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## Family is at the Heart of an 85-Year Tradition of Purdue Pest Management Education and Networking

NANCY ALEXANDER, PURDUE AGCOMM <https://ag.purdue.edu/news/2022/09/family-is-at-the-heart-of-an-85-year-tradition-of-purdue-pest-management-education-and-networking.html>

While pest control dates to nearly the beginning of agriculture, in the early decades of the 1900s pesticides were still only sometimes effective and more often hazardous.

"In Grandfather's time, operators mixed their own concoctions," says Robert (Bob) Dold, whose family business, Chicago-based [Rose Pest Solutions](#), dates to 1860, making it the oldest pest management firm in the country.

His grandfather, the late C. Norman Dold, was national general manager of the company and instrumental in launching Purdue's first [Pest Management Conference](#) in January 1937.

His participation marked the start of the Dold family's eight-decade commitment to the Purdue conference and to advancing their industry. His son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Judy Dold and their son Bob have maintained the family's tradition of support.

"The long-standing service of the Dold family to the pest management

industry and engagement with the Purdue Pest Management Conference is truly remarkable," says Cate Hill, interim department head and professor of entomology.

In a tight-knit and rapidly evolving industry, meeting in person was especially important in the pre-digital years, Judy Dold points out. Relationships among industry leaders had led to establishment of the National Association of Exterminators and Fumigators in 1933. C. Norman Dold was its third president, in 1935-1936.

A 1936 address by J.J. Davis, head of the Department of Entomology at Purdue, to the association's convention in Cleveland laid the groundwork for the university's first conference. Planners expected 10 to 15 participants the following January; 78 registrants came from 14 states. Attendance would grow to more than 1,200 over the years.

By the time Robert Dold served as the organization's president in 1982-1983, and Judy Dold followed in 2001-2002, its name had been changed to the National Pest Management Association. Today the NPMA's 5,000 members continue to support the pest management industry's commitment to protect public health, food and property.



The first group photo of the Purdue Pest Management Conference, taken in 1937.

The Purdue conference has been integral to that effort. It was built around entomology, rather than business practices, and Davis was “an icon in the industry,” Bob Dold says. “Purdue became the nexus because of the students the department produced.”

Many attendees depended on the conference to stay current in their field. “This was their time to learn about new techniques and new materials and to talk to scientists,” Robert Dold says. “This is what made them professionals. Many of them did not attend college, and this was a chance for them to go to Purdue University.”

“The conference was set up in an age of limited communication for the small operators to learn the newest and the best,” Judy Dold adds. “The one-man operator who might be the only technician while his wife did the books and answered the phone was hungry for information. At the conference, he could rub elbows with industry leaders he’d heard about.”

The meeting helped pave the way for a professional pest management industry, the Dold family agrees. It promoted continuing education, standardized operating practices and facilitated mentoring of newcomers to the industry.

As other universities launched their own conferences based on the Purdue model, operators could gain this information closer to home, or later, in online classes. But for many years, Purdue was the only such gathering, and it remains highly regarded as an important hub of information.

It has continued to grow and evolve, as have conferences, workshops and other educational meetings nationally and worldwide. The Purdue event offers expertise that helps the attendees do their jobs better. It also has become a vehicle for pest management professionals and suppliers to provide thousands of dollars in scholarship support that encourages entomology students to enter the industry.

“Others copied the Purdue model because of their vision,” says Barry Pittendrigh, Osmun Endowed Chair in Urban Entomology and director of the Center for Urban and Industrial Pest Management. “By engaging industry leaders like the Dolds, the conference remains well-placed to continue ongoing leadership in the field and to work with Purdue as it continues to preparing current and future professionals in this industry.”

Norman Dold attended the conference from 1937 until his death in 1965, His son Robert has logged 55 years and is the meeting’s longest attending member. “Mom and I pale by comparison, but we have a pretty good string,” Bob Dold says.



Robert, Bob, and Judy Dold in the audience during Opening Ceremonies at the Purdue Pest Management Conference. Photo: Tom Myers

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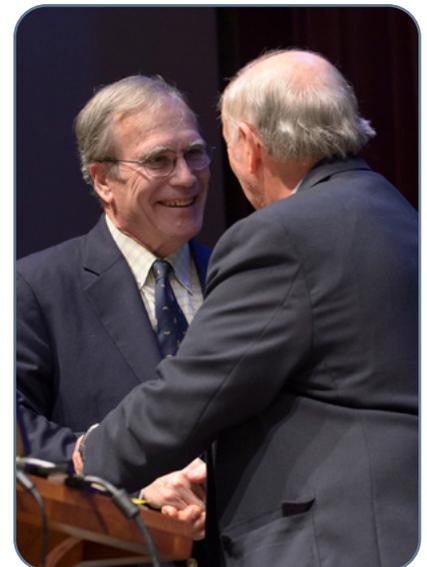
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Service is a Dold family tradition: Bob Dold is a former two-time U.S. representative from Illinois’s 10th congressional district. “But the story’s not so much about the family’s commitment to the conference,” he says. “It’s really about the industry’s commitment, and we’re a part of the industry, so we reflect that.”

