

Donor Profile Newman Family Foundation

Newman Family Makes History With \$1 Million Gift to Honors College

Eileen Newman (NCAS '65) remembers the stories about her late husband, Arthur B. Newman (NCAS '65, RBSG '66).

As a child, Arthur used to climb the stairs of apartment buildings in Paterson, NJ, helping his father, Sidney, collect payments from customers who would pay "a dollar down, a dollar a week" for goods that Sidney sold door-to-door for Fields Department Store in Newark.

When Arthur was a sophomore at Rutgers-Newark majoring in accounting, Sidney died of a heart attack. Arthur, then 19, took over his route, keeping a hand-written ledger to track customer accounts.

As a graduate student in accounting at the Rutgers Business School in Newark, Arthur made the honor society, then eventually climbed the ranks of global finance and made history, pioneering the field of corporate bankruptcy restructuring and, over a 40-plus-year career, becoming legendary in the field. *The New York Times* touted him in a 2002 article as "one of the deans of the bankruptcy world."

"Art grew up in Newark and was poor as a church mouse," says Eileen. "And I remember him saying to me during college while we were dating, 'Someday I'm going to be very successful. I'm going to work hard. And I'm going to make you proud.' Well, he sure made us proud—me, our children and grandchildren. We couldn't be more proud."

That pride, combined with remarkable generosity, inspired Arthur and Eileen to give to many worthy causes. Five



Arthur B. Newman (NCAS '65, RBSG '66)

years ago, they formed the Arthur and Eileen Newman Family Foundation to help structure their philanthropy. Recently, Eileen and their three children wanted to find a way to give back to Newark in honor of Arthur, who died of cancer in 2010, at age 67.

They did so recently by establishing the Arthur B. Newman Honors College Scholars Endowment at Rutgers-Newark—with a gift of \$1 million, one of the largest private gifts in NCAS history.

The award will provide financial assistance for students in the Rutgers-Newark Honors College, focusing on graduates from Newark's and other urban public high schools in New Jersey.

"The Newman Family's commitment to endow scholarships for the best and brightest students from these schools will have a lasting impact on the Honors College here at Rutgers-Newark," said Brian D. Agnew, Assistant Dean, Advancement and External Relations.

Arthur Barry Newman was born in Newark on October 12, 1943. He was the only child of Edna and Sidney Newman, was smart and driven, and attended Weequahic High School, the alma mater of author Phillip Roth. He arrived at Rutgers-Newark as a pre-med major but switched to accounting after his first year.

He had little time for extracurricular activities on campus: Between classes

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From the Desk of the Dean of Arts and Sciences



Spring is off to an early start on campus, and it's not just climate change. Recently, Professor Kim DaCosta Holton, this year's Hosford Scholar, lit up the Dana Room—on Dana Library's fourth floor—with song, word and video in a presentation on the Portuguese folk-music tradition Fado. She spoke to a standing-room-only audience that included faculty, staff, students, three former deans, Assemblyman Al Coutinho and Portuguese Consul General Maria Amelia Paiva.

Each year we award an exceptional professor the Hosford Scholarship, which recognizes former NCAS Dean David Hosford's leadership in building an outstanding faculty at Rutgers-Newark. Kim is not only one of the best scholars on campus but also one of the best teachers: At Rutgers-Newark just over a decade, she has already won three University awards for research and teaching, and was named a Leader in Diversity. I invite you to read the profile on Kim in this issue of our newsletter to learn more about this accomplished faculty member—whom we are proud to call our own.

Culture is making its presence known in another way at Rutgers-Newark this spring. On March 6, three recent graduates of our nationally renowned MFA Program in Creative Writing will publish their first books: Ryan McIlvain, *Elders*, a novel about two young missionaries in Brazil; Evan Roskos, *Dr. Bird's Advice for Sad Poets*, an emotionally charged novel for young adults; and Christa Parravani, *Her*, a memoir that is already garnering rave reviews and has been chosen by Oprah.com as one of "16 Books to Pick Up Now." So, if you can't listen to some Fado, you can light up your spring with one of these books written by our recent grads. Enjoy!

Jan Ellen Lewis

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and on weekends, he worked part-time at Cherry Fabrics in Irvington, NJ, as an accountant's assistant, while holding down his father's sales route on Fridays and Saturdays. His two distractions were Eileen and playing bridge.

