Huai C. Chiang

Family, friends, and colleagues worldwide mourn the passing of Huai C. Chiang, Professor Emeritus, Department of Entomology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, on March 30, 2005, in Ithaca, NY. Huai is survived by Zoe, his wife of 59 years, and their children: Jeannie (Oakland, CA), Katherine (Ithaca, NY), and Robert (Ithaca, NY).

Huai was born February 15, 1915, in Sunjiang County, Jiangsu Province, China. He graduated from the Hsueh-wen Middle School in Peking (Beijing) and entered Tsinghua University in that city in 1934. The following year, he was hired as a summer helper by Dr. C. L. Liu, head of the university’s Division of Entomology. That exposure to the “world of insects” launched Huai on his lifelong vocation.

However, incredible hurdles lay ahead. The Marco Polo Bridge incident (July 7, 1937) marked the beginning of the Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945). Avoiding the occupying forces, Huai made his way to the Temporary University in Chongsha, Hunan, leaving his father and sister, and a city he would not see again for 30 years. Huai completed the first semester of his senior year in Chongsha, but with the Japanese army moving ever closer, the government relocated the university to Kunming, Yunnan, and renamed it Southwest Associated University. Huai and 250 of his classmates made an incredible 68-day overland trek (including a one-day 53-km hike) and arrived in Kunming in late April 1938.

In 1938, the Agricultural Research Institute of Tsinghua University moved from Peking to Kunming, and Huai, having graduated in June of that year, was invited by former mentor C. L. Liu to join the institute. Huai also joined a choral group, where he met a young chemist, Zoe-ing Shen, who was to become his life partner.

During World War II, Kunming was the terminus of the Allied air supply route from India, and an American army antimalaria unit headed by Lieutenant Sam Billings was based there. Huai’s interactions with the Americans enhanced his English language skills and also piqued his interest in possible graduate study in the United States. When Huai became eligible for sabbatical leave from the Institute, Dr. Liu encouraged him to contact the eminent insect ecologist Royal N. Chapman, then a faculty member at the University of Minnesota. When U.S. Army Captain Al Buecky, a recent Minnesota entomology M.S. graduate, visited the Kunming base, he also offered his support. With strong recommendations from these respected individuals, Huai was accepted at Minnesota. At the same time, Zoe was accepted at Smith College in Northampton, MA. Zoe later joined Huai in Minnesota and they married in 1946.

Huai’s journey to Minnesota, via Bombay and Sydney (mostly courtesy of U.S. military transport), took two months. When he arrived in St. Paul on January 6, 1943, Huai learned that Chapman had died and that he would be working with Dr. A. C. Hodson. Huai’s master’s thesis was on the biology of fall cankerworm. However, populations collapsed after 1946, making the continuation of the study impractical. Hodson sent Huai working on aspects of the population dynamics of the fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster, using controlled environment chambers.

With the dedication and proficiency that were to be the hallmarks of his professional career, Huai completed his graduate training in just under three and a half years. In 1948, Hodson was assigned to lead a project on the European corn borer, a potentially devastating new pest. With the political situation in China highly unstable and the European corn borer project presenting a fascinating opportunity for additional research experience, Drs. Hodson and C. E. Creek, then department head, were able to convince Huai to accept what was then intended to be a temporary position in the department. The day following his Ph.D. defense, Hodson drove Huai to the southern Minnesota community of Waseca, where he was to spend 12 of his next 13 summers.

An unexpected resignation in the Department of Biology at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in the spring of 1953 led to Huai being offered a quarter-time appointment to teach general entomology. Although Huai had no previous experience in teaching, his efforts were so well received that the following spring he was offered a tenure-track position at UMD. Huai remained at UMD until 1961. In 1960, he was promoted to professor; and in 1961 he received a much-treasured Teacher of the Year Award from the UMD Student Council.

Each summer, except for a 1956–1957 sabbatical in the laboratory of the famed aphidologist J. S. Kennedy at Cambridge University, Huai and his family returned to Waseca, where he continued his European corn borer research. In 1960, Hodson became head of the Department of Entomology at the University of Minnesota and offered Huai the insect ecology position he was to hold until his retirement January 1, 1984.