In contrast to his grandfather’s era, “today we’re all using the same materials and following the same labels,” he says. “We are highly educated professionals protecting public health and the food supply. We’re very proud of our industry.”

“Purdue entomology is keen to continue our engagement with industry leaders, such as the Dold family, to serve an ever-changing industry and help train those students and scientists that will lead the industry of tomorrow in the delivery of pest management solutions for society,” Hill says.



Former Urban Center Director, Gary Bennett, congratulates Robert Dold on 50 years of conference attendance in 2013.

# From the Head Bug Purdue Entomology Alumnus Magazine, Fall 2022

As we approach the holidays, I'm re-reading some Charles Dickens, which I do at this time of year to banish the "Bah-humbug!" (please humor me - I had to!) and remind myself of what is most important - the people that make up our lives. On that note, I am delighted to share news of the department and especially, to celebrate the many achievements of our staff, students, faculty, and alumni in 2022.

Since my last communication, the department has continued its growth. This fall, we welcomed new staff members Taylor Nelson, Instruction Specialist, Preston Wiley, IT Specialist and Rob Brunner, Exotic Forest Pest Specialist, Phurchhoki Sherpa, Public Health Medical Entomology Program Coordinator, and Alicia Tovar, Research Assistant. We have a search underway for the next Entomology Outreach Coordinator and anticipate searches for an Insect Diagnostician and the O. Wayne Rollins Orkin Endowed Chair in urban entomology in 2023.



Purdue Entomology has much to celebrate this academic year. At our annual Holiday Gathering, we recognized Ms. Tammy Luck, the 2022 Outstanding Service Award winner for her many years of

exceptional service to Purdue Entomology. We also recognized our Outstanding Ph.D. student, Olivia Gerner (Major Advisor: Aaron Smith) and Outstanding M.S. student, Lilac Hong (Major Advisor: Elizabeth Long). Other student awards included the Virginia Ferris Memorial Endowment 2022-2023 award to Hannah Kernen, Elanco Animal Health Graduate Student Travel awards to Lilac Hong, Garrett Slater, Thor Hansen, Teomie Rivera-Miranda and James Abendroth and department travel awards to Makani Fisher, Lide Bi, David Stanford-Beale and Riley Shultz. Congratulations to all awardees and thank you to our alumni and donors whose generous support ensures an exceptional educational experience for our students by facilitating attendance of professional meetings and workshops and other training events.

The department also congratulates Dr. Krystal Hans, director of the forensics program, who received the Richard L. Kohls Outstanding Early Career Award in recognition of her exceptional instruction and student mentorship and alumnus Dr. Raymond Cloyd (M.S. 1995, Ph.D. 1999), Professor, Department of Entomology, Kansas State University, recipient of the 2022 John V. Osmun Alumni Professional Achievement Award in Entomology.

Other significant celebrations this fall included the department picnic, held at Wea Creek Orchard, a "7th generation farm dedicated to offering quality fruit, a peaceful and enjoyable visit and beautiful scenery". Our staff, faculty and students spent an enjoyable afternoon picking apples, taking hayrides and sharing a meal with their colleagues. Thank you to Perry Kirkham and family for their hospitality and for ensuring a fun afternoon for all!



One of the major highlights of the fall semester was the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) of the Entomological Society of America, Entomological Society of Canada and the Entomological Society of British Columbia, Vancouver BC. The theme of JAM "Entomology as Inspiration: Insects Through Art, Science and Culture" was befitting a conference that for many was the first in person meeting since the restrictions of the pandemic. The meeting offered an opportunity to re-connect with colleagues, re-engage with the pro-



# Photos from ESA, 2022

profession and re-invigorate our science. I was inspired by the ways in which Entomology brings people together to tackle major issues and reminded of the contributions that Entomologists make to so many aspects of our lives. More than 80 alumni, faculty and students attended the Purdue mixer, with particularly strong representation by early career scientists who are making incredible impacts on the field! I can't wait to do it all over again in 2023 at National Harbor, MD!

