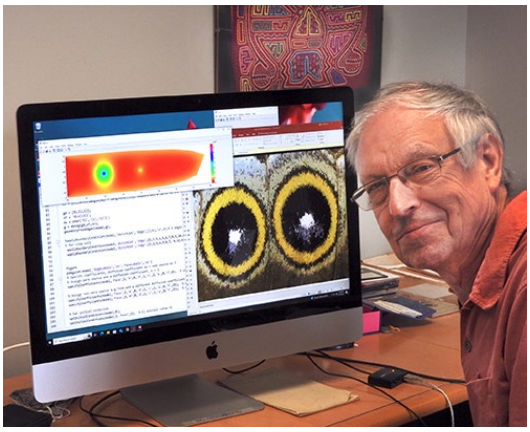
The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics presents the

Richard H. and Elizabeth C. Hageman Distinguished Lecturer in Agricultural Biochemistry Colloquium



Dr. Fred Nijhout, John Franklin Crowell Distinguished Professor of Biology

Department of Biology, Duke University

The Biology of Polyphenisms in Insects

Many insects are able to develop into two or more alternative phenotypes. In social insects, for example, a larva can metamorphose into a queen, a worker or a soldier: dramatically different phenotypes without genetic differences. Many insects also have distinctive seasonal forms and highly plastic phenotypic adaptations to different environments. Some of these alternative forms are so distinct they were originally described as different species. In this presentation I will discuss experiments that show how these alternative phenotypes are controlled by a small set of hormones that act as switches for developmental pathways to produce dramatically different outcomes.

Thursday, March 12 at 9:00 a.m.
Johnson Cancer Research Center, Chalmers 36

Refreshments will be provided