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## Hexapod Herald – Volume 14, Number 4, September 2007

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# Hexapod Herald

Volume 19

September 2007

Number 4

## WELCOME

### New Distance Masters Students:

Fall 2007: **Mary Bauza-Lawver**, Altus, OK; **Peter Bonkrude**, Loma Linda, CA; **Travis Culpepper**, Omaha, NE; **Shane McCoy**, De Forest, WI; **Sean Moudy**, Slidell, LA; **Wendy Varnado**, Jackson, MS; **Danyck Yoon**, Ste-Julie QC, Canada.

**Jesus Orozco Araujo**, from Cucuta, Colombia, is a new Ph.D. degree student who will be working under the supervision of **Dr. Brett Ratcliffe**. Jesus received his B.S. degree in biology in 2005 from the Universidad Industrial de Santander in Bucaramanga, Columbia. He graduated from Western Kentucky University with a M.S. degree in biology this past May.

**Kathleen Kneeland** will be pursuing a M.S. degree under the supervision of **Dr. John Foster**. Kate, who is from Washington, received her B.S. degree from Saint Martin's College in Lacey, WA in December 2002. Her major was biology with a minor in chemistry.

**Difabachew Belay Kondidie** is a new Ph.D. student from Ethiopia who will be working under the supervision of **Dr. John Foster**. Belay received his B.S. degree in agriculture from the Alemaya University of Agriculture in 2000, majoring in plant science. He received his M.S. degree in horticulture, majoring in phytopathology and entomology from the University of Hannover, Germany in 2003. After graduating, Belay held a position as a project leader and researcher with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research.

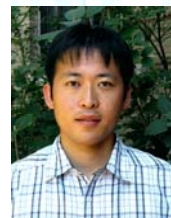
**Kentaro Miwa**, who is from Shizuoka, Japan, will be pursuing a M.S. degree under the supervision of **Dr. Gary Brewer**. Ken received his B.S. in Integrative Biology from Brigham Young University this past summer.

**Ralph Narain**, a former distance student, will be pursuing his M. S. degree on campus now, working under the supervision of **Dr. Shripat Kamble**. Ralph was born in Guyana, South America and moved to the United States in 1996. He received his B.S. degree in Environmental Science in 2003 from SUNY College in Oneonta, NY.

**Amanda Roe** is a new M.S. student who will be working under the supervision of **Dr. David Carter**. Amanda, who is from Wyoming, received her B.S. degree from the University of Wyoming in 2006, majoring in agroecology and minoring in insect biology.

### New Insect Science Majors:

**Neil Hammitt**, Tokyo, Japan; **Leslie Picraux**, Lincoln, NE; **Katie Schueths**, Lincoln, NE; and **Matthew Wagner**, Omaha, NE.



# CONGRATULATIONS

The following students graduated August 18, 2007:

Resident - **Leonardo C. Magalhaes, M.S.** (Advisors - Drs. **Thomas Hunt** and **Blair Siegfried**)

Distance - **Melvin R. Bishop, John C. Garbarini, Jody M. Hubbell, Frank Laccone, Mark E. Lynch,** and **Jackson G. Mosley**

**Nick Aliano** is the Eastern Apicultural Society Graduate Student Award winner for 2007. Nick was able to travel to the University of Delaware in Newark, DE to attend the EAS Annual Conference, since his son, Maxwell Christopher, arrived a few days earlier. Maxwell was born to Nick and his wife, Jessica Wieland, on August 3, weighing in at a hefty 9 lbs., 5 oz. Congrats to Nick on both counts!

## GRANTS

### Tiffany Heng-Moss

- United States Golf Association .....\$5,000  
*"Resistant Turfgrasses for Improved Chinch Bug Management on Golf Courses"*

### Shripat Kamble

- Dow AgroSciences .....\$15,000  
"Urban Research"
- Syngenta .....\$14,500  
"Urban Research"

### Lance Meinke

- Syngenta .....\$11,000  
*"Industry Research Fund (Diabrotica Biology Ecology and Management)"*
- Bayer CropScience .....\$2,250  
*"Industry Research Fund (Diabrotica Biology Ecology and Management)"*
- Dow AgroSciences .....\$3,000  
*"Industry Research Fund (Diabrotica Biology Ecology and Management)"*

### Blair Siegfried, David Dunigan, Bradley Plantz, Vicki Schlegel, James Van Etten, and Thomas Powers

- ARD Interdisciplinary Research Grant .....\$20,000  
*"Isolation and Characterization of Novel Cellulose Digesting Enzymes"*

### Robert Wright

- Bayer CropScience .....\$2,500  
"Insect Management Industry"
- Dow AgroSciences .....\$7,500  
"Insect Management Industry"

**Dr. Brett Ratcliffe** and Ronald D. Cave (University of Florida) have been awarded \$480,000 by the National Science Foundation to conduct a five year biodiversity inventory of the Dynastine Scarab Beetles of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize.

