Science of Bugs

The collected wisdom of NC State’s Insect Museum
As museums go, it’s small – just two rooms on the fourth floor of Gardner Hall. After signing the guest book and peering at a few bright butterflies, it takes some imagination to get past the lingering odor of mothballs and appreciate what’s inside rows of gray cabinets: a collection of 1.4 million insects.

“People tend to assess collections as sort of antiquated or not particularly useful – something from a bygone era,” says Dr. Andy Deans, assistant professor of entomology and director of NC State’s Insect Museum. “They smell mothballs and associate it with grandma’s closet. But collection-based science is probably more sophisticated and active right now than it’s ever been.”

Deans’ research, for example, deals with modern questions about biodiversity and evolution. He and his colleagues use data about insect anatomy and genomes to estimate relationships among insect lineages, a field known as systematics.
"We’ve had three generations of homopterists working here since the early part of the century – 90 years of work."

Understanding insect relationships is fundamental, given that experts believe 80 to 95 percent of the world’s insects have yet to be collected, described and named. Deans is among some 20 NC State scientists who contribute to evolutionary “tree of life” research.

Examining specimens is essential. “If I’m collecting anatomical data, comparing species X and Y, I’d want to examine 10 to 20 of each species,” Deans says. “That helps me understand how important a trait like the presence or absence of wings is and whether it may be a function of the environment or evolution.”

Thanks to international colleagues and indexed, digital information, it’s easier to locate insects the world over for comparison. Postdoc István Mikó patiently examines parasitic wasps under a microscope, looking for key features. He’s worked with specimens from Australia, Turkey, Chile, Hungary, Bolivia, Madagascar, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Thailand.

“It’s amazing to be working here with Andy in this lab,” he says. “It’s a great opportunity.”

If you’re interested in the big questions of biodiversity it’s a good time to be a student or scientist at NC State, where the massive insect collection has been painstakingly assembled. It’s the largest south of the Smithsonian, north of the University of Florida and east of Texas A&M University, Deans says.

Snapshots in Time

Glass-topped trays of pinned insects, vials, microscope slides and alcohol-filled jars of caterpillars fill the museum. Trays are set aside for labs in Deans’ Insect Biodiversity and Evolution classes, where students sharpen their insect identification skills. NC State’s collection is rich in cicadas, leafhoppers, planthoppers, spittlebugs and treehoppers, part of the order Hemiptera, previously known as Homoptera.

“It’s probably one of the top three in North America for those types of insects,” Deans says. “We’ve had three generations of homopterists working here since the early part of the century - 90 years of work.”

Around 1952, professors’ individual collections were pulled together into a reference collection for the department, which grew into the museum. NC State scientists continue to add insects to the collection as research vouchers, preserving their work for posterity. Others can come and examine the specimens for themselves to verify results. Today, the Insect Museum is frequently consulted as the top collection of North Carolina insects, thanks to prolific NC State researchers as well as individual donors.

Collection manager Bob Blinn, who
joined NC State 22 years ago, remembers one of the largest private donations more than a decade ago: Tom Daggy’s 90,000 insect specimens, collected over 50 years, complete with hand-written labels and a card catalog of field notes. In 2000, the N.C. Department of Agriculture sent hundreds of thousands of insects to the university.

“Putting those collections together made the best collection anywhere for North Carolina insects,” says Lew Deitz, an emeritus professor in entomology who was in charge of the collection at the time.

Deitz first used the collection as a doctoral student at NC State in the early 1970s. “You never know how the collection is going to be useful,” he says. “It provides so much baseline information.”

When faced with a pest problem, agricultural officials can confirm the identity of the insects and compare them with those in past outbreaks. Customs inspectors who discover ants on a shipment can get answers about whether they are native insects or new invaders. The insects provide a historical record—snapshots of life. Is the vegetation in the area different now than 60 years ago? Scruping pollen from pinned bumblebees’ legs could help researchers find answers.

Each pinned insect has a half- by three-quarter-inch label crammed with information in tiny type: county, state, country, longitude and latitude where it was collected, host species and scientific name. “My colleague Rob Dunn in biology refers to them as death certificates,” Deans says with a chuckle.

