuhar, was "Use of the egg parasitoid wasp, *Trichogramma ostriniae* (Hymenoptera:Trichogrammatidae) as a biological control agent of the invasive European corn borer, *Ostrinia nubilalis* (Lepidoptera: Crambidae): An approach to integrated pest management in bell pepper".

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Not a member of the North Carolina Entomological Society?
Visit our website
<http://cipm.ncsu.edu/ent/ncentsoc>
to learn how to join.

Teacher spotlight:
Q & A: Dr. Andy Deans
By Ana R. Cabrera

Dr. Andy Deans has recently joined the Department of Entomology at NC State as the new Insect Systematics professor. His entomological training started at the University of Arkansas where he got his Masters degree and continued later on at the University of Illinois where he obtained his Ph.D.

At NC State, his research interests are mainly on parasitic Hymenoptera. With one Insect Systematics class down last semester, many more to go, he looks forward to building a solid professional career in NC State. He kindly answered our questions and here is a thing or two you didn't know about Dr. Deans.

1. Favorite insect scientific name?

Off the top of my head I would say *Oozetetes*, which is a genus of eupelmid wasp (Chalcidoidea: Eupemidae). The name is euphonious, and at least one species (*O. nyctiboraphagus*) eats cockroach eggs – so they have fascinating life histories as well!

2. If fleas are not derived from flies, where do they come from?

The latest evidence reveals that they are mecopterans, sister to the snow fleas

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Student Spotlight: Elsa Youngsteadt



Roaming from the Peruvian Amazon to the urban jungle of DC, Elsa Youngsteadt can't seem to stay put at NC State, where she's a fifth year PhD student in the lab of Coby Schal. A native of Missouri, Elsa came to State via Milwaukee, where she worked in the Lepidoptera collection of the Milwaukee Public Museum and earned a master's degree in biology. In Wisconsin, she discovered that the carnivorous butterfly caterpillar, *Feniseca tarquinius*, relies on chemical camouflage to stay safe from ants, which normally defend the aphids that the caterpillar eats. The results sparked an interest in chemical ecology, and Elsa came to Dr. Schal's lab in 2003 to learn more about how it's really done.

The Amazon part of the story began the following year, with her first field trip to Madre de Dios, Peru, to find out why certain ants grow gardens. The ants, mainly *Camponotus femoratus*, build earthen nests on branches and vines, then collect seeds of specific plants and embed them in the nest walls, where the plants grow and turn the nests into hanging gardens. The plants don't thrive outside the ant nests, and the nests would fall apart without the plants. Seduced by this natural history story and dreams of tropical adventure, Elsa wanted to know more about how the ants recognize the specific seeds they collect. After three field trips to the jungle, and lots of help in the lab, she and her collaborators have identified seed odors that attract the ants, found that other ants don't like the seeds at all, and discovered that several different seed species use different signals to recruit the same ants. The first scientific paper based on the project was published in PNAS in January.

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Dr. Vonny Barlow

The work that he performed was an essential part of an overall IPM program in bell pepper to reduce damage done by the European corn borer. His findings have shown that four to six inundative releases of the egg parasitoid *T. ostriniae* wasps into bell pepper fields can reduce damage by as much as $\approx 50\%$ and is more effective at controlling *O. nubilalis* populations in pepper than some currently used insecticides. Vonny states that "this gives me great hope that with careful implementation of inundative releases of the *T. ostriniae* egg-parasitoid with selected "bio-rational" insecticides that we can raise the level of control of *O. nubilalis* even further".

To date, Vonny has published 11 papers with several in "the works" along with over 27 research reports and has given more than 43 professional presentations. Vonny has been active in undergraduate teaching and mentoring and is currently a graduate mentor for a graduate student at Western Carolina University. Vonny's current research work is addressing the impact of mating disruption on a key pest of apples, the codling moth as well as natural enemy assemblages in eastern apple orchards. "Our findings are showing that mating disruption and the use of reduced-risk insecticides are actually helping to conserve natural enemy assemblages".