This research will provide the first extensive documentation of the taxonomic, geographic, and temporal distribution of dynastines in these countries and

will provide the means to identify, for the first time, all species. Collections in the USA and study area will be surveyed to gather data associated with specimens, extensive collecting will be conducted, and new species described. Authoritatively identified collections will be established at institutions in all three countries. The result will be an illustrated book-length work on the Dynastinae of Mexico,



Guatemala, and Belize that includes an introduction to the three countries, identification keys (in English and Spanish) for all species, and detailed species accounts. The study area is biotically rich, but it is also an area of increasingly intense land use where pristine areas are succumbing to "development." In order to manage resources in developing countries, we must first identify the fauna. The recognition of the importance to humankind of tropical forests and the mounting concern for their future is well known. Basic research in the tropics must be accelerated, and failure to do so will limit our capability to contribute solutions to impending scientific and human problems. This will constitute the third volume in a series of five that are planned. The first volume surveyed the dynastines of Costa Rica and Panama (<http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/dynintro.htm>), and the second volume covered Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador (<http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Honduras-book.htm>). The fourth volume will inventory the West Indies, and the fifth will treat the United States and Canada. Whew.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Carstens, Jeffrey, Tiffany Heng-Moss, Frederick Baxendale, Roch Gaussoin, Kevin Frank, and Linda Young.** 2007. Influence of Buffalograss Management Practices on Western Chinch Bug and Its Beneficial Arthropods. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 100(1): 136-147.

**Cunningham, Alexander P., James R. Brandle, Stephen D. Danielson, and Thomas E. Hunt.** 2007. Lady Beetles of Nebraska. Extension Circular EC1780. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension.

**Dogramaci, Mahmut, Z B Mayo, Robert Wright, and John Reese.** 2007. Categories of Resistance, Antibiosis and Tolerance, to Biotype I Greenbug (*Schizaphis graminum* (Rondani) Homoptera: Aphididae) in Four Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench. Poales:Gramineae) Hybrids. *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 80(3): 183-191.

**Eickhoff, Thomas E., Tiffany M. Heng-Moss, and Frederick P. Baxendale.** 2007. Evaluation of Warm-season Turfgrasses for Resistance to the Chinch Bug, *Blissus occiduus*. *HortScience* 42(3): 718-720.

**Gulsen, O., R.C. Shearman, T.M. Heng-Moss, N. Mutlu, D.J. Lee, and G. Sarath.** 2007. Peroxidase Gene Polymorphism in Buffalograss and Other Grasses. *Crop Sci.* 47(2): 767-774.

**Hunt, Thomas E., Lawrent L. Buschman, and Phillip E. Sloderbeck.** 2007. Insecticide Use in Bt and Non-Bt Field Corn in the Western Corn Belt: As Reported by Crop Consultants in a Mail Survey. *American Entomologist* 53(2): 86-93.

**Pierson, Lanae M., Rosana Serikawa, Tiffany M. Heng-Moss, and John E. Foster.** 2007. An Investigation of the Genetic Variation between *Blissus occiduus* Barber and *Blissus leucopterus leucopterus* (Say). *RURALS: Review of Undergraduate Research in Agricultural and Life Sciences* 1(1):8. <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/rurals/vol1/iss1/8>

## **FACULTY NEWS**

Dr. **Tiffany Heng-Moss** is featured on "At Work for Nebraska - IANR's Conversations." On this website, Tiffany is one of seven (at this present time - with a new conversation added each week) members of the IANR community to talk about their work for the state of Nebraska. Be sure to check out this website at: <http://atworkfornebraska.unl.edu/conversations.html>