**Fill ‘Er Up**

Pinned insects can provide information for centuries if properly preserved and protected from certain beetles and book lice (hence the mothball smell). Deans has examined specimens dating from the 1700s in Europe. “They might be missing a leg or antenna, but otherwise they were intact.”

But storing specimens for years, much less centuries, takes an increasing amount of space, and that’s a challenge. The museum, already a tight squeeze, is at 95 percent capacity, although it may expand into one additional room soon.

Deans would also like to expand the museum’s outreach beyond the boxes of butterflies that go out on school visits. “We want to grab the attention of youngsters and help find the next generation of entomologists,” he says.

For now, he’s looking forward to finding time to sit down with students and colleagues to sort through the jars of unclassified “insect soup” and identify specimens.

“We’re almost full now, but we have a commitment for expansion and the future looks bright,” Deans says.
Why would admissions officials from some of the nation’s top law schools, like Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill, Yale and Washington & Lee, visit NC State to meet with students considering a career in law? It’s not just because NC State students are bright and qualified, says Mary A. Tetro, coordinator of the university’s Pre-Law Services.

“Law schools love NC State because of the diversity of our curricula,” she says. “We have such a wide range of degrees from which to choose. They appreciate the breadth of the applicants they get from NC State.”

It’s no wonder. If you leave NC State with a degree in marine, earth and atmospheric science you’re well on your way to a career in environmental law. A degree in engineering could lead you to success as a patent attorney. Although it may seem the undergraduate degree links a candidate to particular field of law, students from NC State have been accepted to law school from every college.

In fact, in the past 10 years, Tetro has helped shepherd hundreds of NC State students through the process of applying to law school and watched as many have gone on to successful careers in a wide range of fields, including corporate, family, criminal, public service and contract law. She brings a diversity of life experience to her role, much of which has helped develop her skills as an adviser, she says. She has lived overseas, is fluent in Italian, has a wide range of international experience and has worked in academia for 28 years, including 25 years as an academic adviser.

Last year alone she worked with 250 students individually and another 50 in groups. Her role, she says, is to help them through a long and complex process by providing information, advice and important networking opportunities.

“I’m not the deciding factor,” she says. “I’m the guide. My goal is to help them have the tools at their fingertips to make the right decision for their next move.”

Among those tools is the annual Law School Fair – held in the fall – which gives students from NC State and other area schools a chance to meet with admissions staff from dozens of law schools. Tetro also organizes "mock admissions" sessions with a variety of law schools to help students prepare for the admissions process, hosts panels of attorneys to educate students about different fields of law, brings to campus students currently in law school to discuss “What law school is really like,” works with the Office of Professional Development and other vendors that sponsors LSAT prep courses and provides an annual forum to review “Issues of Academic Integrity and Misconduct in the Application Process.”

The pre-law services Web site provides detailed information to help students create the package of information they’ll need to apply to law school. The site includes a calendar of events, law school resources, and a four-year checklist.

Tetro also serves as adviser to the Pre-Law Students Association, a group that meets monthly to hear speakers, plan community service projects and network.

Her work at NC State has earned Tetro recognition throughout the region and now nationally. She serves as president of the Southern Association of Pre-Law Advisers and was recently named chair-elect of the Pre-Law Advisers National Council for 2009-11. As president of the national council in 2012, Tetro will preside over the organization’s national convention.

**What Does It Take to Get Into Law School?**

Mary A. Tetro is an expert in guiding students through the process of getting into law school. So what does it take to get into law school? Here are her top tips:

> Choose a major that you are passionate about. The most important thing you can do to prepare for law school is to be academically successful.
> Present yourself as a fascinating candidate, one a law school wishes to recruit.
> Be involved – as much as your schedule allows – in some form of continuous community service. Be a leader of your group.
> Develop strong relationships with faculty members. It will help you academically and provide you with a resource when you need a letter of recommendation.
> Prepare extensively for the LSAT. Test scores do matter.
> Don’t wait till the last minute to write the personal statement that accompanies your law school application.
Lightning struck the Belltower, knocking a capstone loose Tuesday night. After assessing the damage Wednesday, repair crews were using a rented lift and crane to reach the capstone 108 feet up the campus landmark, which traditionally glows red for commencement.