After completing his MBA in accounting at Rutgers Business School in 1966, Arthur was recruited by S.D. Leidesdorf & Co., a predecessor through merger of Ernst & Young. At Ernst & Young he founded the corporate finance department and restructuring practice, which he led until 1989. After 18 months with Chemical Bank, he joined the Blackstone Group in 1991, launching the firm's restructuring and reorganization practice, which he led until his retirement in June 2010.

During his 44-year career, Arthur led some of the nation's largest and most complex business restructurings, including Enron, Global Crossing, America West Airlines, Chiquita Banana, Dow Corning, Eastern Airlines, General Electric Credit, Goodyear Tire & Rubber, Macy's, Sunbeam and Texaco.

He sat on many corporate boards, including those of the Fund for Modern Courts, Lone Star Industries, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Premium Standard Farms and Toys 'R Us. He also garnered many awards for his work and philanthropy.

That giving continues through the Newman Family Foundation, run by Eileen and their three children: Sondra, 44, Allison, 42, and David, 40.

"Art and I loved Newark. It meant a lot to us. And we have always wanted to do something for the city," says Eileen. "And so when we were approached by Brian about the Honors College, the kids and I thought, 'This is a great way to honor Art's legacy.' Our folks couldn't afford to send us to a Harvard or a Yale. We depended on state scholarships, just like kids coming out of Newark's high schools today. That's why it's so important to do something for the best and brightest now." 

Contributors

Lawrence Lerner, co-editor, writer, photographer; Jan Ellen Lewis, Acting Dean, co-editor; Brian D. Agnew, Assistant Dean, co-editor

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Faculty Profile Kimberly DaCosta Holton

Lusophone Studies Professor Awarded Prestigious Hosford Scholarship

Professor Kimberly DaCosta Holton grew up in Wilmington, DE, and had a typical American childhood, though she had the good fortune of traveling to a Portuguese-speaking country each summer as a child. The catch was, that Lusophone country was only six hours north on Interstate 95, in a small town in Rhode Island.

Holton's maternal grandparents—one of whom had been born in Rio de Janeiro, the other whose family had emigrated from the Azores—were the epicenter of Holton's world growing up, and they lived in one of the East Coast's largest Portuguese enclaves: East Providence, RI.

"My mom grew up there. When we'd go, which was frequently, it was almost like going to a foreign country," says Holton. "My grandparents and their neighbors spoke Portuguese—no English at all. The food, music, language, it all lasted into second and third generation, and it left an indelible mark on me."

"This honor means a tremendous amount to me."

Holton would nurture her cultural identity and turn it into a career, becoming a professor of Lusophone culture first at Wesleyan University, then at Rutgers-Newark in 2000, where she took the fledgling Spanish and Portuguese Studies department and turned it into a vibrant, visible entity with deep ties to the Portuguese communities of Newark and northern New Jersey.

For her outstanding teaching, scholarship and program-development work over the last decade-plus, she recently was awarded the prestigious David Hosford Scholarship for 2012-'13.

The Hosford Scholarship was established in 2004 in recognition of former NCAS Dean David Hosford's commitment to

academic excellence. NCAS faculty who exemplify the Hosford legacy are chosen annually, serve for one year, receive a research stipend, and can devote additional time to scholarship. Like all Hosford scholars, this spring Holton presented a major address on her work to the campus community.

"This honor came as a complete surprise and means a tremendous amount," says Holton, "in part because I knew David before he retired. It also gives me a chance to return to a topic I've had on the back-burner for many years—a musical form called Fado—and conceptualize a book-length project about its place in the Portuguese diaspora."

Holton earned her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in performance studies from Northwestern University. She studied German in middle- and high-school, and took Spanish and Portuguese in college. She first visited Portugal at age 19 and fell in love with it, and after graduation returned for three years to teach English, study Portuguese intensively, and work at a theater company in Lisbon.

She came stateside to do her graduate work, focusing on ethnography and "expressive cultures," or performance forms, in the Portuguese and Brazilian world.

"Performance can be broadly defined in this interdisciplinary field: fan rituals at sporting events, religion, theater, music," says Holton. "But the holy trinity of ethnography is food, music and language, along with religion. My interest spans all of these, and is closely tied to ethnomusicology, only broader. I tend to focus especially on language, music and theater."

Her first book looked at *ranchos folclóricos*, groups of amateur musicians and dancers who perform turn-of-the-century popular tradition and have acted as cultural barometers of change through Portugal's shift from dictatorship to democracy to EEC member. These groups, once aligned with the




Professor Kimberly DaCosta Holton

dictatorship, have remained popular in Portugal's post-authoritarian state, especially in emigrant and diasporic communities.