Dr. Mary Liz Jameson



Dr. Federico Ocampo

# ***A FOND FAREWELL***

*Or*

## ***TEAM SCARAB: RIP***

by Dr. Brett Ratcliffe  
Curator and Professor of Entomology

It is with great sadness that I report the departure of Team Scarab's two most important scientists, **Dr. Mary Liz Jameson and Dr. Federico Ocampo**. Mary Liz, my co-curator in the Division of Entomology at the Museum, has been salaried on grant funds and Vice Chancellor for Research funds for the past several years and before that as an outreach educator for the Museum. The grant and VCR support for her came to an end on August 31, after which time we can keep her employed with some residual funds part time for only another seven months. Mary Liz, as most of you may know, brings sunshine and laughter to the Museum's research collections, scientific acumen to the discipline of entomology, and genuine caring for people and programs. During her time here, she has generated \$1.7 million dollars in grants (four of those grants from the National Science Foundation), published numerous peer-reviewed scientific articles, participated in many collecting expeditions to the tropics, made annual presentations at national and international meetings, mentored our award-winning graduate students in entomology, taught in the University Honors program, served as the President of the Coleopterists Society and the Central States Entomological Society, and helped to make our lab "Scarab Central" for the western hemisphere. Mary Liz provided the critical mass that has enabled Team Scarab, as a unit, to obtain about \$3 million in external funding over the past decade, publish over 200 scholarly articles, acquire the U.S. National Collection of Scarab Beetles from the Smithsonian Institution, dramatically increased our research collections, obtain unsolicited accolades from the National Science Foundation for Team Scarab's productivity, and to be recognized internationally as THE center for scarab beetle studies.

Fede, our Entomology Collections Manager for the past three years, is the other part of Team Scarab's critical mass of dedicated scientists whose last day was August 8, 2007. Fede was able to secure a research position in Mendoza, Argentina, and he and his family returned home there the second week of August. During his time here, he had been a co-PI on a \$300,000 NSF grant to study the scarab beetles of southern South America, published 35 scientific articles, participated in numerous collecting expeditions to the tropics, served as a Councilor for the Coleopterists Society, and presented research papers at national and international meetings. Fede was also the Division of Entomology's computer guru and expert in molecular analyses of DNA for phylogenetic studies. He and Mary Liz were co-PIs on a NSF grant (with matching funds from UNL) to establish the Museum's Biosynthesis Laboratory that enables extraction and amplification of DNA for molecular studies and ultra high quality images for publication and the web from the highly sophisticated Automontage camera system. Fede has several layers of expertise that were central to our research and collection management activities, and these will be very difficult to replace.

I shall miss both of these dedicated and supremely competent scientists. I wish them well.

# GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

The following students were awarded fellowships/awards for the 2007-2008 academic year:

<b>Analiza Alves</b>	Shear-Miles Fellowship	\$2,000
<b>Laura Campbell</b>	Henry F. and Jean D. Holtzclaw Fellowship	\$1,500
<b>Andre Crespo</b>	Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award	\$2,000
<b>Andrea Gutsche</b>	Farmers National Company Fellowship	\$2,000
<b>Tim Huntington</b>	John Borrlson Fellowship	\$1,500
<b>Lanae Pierson</b>	Farmers National Company Fellowship	\$2,000
<b>Sandra Schaeffer</b>	Farmers National Company Fellowship	\$2,000
<b>Sek Yee Tan</b>	Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship	\$5,000
<b>Luciana Toda</b>	Farmers National Company Fellowship	\$2,000

The Milton E. Mohr, Shear-Miles, and Farmers National Company Fellowship recipients, as well as the Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award winners, will be honored at a luncheon on September 27, 2007.

**Jennifer Johnson**, a distance M.S. entomology student, presented the paper, "Coreidae Locomotion" at the Rocky Mountain Conference of Entomologists held July 30-August 2, 2007 in Woodland Park, CO.

## MEET A DISTANCE STUDENT

*Jackson Green Mosley* - another very recent distance student graduate

I'm a native of East Stroudsburg, PA. Our family with six children moved to the rural community of Hardee County, FL, where the term entomology still requires some explanation for most people. I have always enjoyed nature and would find ways to explore the natural world around me. This began as a child living in the Pocono's and progressed throughout my teen years in Florida. As a high school and college football player, I was easily distracted by the gathering hordes of insects at the stadium lights. I do know this much; trying to keep an insect in your football tights during a game is not a recommended method of collecting insects. It seemed the most interesting specimen would fly just out of reach in the field of play and never close to me when I was sitting on the sidelines.



Presently, I'm employed with the Florida Park Service of the Department of Environmental Protection. I want to use my M.S. degree to continue monitoring insect populations in the parks. I will also continue to interpret insects in schools and the community. I have a wonderful family. My wife Sheryl is an educator with an M.S. degree, and I have two tremendous children, Katrice and Jackson Jr. They both are smarter kids and better athletes than I could have ever been. It would take a few more paragraphs to discuss each of my six siblings and parents. They all are important to me too.