When we return in 2023, the department will be focused on the continued success of our students, faculty and staff and in meeting the major grand challenges that involve invertebrates through excellence in discovery, learning and engagement. Please stay tuned. It will be busy. We look forward to seeing you at our spring events - the 87th Annual Purdue Pest Management Conference, The Ag Alumni Fish Fry (at the Tippecanoe Fairgrounds), Spring-Fest, and the 14th Stored Product Protection Conference - and to sharing more news of the department.



Wishing all a wonderful holiday. Stay happy, healthy and safe, and see you in 2023!

Catherine A. Hill,  
Ph.D.  
Professor & Head



# 2022 John V. Osmun Alumni Professional Achievement Award in Entomology

## DR. RAYMOND CLOYD

(MS 1995, PhD 1999) is an extension faculty member of the Kansas State University, Department of Entomology. His extension and research programs cover pest management/plant protection within greenhouse, nursery, turf and horticultural production industries. He has over 40 years of service to these fields including work in industry (1982-1992), his graduate research (1993-1999) and in university extension, initially with the University of Illinois (1999-2006) and since then with Kansas State University. He has published over 90 scientific papers, 60 extension publications, 900 trade journal articles, authored or co-authored definitive guidebooks in this field and given public presentations beyond count. His work has developed or refined many IPM practices within glasshouse production including enhancing the use of biological control agents, and non-pesticide control measures. The impact of his work has been recognized by awards from peak academic and industry bodies including the Entomological Society of America, the American Society for Horticultural Science and the American Rose Society.



## Welcome New Additions to the Department



**ROBERT  
BRUNNER**

Exotic Forest  
Pest Educator  
(Sadof)



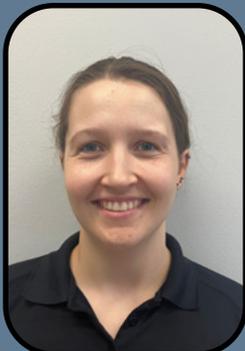
**CAMERON  
JASPER**

Post Doc  
(Harpur)



**ALICIA  
KELLEY**

CAPS State  
Survey  
Coordinator



**TAYLOR  
NELSON**

Senior  
Instructional  
specialist



**CHHOKI  
SHERPA**

Public Health  
Medical  
Entomology  
Program  
Coordinator



**ALICIA  
TOVAR**

Research  
Assistant  
(Enders)



**PRESTON WILEY**

Academic IT Specialist



**SAMANTHA WILLDEN**

Post Doc (Ingwell)



**CHRISTOPHER WIRTH**

Purdue Entomological research collection manager

## Department Departures

Jennifer Giron - Post Doc (Smith)  
Subramanian Sankaranaray - Post Doc (Enders)  
Kathleen Skinner - Post Doc (Cameron)

## Faculty Awards

**RICHARD L. KOHLS OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER AWARD**

**DR. KRYSTAL HANS**



Dr. Hans was the recipient of one of seven awards announced by the The Office of Academic Programs and the College of Agriculture Faculty and Staff. The awardees were chosen by a committee of faculty and undergraduate students. The awardees were recognized on November 29, 2022 at the Celebration of Teaching Excellence event. [Read more here.](#)

## Staff Awards

**OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD**

**TAMMY LUCK**



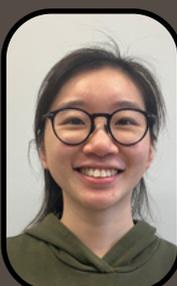
## Student Awards

**ELANCO ANIMAL HEALTH GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD**

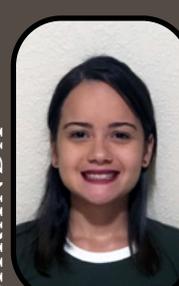
**JAMES ABENDROTH**



**LILACHONG**



**TEOMIE RIVERA-MIRANDA**



**GARRETT SLATER**



**NOT PICTURED:  
THOR HANSEN**

DEPARTMENT TRAVEL  
AWARD

MAKANI FISHER



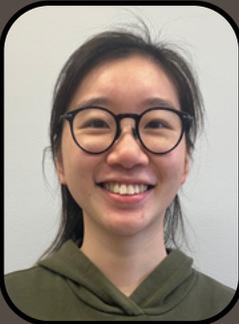
LIDE BI



DAVID STANDFORD-  
BEALE



RILEY SHULTZ



OUTSTANDING MS  
STUDENT IN  
ENTOMOLOGY 2022

LILAC HONG



OUTSTANDING PHD  
STUDENT IN  
ENTOMOLOGY 2022

OLIVIA GERNER



AAPA AWARD

GARETT SLATER



VIRGINIA FERRIS  
MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT  
2022-2023