At first focused solely on Portugal, Holton expanded her book to include folklore performers in northern New Jersey, including Newark, Elizabeth, Kearny, Harrison, North Arlington, Union and Perth Amboy. Those communities, along with her Lusophone students, have been fortuitous for Holton, as publishers look for multi-sighted approaches to ethnographic studies.

"It's serendipitous that I ended up at Rutgers-Newark. My students and all of these folks have been incredibly fertile ground for my research, and I'm grateful for their involvement," says Holton. "These are people from Lusophone countries around the world who have truly inspired my work."

With this in mind, Holton started the Ironbound Oral History Project in 2000 as a way to train her students in doing ethnographic interviews. The subjects are older Lusophone folks from the Ironbound section of Newark, many of them monolingual. The project boasts 300 interviews at the moment, some of them of publishable quality. Holton hopes to one day make them available to the public for scholarly research.

"There's actually a grad student from the MFA program at the University of Iowa who wants to mine the interviews," says Holton. "He's writing a novel about the Ironbound Portuguese community." 



BIOLOGY REUNION 2013

A Department Retrospective: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

On Saturday April 13, 2013, the Rutgers-Newark Department of Biological Sciences will hold a much-anticipated reunion where Biology alumni spanning several decades will come together for a reception, lab tours and talks by current faculty. The event is part of the campus' Reunion Weekend 2013 and is surely not to be missed.

As we prepare for the reunion, we want to take this opportunity to survey the landscape to see where the department has been, where it is now, and where it is headed. As you'll see, the present and future—just like the past—look very bright indeed.

The Biology Department at Rutgers-Newark has long been one of the most prominent on campus.

Numbers tell part of the story: Of the nearly 7,500 undergraduates enrolled campus-wide this year, about 500 will make their way through the department via General Biology 101 or 102, a foundations course for non-Biology majors that is part of Rutgers-Newark's core curriculum.

As a chosen field of study, Biology frequently trades places with Psychology as the largest of all NCAS majors. And this doesn't include Biology majors at NJIT, who form part of a Federated Department of Biological Sciences with Rutgers-Newark. Rutgers has 530 declared majors this academic year, while NJIT has more than 200.

"Biology has always played a significant role on campus, but we've been growing by leaps and bounds over the last decade in terms of majors and the number of students doing lab research," says Professor Ed Bonder, chair of the federated department.

That growth has been accompanied by structural changes in the department, which reflect the evolving research and teaching interests of new faculty, and which have helped the department keep pace with fundamental shifts in the field.

The changes include a new core curriculum that rolled out in Fall 2011: a foundations sequence that includes an intro course

called "Concepts in Biology," plus courses in Cell & Molecular Biology and Ecology & Evolution. The latter two are accompanied by a lab component.

The "Concepts" course replaces General Biology 101/102 for Biology majors; non-majors still take the older General Biology intro course.

With the new curriculum will soon come a new set of majors as well, five in total: Biology, Plant Biology, Cell & Molecular Biology, Ecology & Evolution and Neurobiology. This will replace the current troika—Biology, Botany and Zoology/Physiology—a structure that Bonder says is historical but outdated.

"The restructuring is in line with translational research: How do things apply? How does what we're teaching translate into career paths for our students?" he says. "This is the key."

The department has also moved away from memorization and identification in its teaching, placing a greater emphasis on critical analysis and evaluation of facts and hypotheses, exposure to research literature, and writing. Additionally, upper-level courses are much more lab-intensive and, in many cases, include work normally encountered on the graduate level.

"The shift means our labs now stay open longer," says Bonder. "But the students graduating from our program will be that much stronger."

Biology Reunion Yesterday

Veteran Professor Shines Light on Changes Underway in Biology Department



Biology Professor Douglas Morrison is perhaps one of the best-known faculty members on campus, given the sheer number of students who have taken his General Biology 101 or 102 course since 1975, when he

first arrived at Rutgers-Newark and began teaching it. Now in his 37th year on campus, he is uniquely qualified to offer a panoramic view of the Biology Department and the sweeping changes taking place within it. We caught up with him recently to get his take.

What research areas did you focus on early in your career?

My Ph.D. was in animal behavior and ecology. For many years, I studied communally roosting bats and birds, focusing on how predators and critical resources such as feeding and roosting sites influenced the evolution of social foraging and mating systems.