But after a year or two in the doctoral program, the lab work was at a bit of a low point and Elsa suddenly remembered some counsel from a molecular biology professor back in Milwaukee: "Have you ever thought of science writing?" he had asked. "Your labs never work, but your reports are fabulous." At the time, she dismissed the notion, but suddenly it seemed wise. She headed to the office of *Technician*, NC State's student newspaper, for which she ultimately wrote more than 30 articles, mostly for the Science and Tech section. With those clips in hand, she landed a few freelance gigs with *American Scientist*, *The Scientist*, the *Raleigh News and Observer*, ScienceNOW daily news and NC State News Services. In 2007, she received an AAAS mass media fellowship, which sent her to Columbus, Ohio, for two months to report science news at an NPR member station. Yes, she was on the radio, and had a great time! After only four months back in NC, she packed up again when *Science* magazine picked her for a six month internship in its news department. She currently resides in a bedbug-infested medium-crime neighborhood of the capital, writes and learns about a lot of captivating science, and occasionally longs for the more forgiving pace of life farther south. (Fortunately, some of the bedbugs will at least come in handy for a new project starting in the Schal lab.)

When she's not writing something for *Science* or



working on her dissertation, Elsa is either training for a marathon, climbing rocks, volunteering on an organic farm or riding a motorbike named Louise. She'll return to NC in June and might even graduate at the end of the summer, after which she hopes to occupy herself with some combination of science, writing, sustainable agriculture, and cities smaller than DC.

(Boreidae) (see Whiting, M.F. 2002). Mecoptera is paraphyletic: multiple genes and phylogeny of Mecoptera and Siphonaptera (Zoologica Scripta 31(1): 93-104). Some people are withholding judgment, but I think more people are accepting this placement. There is also some fossil evidence that can be interpreted as supporting evidence.

3. Place and year when you decided to become an entomologist?

New Mexico, 1996. I was working on the parasites of bats (bat flies, fleas, tapeworms, roundworms, etc.) I decided I was more interested in what the bats were eating, rather than what was eating them.

4. Have you ever eaten a bug?

Not to my knowledge, but I am definitely intrigued. Perhaps if I go to Thailand some day I will indulge in entomological delights. I imagine that I could comfortably consume anything crunchy or fried. I don't know if I could take in a Witchetty grub (Lepidoptera: Cossidae), as the thought of that thing bursting in my mouth like a Chewels gives me the willies.

5. What would be one of the strangest insect behaviors?

I don't know that any insect behaviors are particularly *strange* to me. One of my favorite behaviors, though is phoresy. If I have to anthropomorphosize it - there's something kind of quaint, almost altruistic about a beetle giving a pseudoscorpion a ride to the next pile of leaves. It's just fun to witness.

6. Do termites deserve their own Order?

Not in my opinion. I think Dictyoptera does

just fine as an order that includes mantids, cockroaches, and termites. I don't feel that a taxon's rank has much bearing on the way I teach Insect Systematics or the way I carry out my research.

7. What is one of the coolest facts about the insect world?

I find the sheer diversity of Insecta to be the most fascinating aspect of their biology. That magnitude – and we're talking species numbers in the *millions* – boggles the mind. Well, it boggles my mind at least, especially since I started my research in Mammalia, which has species numbers closer to 5,000.

8. What insect would you least like to work with?

I love cockroaches and find myself more and more driven to engage in research that improves our understanding of their evolution. That said, I find that the most repulsive insect is the Madeira cockroach (Blaberidae: *Rhyparobia maderae*); it produces one of the foulest, most disagreeable, and longest lasting stench of any insect.

9. Piece of advice to an aspiring entomologist:

Remain engaged. That is, keep up your communication with colleagues, read the latest literature, and be willing to adopt new strategies and technologies to address your research questions.

10. If you could name an insect Order, Family or species, what would it be?

What would the name be? I have no idea. Maybe Familiidae or Orderoptera. I'm not terribly creative, I'm afraid.