My experiences in UNL's distance education program proved to be challenging and rewarding. I really valued the diversity in course selection in the distance program. I appreciate the hard work of everyone in the Entomology Department that helped make the program what it is today.

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

The Insect Science Club officers for 2007-2008 are: President - **Jeff Hays**, Vice President - **Ashley Effken** (Fall), **Ransom Sitz** (Spring), Secretary - **Becca Striman**, and Treasurer - **Matt Moore**. **Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss** is the faculty advisor for the club.

# TRAVEL

Dr. Ken Pruess attended the Rocky Mountain Conference of Entomologists held July 30-August 2, 2007, in Woodland Park, CO and presented an evening program on fly fishing.

Dr. Mary Liz Jameson and Julia Colby traveled to Europe to conduct research and curate collections at the British Museum of Natural History, London, England; Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium; Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium; and Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany from June 30-July 17, 2007. Dr. Fede Ocampo conducted collaborative research at the Denver Museum of Natural History in July.

## THIS 'N THAT

*Good Morning America* aired a story August 16, 2007 about mysterious, itchy, red bites that were appearing on people in the Chicago, IL area. According to the story, it seemed that the Pyemotes itch mite had traveled to the windy city. Jim Kalisch was inundated for days with calls from public health officials, different media sources, and Chicago area residents asking him about the mite. Samples from Chicago were overnighted to Jim, and he identified four Pyemotes mites on the sticky traps. The broadcast about the bites used five images from the Entomology Department with the University of Nebraska being credited on each of the pictures. By the end of August, a local entomologist discovered that the Pyemotes itch mites had in fact developed on periodical cicada eggs embedded in twigs of various trees and were now in the dispersal stage. What great publicity for the University of Nebraska!!!

Dr. Lilian Saldanha has been named Director for Regulatory Affairs in Brazil for Syngenta Seed. Lilian received her Ph.D. degree from UNL in 2000 and was advised by Drs. John Foster and Sharron Quisenberry.

### **Come One, Come All!**

*Experience the Power of Bugs  
Insect Science Open House*

Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 1-4pm  
Plant Industry Building, East Campus UNL

- SEE:** Bugs, bugs, and more bugs!
- LEARN:** About the many areas of Insect Science!
- MEET:** Insect Science faculty members and students!
- TASTE:** Chocolate chirpie chip cookies and Jello® wiggles!
- CHEER:** For your favorite roach in the Cockroach Races!

**Food! Fun! Prizes! Bugs!  
Don't Miss It!**

# Calendar of Events

## September 16, 2007

- Insect Science Open House, Plant Industry Building (PIND)  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## September 17, 2007

- Entomology Seminar - Dr. Svata Louda, School of Biological Sciences  
4:00 p.m., East Campus Union

## September 18, 2007

- Faculty Meeting, 8:30 a.m., 214 PIND

## October 8, 2007

- Entomology Seminar - Timothy Husen, Graduate Student  
4:00 p.m., East Campus Union

## October 15, 2007

- Entomology Seminar - Abby Stilwell, Graduate Student  
4:00 p.m., East Campus Union

## October 16, 2007

- Entomology Faculty Meeting, 8:30 a.m., 214 PIND

## October 22-23, 2007

- Fall Semester Break - No Classes, offices open

## October 29, 2007

- Entomology Seminar - Santiago Palizada, Graduate Student  
4:00 p.m., East Campus Union

## November 12, 2007

- Entomology Seminar - Stephen Young, Graduate Student  
4:00 p.m., East Campus Union

## November 19, 2007

- Entomology Seminar - Larry Barksdale, Lincoln Police Department  
4:00 p.m., East Campus Union

## November 20, 2007

- Entomology Faculty Meeting, 8:30 a.m., 214 PIND

## November 21, 2007

- Student Holiday, offices open

## November 22-25, 2007

- Thanksgiving Vacation

## November 26, 2007

- Entomology Seminar - Tierney Brosius, Graduate Student  
4:00 p.m., East Campus Union

## December 9-12, 2007

- Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America  
San Diego, CA

## December 17-21, 2007

- First Semester Final Exams

## December 18, 2007

- Entomology Faculty Meeting, 8:30 a.m., 214 PIND

## December 22, 2007

- First Semester Commencement - 9:30 a.m., Bob Devaney Sports Center

## December 22-January 1, 2008

Holiday Closedown