Huai was a pioneer and internationally recognized leader in what we now call Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Crop Loss Assessment. He served as major advisor to 37 doctoral and master’s students, many of whom went on to distinguished careers in industry, academia, and government service. In addition, he served as reader or examiner on committees for another 125 students. He served his university and various professional societies in many capacities, including as president in 1975–1976 of the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America. He organized at least 10 programs for national and international scientific meetings. Huai’s research focused on four major subject areas: European corn borer, Ostrinia nubilis (1948–1983), corn rootworms, Diabrotica spp. (1964–1981), biological control (1938–1983), and swarming behavior of the midge Anaxtea pritchardi (1958–1982). He wrote about 250 scientific publications in...
visiting Chinese scholar from mainland China to Minnesota since 1949. From 1980 until his retirement, Huai coordinated China Program activities for the University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture. He continued to be active in China programs on and off campus through the mid-1990s.

In June 2001, Huai and Zoe moved to Itasca, NY, to be closer to two of their children. We missed them greatly in Minnesota. We thank Zoe for her support of Huai throughout his brilliant career and for sharing him with us. Huai and Zoe Chang have made the world a better place.

For details of Dr. Chang's life and accomplishments, the author relied heavily on an article written by Dr. Chiang in 1993: "I am happy to be an entomologist." Chinese Journal of Entomology 13: 275–292.

Ted Radcliffe, Professor
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Rudolph T. Franklin

RUDOLPH THOMAS FRANKLIN, 76, retired associate professor of forest entomology and forest resources at the University of Georgia, Athens, died on 30 January 2005, at his home in Elberton, GA. He had been in poor health for several years, having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1986. The son of Albert Franklin and Marie Smythe, he was born in Morrisstown, NJ, and grew up in Fairfield, CT.

Dr. Franklin attended Belmont Abbey College for two years and completed his Bachelor of Science degree at Emory University in 1950. He then secured a Master of Science at the University of Georgia, 1955, and a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, 1964. He served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army during the Korean conflict.

From 1962 until 1965, he was employed as a forest entomologist by the Division of Plant Industry in Minneapolis. In 1965, Dr. Franklin moved his family to Atlanta and then to Asheville, NC, where he was employed by the U.S. Forest Service Branch of Forest Insects and Disease Control. In this position, he served as the team leader for the group, conducting forest insect surveys throughout the Southeast, primarily for infestations of the southern pine beetle.

In 1965, Dr. Franklin accepted a position on the faculty of the University of Georgia in the Department of Entomology and the School of Forestry. During the summers of 1978 through 1980, he was on the faculty of the University of Minnesota at the Lake Itasca Biological Station. At the University of Georgia, he taught forest entomology, agricultural entomology, and biology for teachers as well as directing and/or advising 18 graduate students and conducting entomological research. His research on pine bark beetles and their biology and parasites resulted in 58 published scientific papers.

Dr. Franklin was a member of the American and Canadian entomological societies. He was also a member of the Georgia and Kansas Entomological Societies from 1955 until his death. He was president of the Georgia Entomological Society in 1974 and was elected a Fellow of the Society in 2000. He also was a member of the Sigma Xi Honorary Scientific Society, Phi Kappa Phi, and Gamma Sigma Delta. He was an active participant in all the above associations and often held an office or chaired committees. He enjoyed singing with the Athens Choral Society and was an avid square dancer and caller.

Dr. Franklin is survived by his wife, Ann Adams Franklin of Elberton, GA, five children: Catherine Nien, Thomas Franklin, and Elizabeth Hawkins, all of Atlanta, Julie King of Chicago, and Michael Franklin of Bozeman, MT; one brother, Albert Franklin of North Myrtle Beach, SC, and fourteen grandchildren. Dr. Franklin is intered at Forest Hills Memorial Park, Elberton.

Professional associates in academia and industry and students alike who knew of his friendliness and infectious smile will miss Dr. Franklin. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, Gift Processing Center, PO Box 96268, Washington, DC 20090-6268.

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Rudolph T. Franklin (1928–2005)