To protect visitors, the tower’s base was cordoned off with yellow hazard tape because the two- by two-foot stone perched on the corner “does not appear to have any anchorage other than its weight,” said Jack Colby, assistant vice chancellor for facilities operations.

From inside the tower, facilities staff photographed sunlight streaming through a corner where the capstone had been. The lightning rod and ground cabling were damaged, metal roofing was bent and a piece of stone fell from the tower, Colby said.

The News & Observer reported today that police were looking for a souvenir hunter who was seen carrying off a chunk of carved granite.

Workers hope to replace, secure and seal the capstone. If crews find that damage is more extensive than expected, they will stabilize the capstone so the area can be used for commencement weekend.

The tower’s clock stopped temporarily because the lightning strike tripped electrical breakers, but it was working Wednesday, along with the chimes and irrigation system. Blown-out lamps on the flag light will be replaced.

The campus gathering place and NC State icon was created as a memorial to 33 alumni who died in World War I. Largely completed in 1937, the monument contains 1,400 tons of stone set on a 700-ton concrete base, according to facilities.
Brent Droege, a junior in the College of Management’s bachelor of accounting program, is working to help troubled youth in his community begin to realize their potential by giving them real-life work experience.

Droege recently launched a seasonal lawn care business – The Agape Lawn Company – in collaboration with the Agape Corner Boarding School in Durham. The new business will help young people between 14 and 22 develop landscaping skills, earn money and get a taste of entrepreneurship.

Droege, who worked for a landscaping company in high school, said starting the business now “was a logical progression for me.” It was also logical for him to connect with Agape Corner, where he works as a teacher and house mentor. The free boarding school, which serves at-risk youth, has been in operation for almost three decades.

“I really wanted to name the business after the school,” Droege explained. “Agape Corner is a place where children can come and be loved unconditionally, which, unfortunately, is not what most of these children receive elsewhere.”

Agape is a Greek word that means unconditional love, Droege said. While the landscaping business was primarily his idea, Droege said the boarding school had long been interested in offering a vocational training program.

“I think it is important to help other young people because I was helped,” Droege said. “Without help, most of us would not be where we are today.”

The young people working for the business will receive minimum wage. Although the company could pay more, Droege believes it will benefit the kids in the long run to work hard for relatively low pay.

“That will make it very real to them that it is necessary to pursue education and become a leader in the workplace, so that they can support the kind of lifestyle they desire,” he said.

Each worker he employs will have a specific duty, Droege said, including cutting grass, driving the company truck, writing up estimates, securing new business, scheduling jobs and identifying hazards on job sites. These skills are all invaluable in the workplace and in life, he added.

“The purpose of Agape Lawn Company is not to generate income for its owners,” he said. “Rather, it is to help youth who are seeking to help themselves through scholarships, savings, matching programs and business skills.”

Droege says that, among other things, he hopes his employees will learn how to handle money responsibly, maintain a good grade point average and recognize the value of education after high school. Other lessons he hopes they learn include understanding the cost of living, building a network of individuals that they can look to for future opportunities, and learning that community involvement is an obligation.

For more information, contact Droege at bmdroege@ncsu.edu.
Bulletin Board

Wolfline Service

Spring Wolfline service ends Tuesday, May 5, at 10 p.m. There will be no Werewolf service Tuesday, May 5, through Sunday, May 17. Regular summer Wolfline and evening service begins Monday, May 18. Faculty/staff service begins Wednesday, May 6, and runs through Friday, May 15 (limited service – no evening service).

There will be no Wolfline or Triangle Transit service on Memorial Day, May 25, but Capital Area Transit (CAT) will operate normal service on May 25; visit http://www.raleighnc.gov and search CAT bus routes for more information.

