

## 1982 MERCER AWARD

**Svaťa M. Louda**

The George Mercer Award is given annually to a young ecologist in recognition of outstanding research published in the United States or Canada within the preceding two years. It is the highest form of recognition for published ecological research awarded by the Ecological Society of America.

Dr. Svaťa M. Louda, Research Assistant Professor, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Beaufort, North Carolina is recognized for her paper, "Distribution ecology: Variation in plant recruitment over a gradient in relation to insect seed predation." The paper appeared in *Ecological Monographs* in 1982 (52:25–41). The work examined insect seed predation in the population dynamics of two shrub species. The experimental results showed, in this test of the role of insect-caused seed losses, that native insects can be a major force in controlling the recruitment and occurrence of a native plant over its distributional range. The paper represents an important contribution to understanding the interactions between plants and insects. In



Mercer Award winner Svaťa M. Louda (left) with Terry Sanford, President of Duke University.

this case the interaction involves insect granivory and plant demography.

Dr. Louda continues her work on insect herbivory by investigating insect herbivory in relation to plant biochemical traits.

**G. R. Marzolf**