HANNAH KERNEN

ESA AWARDS

LILAC HONG



2nd Place  
10-Minute Paper  
&  
1st Place  
Oral Presentation  
(OCEA)

CONNOR STURR



2nd Place  
10-Minute Paper



GOVERNMENT-AWARDED  
TRAVEL GRANT AND  
PROFESSIONAL GRANT

OLIVIA GERNER

# Entomology Fall Picnic



# Student Spotlight

ISABELLE GILCHRIST

Undergraduate Isabelle Gilchrist was featured in a video produced by AgComm in which she shares her love of bugs and yarn. She has shared her insect-themed [fashion charts for her yellow yellowjacket jacket](#) in Google Sheets as well as a [bee mitten pattern](#) by Lauren Pederson.

## ISABELLE'S STORY

I have been overwhelmed with the response to my knitted wasp cardigan. The idea started while I was in class talking about Batesian mimics. I had recently finished a matching set of bee accessories and had a plethora of leftover black and brown yarn. Having gotten tired of the bee pattern, I drew up some charts to make wasps and wasp mimics to finally realize a years-long dream of making a yellow yellowjacket jacket. The entire project took nine months, largely because I kept redoing parts and taking breaks to work on other, smaller projects. I just wanted to make something cool. I never expected to blow up on Twitter or be featured in the Purdue entomology newsletter.

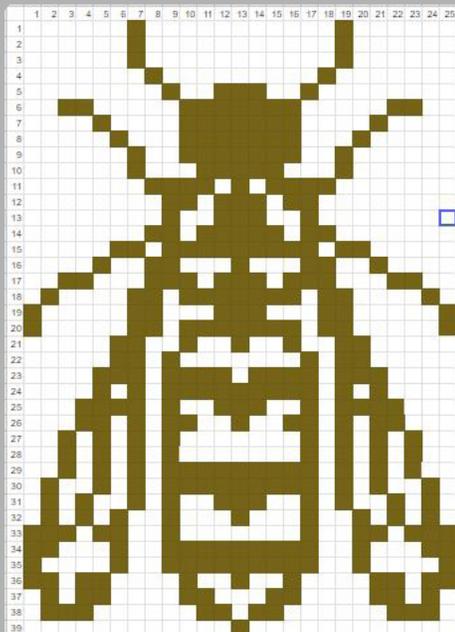
I've been knitting for four years and crocheting for two. As an Insect Biology major and a general bug nerd, I incorporate a lot of insects into my work. I've made my yellow yellowjacket jacket, bee scarf/mittens/dog sweater, beetle Christmas ornaments, and a bug skirt. I've also designed a crochet pattern for an aphid that gives birth to another, smaller aphid. I've published that pattern

on fiber arts website Ravelry, which has a surprising amount of entofashion patterns available.

I love bugs, but I also love bug people. I'm glad to have found a community that celebrates the weird and wonderful. I've found a home in the undergraduate entomology program, in the Harpur lab, and



in Smith Hall. My next big knitting project is a dress inspired by Phengaris alcon, a butterfly whose caterpillar uses chemical and acoustic trickery to mimic ant queens.



When you can't find enough bug clothing in stores, you have to get crafty. Make the bug clothes you want to see in the world.

[See the video here.](#)

# Holiday Awards Brunch



# News

**Dr. Brock Harpur** and his partner, Katey welcomed Astrid Harpur Watson on August 6th at 4:21am.



**Chris Wirth** had photos featured in American Entomologist Volume 68, Issue 3. [See the article here.](#)

[See the entire Fall edition here.](#)



**Krispn Given** recognized in the American Bee Journal for his Behind the Research Award as well as research by Krispn, Brock Harpur and Greg Hunt. The American Bee Journal is the number one national beekeepers magazine in the United States. [See the full article here.](#)



# Student News

**Natalie Duvanenko**, an undergraduate, is doing an internship at Corteva's Windfall station for the past 6 months as a field researcher. She will be completing another internship at their Johnson location focusing on native traits insects, working mainly in their insectary from May - August 2023.



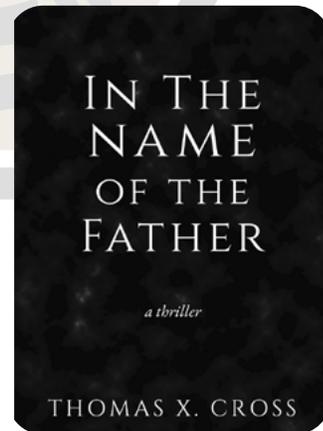
# Alumni News

**Dr. Hongmei Li-Byarlay** (Ph.D. '07) was elected as the new president of the International Branch of ESA. Hongmei was also recently featured in the Urban Center Newsletter's November Issue.