Parking Updates

Now through Friday, Aug. 7, B, C and U permit-holders may flow into student parking areas (DE, DW zones). Sign changes will be taking place in late July or early August renaming student parking zones RE/RW. Note: DW parking in the Bragaw lot and DE parking in the North Hall lot will not be available due to the Hillsborough Street Roundabout project.

A limited number of summer B permits are available for sale to full-time, permanent current C/DC permit-holders for $25. Contact the transportation office, 2721 Sullivan Drive, to purchase a summer B permit. No gate cards will be issued; access via the Stinson Road visitor information booth.

Depending on space availability after the final SAS Hall move-in, some B permits may be offered from the B waiting list. Permanent B permits are not likely to be offered until fall parking trends are established in mid-September. Contact David Gregory, parking services manager, david_gregory@ncsu.edu to have your name placed on the B waiting list.

Hillsborough Street Roundabout Project

The city project, which extends along Hillsborough Street from Gardner Street to Oberlin Road, will convert Hillsborough Street to a two-lane, median-divided thoroughfare with street parking, new, brick sidewalks and several pedestrian signals. The project also includes replacing water and sewer utilities, moving overhead utilities underground, adding infrastructure for future charging stations for electric plug-in vehicles, and installing LED street and pedestrian lighting.

The Hillsborough Square parking lot (behind Red Hot & Blue, off Oberlin Road) will close permanently on May 11. Your C permit may be exchanged for a DC Coliseum deck permit. Initial work will begin May 11. Hillsborough Street (eastbound reduced to one traffic lane) between Gardner and the Bell Tower. Hillsborough Street will remain open throughout the project. In the initial phase, westbound lanes of Hillsborough Street are not affected. The project is estimated to be completed in September of 2010. Although Hillsborough Street will remain open, you may want to explore alternate routes. Wolfline buses will continue to service Hillsborough Street, but may encounter detours and delays during utility work, etc.

For more information visit http://www.hillsboroughstreet.org or http://www.raleigh-nc.org (search Hillsborough Roundabout). This is a city of Raleigh project; NC State’s construction liaison is Cameron Smith, cameron_smith@ncsu.edu.

Transportation-related questions? Contact Ryan Givens, ryan_givens@ncsu.edu.

Health Plan Info Sessions Scheduled

The benefits office will be conducting information sessions across campus regarding the State Health Plan annual enrollment and changes to the plan:

- May 7, College of Textiles, Convocation Room, noon to 1 p.m.
- May 8, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Caldwell, Room G111, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- May 11, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Theater, noon to 1 p.m.
- May 13, Administrative Services II, room 101, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- May 14, ITRE, Centennial Campus, Research IV, Room 2600, noon to 1 p.m.
- May 19, Talley Student Center, Room 3118, noon to 1 p.m.

Bhajan Night

Enjoy a free mouth-watering vegetarian feast from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, May 8, in the Talley Student Center, Walnut Room.

Plagiarism: Prevention, Detection, and Reporting

Concern about plagiarism is on the minds of many who are teaching courses at NC State. Plagiarism is the subject of an upcoming webinar and listserv discussion co-sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development and the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Roundtable (TLTR). This webinar consists of presentations by Dr. Henry Schaffer, Jamie Larsen, Daun Daemon, Carrie Larsen, and Paul Cousins. Many practical ideas and tools are included to assist your work with students. The webinar has already been taped and is available for viewing at any time at http://www.ncsu.edu/faculty-development/teach-learn/plagiarism.html. You can submit questions by e-mail by pressing the “envelope” button at the top of the screen. You can access links by pressing the “paper clip” button at the top of the screen. The listserv discussion runs through May 8. To join, visit http://www.ncsu.edu/tltr. For more information, contact Nancy Fire at nancy_fire@ncsu.edu.

Faculty Invited to Symposium

NC State has been invited to attend a faculty workshop at UNC-Chapel Hill at no cost. The theme of this year’s Spring Teaching Symposium is, “Teaching Well in a Time of Serious Budget Restrictions.” The symposium is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on May 11. For more details and to register, visit: http://cfe.unc.edu/budget_restrict_agenda.html.