You've taught the General Biology 101/102 sequence for a long time.

How have you managed to sustain your interest?

I came to campus in 1975 to teach the General Biology course, and I loved teaching it—and still do. I love sharing my knowledge about the natural world and seeing others get excited about it. I'll do it until they drag me away [laughing].

What's been your history with it?

I taught 102 up until 1985, when the Zoology/Physiology and Botany departments fused into the current Department of Biological Sciences. Since then I've taught both 101 and 102. Up until Fall 2011, when the new Biology foundations curriculum began, I taught it to majors and non-majors. Now I teach it to only non-majors. I also teach two upper-level courses for majors.

How many students take the course, and how is it structured?

Up until Fall 2011, more than 700 majors and non-majors from all around campus typically took the class. We had 15 teaching assistants and four lecture sections. Students got two 80-minute lectures and one three-hour lab per week. Around 500 non-majors take it now.

You also had a hand in developing the Biology Learning Center in Boyden Hall?

I got a National Science Foundation CAUSE Grant [Comprehensive Assistance to Undergraduate Science Education] that helped us build and open the center in the mid-'80s. The center has a self-paced lab housing 60 individual carrels, plus a seminar room that holds 20 students. It's been integral to the General Biology 101/102 course, which is a combination of lecture, individual lab work and small-group discussion.

What's your take on the changes sweeping through the Biology department?

Biology has become so vast, the amount of information so staggering, that one can no longer be a general biologist even at the undergraduate level. These shifts acknowledge this reality. I also like the move away from teacher-centered classrooms to more collaborative work and small- and large-group discussions—as well as more problem-solving, writing and presentations.

Why are these positive developments?

When students are actively engaged, they learn and retain more. Their critical thinking skills improve, as does their writing. So many jobs require good writing and speaking skills, and you really don't know where your gaps are until you have to write about a subject.

Given the tens of thousands of students who have passed through your General Biology course, do alumni still recognize you so many years later?

It's amazing how many people come up to me—in restaurants, shopping malls, even in airplanes—and say, "Dr. Morrison!" Invariably, they reminisce about the dissection of the fetal pig, the first lab of the course. Never fails. **R**

Biology Reunion Today

Alumnus Reflects on Journey from Biology Department to Top of Pediatrics Field



Dr. Edward Reiter (NCAS '64) was a student at St. Benedict's High School in Newark when he realized he wanted to become a doctor. He had been reared in Catholic parochial schools, loved science, and like many

of his generation in the early 1960s, admired Dr. Tom Dooley, the iconic figure whose charity medical work in Southeast Asia

loomed large with American Catholics and the country at large.

But it was his time at Rutgers-Newark, and professors in the then Zoology/Physiology department, who gave him the training and impetus to pursue that dream and turn it into a reality.

"I had good grades, but not coming from Princeton or Yale, I was leery of my chances of getting into medical school," says Reiter. "But a cellular biology profes-

sor, Jim Hall, said, 'You can do it!' That support and encouragement was hugely important for me."

By his own admission, Reiter went on to have a career as stellar as any Ivy League graduate, moving through medical school at the Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; doing a residency and fellowships at Case Western Reserve University, the National Institutes for Health (NIH), and the University of California at San Francisco; and joining

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the faculty at University of South Florida in his specialty, pediatric endocrinology.

In 1978, a former Case Western Reserve colleague recruited him to Bay State Medical Center in Longmeadow, MA, just outside Springfield, to be part of their fledgling pediatrics department. He became acting chair in 1980 when his colleague fell ill, then permanent chair two years later, a position he held until 2008.

During that nearly 30-year span, Reiter oversaw the facility's enormous expansion, growing the faculty from 8 to 64 members and the number of residents from 12 to 60. The small pediatric services department eventually morphed into Bay State Children's Hospital—which remained part of the larger medical center.

Under Reiter's tenure, the facility became one of two teaching hospitals for Tufts University Medical School, a program that also grew under his tenure. Reiter became a clinical professor of pediatrics at Tufts Medical School as well, teaching nearly 60 residents plus 20 third- and fourth-year medical students on-site.

The ride, he says, was exhilarating. But his decision to relinquish the role of chair and physician-in-chief of the hospital four years ago was not a difficult one.

"It was time not to have chairman pressures—being responsible for salaries, space, grant support, philanthropy, teaching curricula and everything else," says Reiter, "The hospital was healthy. We were in a great place. I felt I could step down while things were good."