[See the full issue here.](#)

**Thomas Tiernan** (B.S. '79) has completed his first novel "In The Name of the Father," a thriller, under the pseudonym "Thomas X. Cross." Tiernan studied under Drs. Gary Bennett and John Osmun. He graduated with honors and entered Graduate Business School at Hofstra University from where he transferred to Baruch SUNY where he was advised by Dr. Austin Frishman. He left school to join the workforce and began working for Frank Harder (a Purdue grad) at Harder Services, a pest control company on Long Island. A few years later, he took a job on a Wall Street trading desk where he worked for 22 years. He retired in 2003 and spent the next decade or so working on his pet project - building hot rods and muscle cars. He eventually sold the business and retired again. He then began what he calls his "ultimate passion" - writing novels. Congratulations to Tom on the publication of his first book!



**Dr. Randall Cloyd** (M.S. '95, Ph.D. '99) was honored with the Distinguished Scientist Award from the International Organization of Biological Control (IOBC) at the ESA meeting in Vancouver in November.



**Dr. Luke Jacobus** (Ph.D. '06) was featured in an article by Robert O'Harrow Jr., in the Washington Pest Magazine. The title of the article is "The Message of the Mayfly."

[Read the article here.](#)

# Obituary

**Eugene "Gene" White**, (M.S. '96) age 64, passed away unexpectedly while attending a conference in Honolulu, Hawaii September 20, 2022. Gene was a dedicated participant at the annual Purdue Pest Management Conference which he had served as the graduate student assistant in planning the event when he was a student at Purdue and where he had continued to attend and been a speaker on the program year after year.



Gene was recently featured in the April edition of the Urban Center newsletter. [Read Gene's piece on what his time at Purdue meant to him here.](#)

[Read his obituary here.](#)

[Read his tribute in PMP Magazine here.](#)

[Read his tribute in PCT Magazine here.](#)



# Friends of Entomology

*GIFTS TO THE DEPARTMENT  
(MAY 2022 - NOVEMBER 2022)*

## MONARCH CLUB (\$1000 UP)

- Bayer Corporation
- BDK9 Holdings LLC
- Control Solutions, Inc.
- Eli Lilly & Co. Foundation
- FMC Corporation APG Accounts Payable
- International Human Frontier Science Program Organizations
- John Lawrence Gedeon
- Mash Services of Illinois, Inc.
- MGK Insect Control
- Michael and Helen Corbitt
- Midwest Regional Turf Foundation
- Morton Arboretum
- National Turfgrass Evaluation Program
- North Coast Media, LLC
- Levin Family Foundation
- Robert D. and Karen M. Tarver
- Syngenta Crop Protection Inc.
- Syngenta Seeds Inc.
- William and Judith Jones

## FIREFLY CLUB (\$101-\$499)

- Ace Pest Control
- Andy Peterson
- Anonymous
- Claudia Kathleen Heinsohn
- Colwell Ann Cook
- Darryl Paul Sanders
- David C Fisher
- Dean Jonathon White
- Frederic and Dolores Theresa Goldberg
- Gayle A Crockett
- Harry and Sherlie Jane Gallagher
- Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home
- Henry Randolph Lawson
- Janet Lee Davis-White
- John and Jean Burton
- John Kerr Bready
- John Myers
- Julia Geister
- Katie Hoffmann
- Kenneth Harold Kendall
- Larry and Janet Bledsoe
- Laura Melby
- Linda J. Mason
- Marlin K. and Sheree Bergman
- Richard Lloyd Miller
- Smith Family Trust
- Susan and Charles Cutter
- Jeanne McClure
- Westminster Village

## HONEY BEE CLUB (\$500-\$999)

- National Pest Management Association



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

& Happy New Year



Calendar

2023

## January

9-11 [87TH ANNUAL PURDUE PEST MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE](#)

## February

4 [PURDUE AG ALUMNI FISH FRY](#)

## April

15 [SPRING FEST](#)

28 [INSECT BIOLOGY DAY](#)

## June

13-14 [2023 STORED PRODUCT PROTECTION CONFERENCE](#)

## From the editor

With each issue of **Boiler Buzz** we keep you up to date on what's happening in the Department of Entomology and with Alumni. Please take a moment to let us know any of your own updates.

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Please include your name, address, degree, major and year of graduation. Digital photos (.jpg or .tif) are preferred. Photos received by mail will be returned upon request. To update your contact information online, go to:  
[\*\*www.purdueinsects.org\*\*](http://www.purdueinsects.org)

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