Friends of Library Hosts Stasio

Join the NCSU Friends of the Library for an event featuring Frank Stasio, host of NPR’s The State of Things, and New York Times bestselling author Haven Kimmel, at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, in the McKimmon Center. Stasio will interview Kimmel for about 45 minutes. A cocktail reception will follow. Tickets are $50 for members and $75 for others. Call the Friends of the Library office at 515-2841 by Friday to reserve a seat.

Wolf Pack N Go Sale

The large exodus of resident students can yield a massive amount of unwanted materials. The purge of materials is why University Housing and NC State Waste Reduction and Recycling are collaborating for another “Wolf Pack N Go Sale” on May 15 at the E.S. King Village Community Center. The sale starts at 8 a.m. and goes until 6 p.m. This is the fourth annual event where donated items left by students are picked up, stored, and sold to the public. All money collected from the sale will go toward environmental education.

Volunteers are needed for Tuesday (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.), Wednesday (8 a.m. to 7 p.m.), and Thursday (8 a.m. to 11 a.m.) shifts. All state employees are invited to use their Community Service Leave to volunteer. Beginning May 12, staff and faculty can also donate items in resalable condition at the donation site, located in the lobby of the E.S. King Village office. For more info, contact recycling@ncsu.edu or visit http://www.ncsu.edu/recycling.
Young Writers’ Workshop
The Young Writers’ Workshop, sponsored by the NC State College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Department of English, is a two-week, non-residential summer camp conducted in June with daily afternoon sessions to help young people develop their creative writing talents. The workshop is open to students who will enter the fourth through eighth grades in the fall. Tuition is $200 and the registration deadline is Friday, May 15. For more information, visit http://english.chass.ncsu.edu/youngwriters/youngwriters.html. A similar workshop for teens in the ninth through twelfth grades is held in July. Visit http://english.chass.ncsu.edu/youngwriters/teenwriters.html for more information.

Some Rhyme, Some Reason
Nationally recognized poets are coming to downtown Raleigh as part of a poetry reading series launched by English Department lecturers Chris Salerno and Chris Tonelli. The So and So Reading Series works in conjunction with the print journal the Raleigh Quarterly, which features work by the visiting poets, visual artists and others. Salerno and Tonelli not only run the reading series, but also serve as poetry editors for the Raleigh Quarterly.

The next reading will be held Saturday, May 16, at the Morning Times Cafe, and will feature poets Justin Marks, Kate Pringle and Chris Vitiello. More information is available at http://thesoandsoseries.blogspot.com.

DELTA Grants Available
Distance Education and Learning Technology Applications (DELTA) offers grants to support distance education initiatives at NC State. For eight years, DELTA’s Innovation in Distributed Education Application (IDEA) grants have provided funding and personnel support for the planning, design, and development of distance education courses and projects. Proposals can be submitted electronically at http://delta.ncsu.edu/ideagratings/. Proposals must be submitted no later than May 21 at 5 p.m.

Parking Reduced During Construction
As part of the Partners Way Deck Expansion project on Centennial Campus, approximately 40 spaces will be unavailable for parking until August (five on each of the floors).

Awards for Excellence Reception
The 2009 University Awards for Excellence Reception will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday June 9, in the Talley Student Center. College/Unit Awards for Excellence winners will be honored at the reception and five distinguished employees will be named University Award for Excellence winners. To RSVP for the event, visit http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/hr/benefits/awards.asp by Friday, May 29. Call 515-2151 for more information.

Faculty and Staff Notes
Honors Baccalaureate Recognizes Finest Faculty, Students
Top awards for faculty and students highlight tonight’s University Honors Baccalaureate and Celebration of Academic Excellence at 7:30 p.m. in the McKimmon Center.

The NC State Board of Trustees will award the Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal of Excellence to two faculty members whose careers exemplify the highest standards of excellence in teaching, research and service. Honored this year are Dr. William Adler, professor of philosophy and religion, and Dr. Alan York, William Neal Reynolds Professor of Crop Science. The Holladay Medal is the highest award given by the Board of Trustees and the university, and recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement in support of NC State’s mission.