That decision has allowed him to step back and enjoy the fruits of his labor, practicing pediatric endocrinology half-time while spending more hours with his wife, Virginia, and their three children and five grandchildren.

But he hasn't forgotten his roots: his parents, who emigrated to the U.S. from Slovakia in the 1930s and always stressed education, or his biology professors at Rutgers-Newark.

"This was a group of faculty who were really turned on by being educators and dedicated to producing great research and scholarship," says Reiter. "For me, to work in their labs and have them as role models—that meant so much as a young learner. They showed me that learning is exciting and important. And I've carried that with me my entire life." **R**

Biology Reunion Today

Scholar Examines Effects of Hurricane Sandy on the Meadowlands



Biology Professor Karina Schäfer specializes in ecosystem ecology, looking at global climate change and its effects on terrestrial ecosystems. Greenhouse gas emission is one of several factors contributing to climate change, and the ability of the earth's land

and oceans to absorb excess gases such as carbon-dioxide plays a key role in the health of the planet. These natural sponges, or sinks, include wetlands like the Meadowlands in New Jersey, which Schäfer has been studying in concert with the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute. She's been measuring how much CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide these vast wetlands have been absorbing and producing, and how Hurricane Sandy has affected the area. We spoke to her recently about her research.

What drew you to the Meadowlands, and why is it important to study the area?

Wetlands are very important to the environment. They filter harmful nutrients, protect coastlines from floods and hurricanes, fight sea-level rise, and take up and store carbon. Humans have increased the greenhouse gases—carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide—that the Meadowlands are emitting. The sources vary, but the main one is sew-

age coming from Hackensack River, which spawns invasive species not native to area that are huge methane emitters. Another is the Oradell Dam, which limits the fresh water in the area.

So, what are the implications for the Meadowlands?

Well, Scientists examine all the sources and sinks of greenhouse gases as part of the work on global climate change, and see what the balance is at the end of the day. We're doing the same for the Meadowlands and trying to figure out if we can manage these wetlands to take up more greenhouse gases than they emit—to make them better sinks. If we can do that, not only will we be helping the environment by reducing global warming, we'll get carbon credits that can be turned into dollars as part of cap-and-trade [the prevailing market-based approach to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions in the U.S. and globally].

When did you start measuring these greenhouse gases in the Meadowlands, and how do you go about it?

My team and I started in 2009 using eddy covariance flux towers: devices set up at different sites in the Meadowlands that measure the amount of CO₂ and methane in the air. From all the data they produce, we can infer how much of each gas is emitted and

taken up by the wetlands. We also use additional instruments that give us small-scale measurements of just methane.

And you're studying the effects of Hurricane Sandy on the Meadowlands as well?

Yes. Sandy destroyed much of my equipment actually. I received a National Science Foundation grant to restore it and study what the hurricane did to the greenhouse-gas balance at each site. Also, Sandy took away up to one foot of the Meadowlands, which compromises sea-lands protection and creates water patches during tidal flows that weren't there. These wash away sediments, change vegetation and maybe produce more methane because we now have less air, or oxygen, present. We're tracking these changes in methane with the eddy covariance flux towers.

Does your work get caught up in the politics of climate change?

Yes, definitely. Wetlands management is part of the Clean Water Act. There are lots of dollars at stake with cap-and-trade and carbon credits. And the Meadowlands is a politically sensitive site because of real-estate developers and other interests. So, our work is certainly not done in a vacuum. **R**

Biology Reunion Tomorrow

Future Veterinarian Makes His Mark in Cell & Molecular Biology Lab



Wagner Alcivar was 10 years old when he first visited his grandpa's farm back in his parents' native homeland of Ecuador. He was fascinated by the animals and crops, and wanted to know

how to tend to them.

He sustained his interest during his tweens and teens in Union City, NJ, not only by looking after his family's pets but by taking every opportunity during office visits to pepper their veterinarian with questions. He also kept thinking about his grandpa's farm, returning again at age 16 to learn more.

"The farm led to my interest in animals, which led to my interest in biology," says Alcivar, now a 21-year-old senior majoring in biology at Rutgers-Newark, and minoring in computer science. "It's really that simple."

These days, if you want to find Alcivar, the best place to look is the lab of Biology Professor Haesun Kim, where he spends four-to-five days a week outside class—a total of 15 hours—helping her research team examine mechanisms that cause neurodegenerative diseases such

as multiple sclerosis, along with nerve damage caused by diabetes and cancer chemotherapy.