Dr. Maxine P. Atkinson, professor of sociology and head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, will receive the UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching.

NC State students who have won nationally competitive honors - including one Gates Cambridge Scholarship, one Morris K. Udall Scholarship and 15 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, to name a few - will also be recognized at the baccalaureate.

See the full listing of recognized recipients at: http://www.ncsu.edu/project/OPDWebSpace/honors/program.htm.

Wind Turbine Installed at Solar House
A new vertical wind turbine that’s only 30 feet tall has been installed at the Solar House. Instead of propeller blades, the Windspire has aluminum air foils that spin around a central pole, giving it the appearance of a giant eggbeater.

Brian Miles, extension wind specialist with the Solar Center, coordinated the installation in time for demonstrations at a recent renewable energy conference at the McKimmon Center.

Because of its size and quiet operation, the Windspire could be used in residential and urban areas, said Addie Randall with Blue Sun Renewable Energy, a partner

4,000 Degrees at RBC Center
NC State will confer more than 4,000 degrees on graduating students during its spring commencement exercises, beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 9, in the RBC Center in Raleigh. John Seely Brown, independent co-chairman of the Deloitte Center for Edge Innovation and a visiting scholar and advisor to the provost at the University of Southern California, will deliver the commencement address.

Bulletin
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Editors: David Hunt
D’Lyn Ford
with the Solar Center on the project. The turbines can be placed in groups for power production without tall towers, and a Connecticut university plans to install 42 Windsprites at the center of its new green campus.

Windsprites are now being built at a former auto-parts factory in Michigan. Viewers of ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition can see an installation on the show's season finale May 17.

Horticulture Team Takes Top Award

The American Society for Horticultural Science gave its Outstanding Cross-Commodity Publication award to a journal article by Dr. Jessica G. Barb, recent doctoral student; Dennis J. Werner, Raulston Distinguished Professor of Horticultural Science; and Dr. Robert Griesbach, a researcher with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Md. "Genetics and Biochemistry of Flower Color in Stokes Aster," was published in the July 2008 edition of the Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science. The award will be presented July 25 in St. Louis, Mo., at the association's annual conference.

Brewer Chosen for Fellowship

Dr. Holly Brewer, associate professor of history, was selected for a 2009-10 fellowship at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park. She will join 32 other distinguished scholars from the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom.

Chosen from 475 applicants, fellows represent the fields of history, literature, philosophy, art history, anthropology, environmental studies, musicology, and religion. Each will work individually on a substantial research project and have the opportunity to share ideas in seminars, lectures, and conferences.

Brewer's project is titled, "Inheritable Blood: Of Slavery and Freedom, Aristocracy and Empire in Early Virginia and the British Atlantic." She received the Walter Hines Page Fellowship of the Research Triangle Foundation.

Adjunct Faculty Member Honored

Bill Harazin, an attorney and adjunct associate professor in textile and apparel technology and management, received the 2009 John J. Dortch International Service Award from the International Law and Practice Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. The award is given for serving as a role model in international law, demonstrating the highest levels of ethical standards and showing professional competence.

Statistics Department Recognized for Diversity Efforts

The American Mathematical Society’s Committee on the Profession designated the Department of Statistics as one of two Mathematics Programs that Make a Difference for 2009. The award recognizes outstanding records in recruiting members of underrepresented groups and mentoring them to successfully complete graduate degrees.

Of 40 statistics faculty, 11 are female, three are African-American and two are Hispanic. In the past 10 years, 15 minority students have received master’s degrees and two have earned Ph.D.s. The department has about 160 graduate students, including nine African-American and four Hispanic students. More than half of the students in the department are female.

NC State has cultivated ties to other institutions, particularly historically black colleges and universities, as well as to organizations such as the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). Co-Director of Graduate Programs Pam Arroway visits small colleges and summer programs to recruit students and to network and maintain strong relationships with their mentors. Faculty advisors work extensively with new students, who are also assigned a more-advanced student who acts as a mentor, or "stat buddy."

Faculty member Kimberly Weems organizes activities for minority students and meets individually with them to ensure successful progress. Department head Sastry Pantula has twice been selected for a university diversity award. Other department faculty members have received similar recognition, including Weems and Jackie Hughes-Oliver. Graduate student Anthony Franklin received a university diversity award for his support of students and for recruiting new students of all backgrounds.

Statistics has received two National Science Foundation VIGRE grants that helped support minority students. Recently the department received an S-STEM (Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) grant from the NSF to provide scholarships for U.S. undergraduate and graduate students with financial need.

Kinsella to Head Group

Dr. Bill Kinsella, associate professor of communication, will begin a term this November as president of the environmental communication division of the National Communication Association, a group of researchers, educators and professionals dedicated to advancing human communication. As vice-president of the division, Kinsella's responsibilities include selecting conference speakers for the NCA annual meeting in the fall.

Berube Lead Author for White Paper

Dr. David Berube, professor of communication, is lead author of a National Science Foundation-funded white paper, "Nanotechnology: Communicating Risk in the 21st Century." The National Nanotechnology Coordinating Office will distribute the white paper to guide government officials in communicating about nanotechnology with the public and media.

Berube's team included faculty members Brenton Faber, formerly of NC State, and Dietram Scheufele of Wisconsin, as well as graduate and doctoral students Chris Cummings, Grant Gardner, Kelly Martin, and Nick Temple. They spent nine months compiling the 150-page document and negotiating edits with 25 federal agency and departmental partners in the National Nanotechnology Initiative.

Hendrickson Wins NACTA Award

Melissa Hendrickson, lecturer in agricultural and resource economics, received the 2009 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teaching Fellow Award.

Extension Team Wins Education Award

The N.C. Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists honored a university team for creating an outstanding educational program about renewable energy derived from woody biomass.

Members included extension and outreach faculty members Robert Bardon, Dennis Hazel, Mark Megalos, James Jeuck, Christopher Hopkins, Susan Moore and Kelley Duffield McCarter and graduate students Jasmine Shaw and Susan McIntyre.
At a dedication celebration attended by more than 300 faculty, students, friends and alumni, Chancellor James L. Oblinger announced that the university’s newly completed mathematics and statistics building would be named SAS Hall in honor of the founders of the Cary-based software company.

The 119,000 square-foot building houses advanced classrooms, computer labs, tutorial centers and meeting and study space for students and faculty in the mathematics and statistics departments. A partnership with Cisco will improve digital communications for students by providing access to live and on-demand video content from anywhere on campus.

Construction of the $32 million building was made possible by the Higher Education Bond Referendum passed by North Carolinians in 2000, as well as by gifts from private donors, including a substantial contribution from SAS.

SAS was born out of a research project that began in the NC State Department of Statistics in the early 1970s. Since then, the company has grown into one of the largest software providers in the world. Two of the company’s founders, CEO Jim Goodnight and Executive Vice-President John Sall, as well as their spouses, remain close partners and staunch supporters of the departments and the university.

“At SAS, we believe that it is vital for students in the mathematical and statistical sciences to learn in an environment that provides state-of-the-art facilities and instructional technologies,” Sall said. “It’s also critical that they participate in the kind of collaborative initiatives they’ll experience in the work place. That type of environment produces the type of employee and person we want at SAS, and it’s the type we want to produce at NC State. That’s why we decided to make a significant contribution toward ensuring that this building would become a reality.”

NC State boasts a longstanding tradition of excellence in teaching and research in mathematics and statistics. The university currently ranks fifth nationally in total R&D expenditures and in competitive federal R&D expenditures in the mathematical and statistical sciences. The Department of Mathematics is one of the largest producers of doctoral degrees in mathematics in the nation. The Department of Statistics is among the nation’s oldest and most prestigious, having been founded by renowned statistician Gertrude Cox in 1941.

“NC State’s mathematical and statistical science programs rank among the best in the nation,” said Daniel Solomon, dean of the university’s College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. “We now have a state-of-the-art facility that is worthy of the stature of our students and faculty.”