Kim had Alcivar work under a graduate student last summer and fall. When she left the lab after defending her thesis in December, Kim handed her project off to Alcivar unsupervised.

"This is very rare," says Kim. "But I felt Wagner could handle it. He'd worked very hard to learn everything he could and had proven himself in a short period of time."

Kim's research looks at the breakdown and possible rejuvenation of a fatty cellular substance called myelin, which enwraps and insulates axons in the nervous system and helps conduct nerves' electrical signals. Its breakdown is common to MS and other diseases.


Alcivar is helping Kim with the rejuvenation part of the equation. He is using techniques such as Schwann cell imaging, gene transfection and western blot analysis to detect how a protein called Rab11 influences another, named Akt, to promote the growth of myelin, which might one day help in developing therapies for such diseases.

Alcivar, whose parents immigrated to the U.S. from Ecuador just before he

was born, came to Kim's lab through the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program, which provides him a research stipend and is one of two nationally funded initiatives for minority science students on campus. The other, Garden State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (G-LSAMP), was Alcivar's gateway to lab work upon arriving at Rutgers-Newark in 2009.

"These programs have been great for me," says Alcivar. "You feel part of a community of student researchers who know what you're going through as a minority, and we help one another with our experiments."

Meanwhile, Alcivar's love of animals continues unabated. He holds a Saturday morning job at the Animal Hospital of Fairfield, in New Jersey, preparing animals for surgery, drawing blood, giving vaccinations and treating other ailments. He plans to get an M.D. and Ph.D. so he can have a career in veterinary medicine and research.

"I don't envision only treating animals. I also want to know why they have diseases," says Alcivar. "And my experience in Dr. Kim's lab has been essential to my realizing that." 

Biology Reunion Tomorrow

Budding Entomologist Headed to Guyana to Study Rainforest Ecosystems



As a child in Stillwater, NJ, near the Delaware Water Gap, Megan Wilson spent countless hours in the woods and by ponds and streams, collecting frogs and other specimens with her two

younger sisters and friends. She also had a great uncle nearby who was a college biology professor.

"We'd get into long conversations about things like the theory of evolution and bioluminescence," says Wilson, now 21. "And he'd quiz me on stuff whenever I went over his house."

In high school, she joined the science league, where she competed with kids from around the state on tests in biology and chemistry. From there she went to Sussex County Community College and received an associate's degree in biol-

ogy, transferring to the Rutgers-Newark Biology Department in 2011. She is now a senior and an active member of the Entomology Club.

Two days a week, when not in class, she can also be found volunteering in the lab of Biology Professor Jessica Ware, whose groundbreaking work on evolution and entomology has shed light on pristine ecosystems in the South American rainforests of British Guyana.

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Ware studies behavioral and physiological adaptations in insects, focusing mostly, though not exclusively, on dragonflies and damselflies. She also discovers new species of insects in collaboration with a team from the Smithsonian Institution.

Lately, Ware and a graduate student have focused on bromeliad ecosystems under the Guyana rainforest canopy. Bromeliads are large, colorful spiky plants (think pineapples), in between whose leaves water, organic matter and insects collect—including the larvae of damselflies, which were thought to be at the top of this ecosystem's food chain.

When poking around two summers ago, however, Ware's team saw cockroaches pour out of the spiky leaves, leading

them to question previous assumptions about the food chain.


Wilson has helped Ware by dissecting these cockroaches, examining their innards with a comparison microscope, and doing painstaking diet analysis on them to determine whether they, and not the larvae, are lords of the flies—or highest on this food chain.

She presented her initial findings at the undergraduate section of the Entomological Society of America's national conference in Knoxville, TN, last November.

"The data section of my Powerpoint presentation didn't appear onscreen, but they were impressed that I remembered all the data and kept right on going,"

says Wilson. "It was nerve-wracking and a great experience for me."

This semester, Wilson is organizing the lab's insect collection and doing illustrations of two new species of dragonflies that Ware and her team discovered. Next summer, she'll head to Guyana with them on field research. To say she's excited is an understatement.

"It should be amazing, getting out in that pristine rainforest where you can see insect evolution untouched by humans," says Wilson. "That's the part that fascinates me: how things fit into the larger picture and how things adapt. That's what my great uncle instilled in me." 

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{KARYN MALINOWSKI CC'75, GSNB'80, '86}

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