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Hexapod Herald

Volume 20

April 2008

Number 2

WELCOME

New Distance Masters Students for Summer 2008: **Ann Donohue**, Petaluma CA; **Kathleen Hovendick**, Omaha, NE.

Dr. Brian Wienhold has been selected as Research Leader of the USDA-ARS Agroecosystem Management Research Unit. Dr. Wienhold was raised in western Minnesota and received his B.A. in Biology from Minnesota State University in 1982, his M.S. in Botany from North Dakota State University in 1985, and his Ph.D. from the School of Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Arizona in 1989. He joined the Agroecosystem Management Research Unit (formerly the Soil and Water Conservation Research Unit) in 1997 as a Soil Scientist where he continues his work on management effects on soil properties in spatially variable landscapes. His office is located in 305 Entomology Hall.



Deb DeWald accepted the personnel generalist position in the ABE Business Center and started the new position on January 1, 2008. Deb will work with faculty in the Departments of Animal Science, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, and Entomology. Her primary office is C203e Animal Science, and her telephone number is 2-5454. Deb previously worked in the Animal Science Department.



Rebecca "June" Snyder accepted the new grants specialist position in the ABE Business Center and started in the position on February 22, 2008. June will work with faculty in the Departments of Animal Science, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, and Entomology. Her primary office is in C206k Animal Science, and her telephone number is 2-3537. June previously worked in the Engineering Department.



CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Blair Siegfried has been awarded the 2008 Charles Bessey Professorship. The Bessey Professorship is awarded to recognize distinguished scholarship and creative activity. Bessey Professors are appointed for 5-year (renewable) terms. During the fifth year, the holder's record is reviewed for purposes of reappointment. Blair was honored at the All University Honors Convocation that was held on April 6, 2008 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Tierney Brosius is a recipient of a Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence for 2008. This award is accompanied by a \$1,000 stipend. Tierney received the award at a recognition event that was held on March 12, 2008.

Jim Kalisch has been promoted to Extension Associate in the Entomology Department. This reclassification more accurately reflects the scope and complexity of his extension responsibilities. In this new assignment, Jim will oversee a wide-ranging extension entomology program serving horticulture, urban, 4-H and youth clientele, contributing educational presentations at workshops, field days, and conferences, and participating as a panelist on the popular show, Backyard Farmer. Jim will continue to serve as the UNL Plant & Pest Diagnostic Clinic's insect diagnostician and as a member of the Great Plains Diagnostic Network, and will provide training for UNL students, faculty, and staff in photographic techniques, videography, and media production for use in classrooms and laboratories.



Mathew Brust received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award at the Sigma Xi Annual Awards Banquet held April 17, 2008. Matt was cited for greatly increasing knowledge of the distribution, behavior, systematics, and ecology of several groups of insects.

North Central Branch, Entomological Society of America 2008
Annual Meeting Awards for the UNL Entomology Department

NCB Nominees for ESA Awards

Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension: **Fred Baxendale**
Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching: **Tiffany Heng-Moss**
Student Poster Competition Winner, M.S. First Place: **Stephen Young**

First Place in the Linnaean Games: **UNL Team – Mathew Brust, Tim Husen, Erica Lindroth, and Stephen Young. Coaches – Drs. Ken Pruess and Bob Wright.**
The UNL Linnaean Team qualified to compete at the National ESA meeting later this year.

BCE Awards

Training Workshop: UNL Hands-on Termite School for Pest Management Professionals – Barbara Ogg, Clyde Ogg, Dennis Ferraro, and **Shripat Kamble**
Computer Animation: Insect Molting – **Analiza Alves, Andre Crespo, Tiffany Heng-Moss, Blair Siegfried, Heather Dahm, and Nino Kapetanovic**
Extension Publication: Lady Beetles of Nebraska – **Alexander Cunningham, James Brandle, Stephen Danielson, and Thomas Hunt**

Welcome to Tiago Pereira, son of **Eliseu Pereira** and wife, Lucineia. Tiago was born in Viçoso, Minas Gerais, Brazil on February 12 at 7:20 a.m. He weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz., and was 19.7 inches long. The Pereiras will be moving to Vale Paranaíba, Minas Gerais, where Eliseu will be an assistant professor at Universidade Federal de Viçosa. Congratulations to the Pereiras on a new son and a new job!



Welcome to Easton Eickhoff, son of **Tom Eickhoff** and wife, Sara, who was born April 15 at 12:49 p.m. in Pendleton, IN. Easton weighed 7 lb., 9 oz., and was 21 inches long. Tom started a new job recently with Monsanto as a technology development representative. Big sister, Avery is holding Easton in the picture to the right.



NEW AND IMPROVED

It is official now with the sign change. Plant Industry Building no longer exists. Our building name is now Entomology Hall, abbreviated ENTO. The stairwell leak was solved and drywall and fresh paint replaced cracks and peeling. All the halls were repainted throughout the building, which is just the start of changes/updates/cosmetic improvements we will be seeing in the not too distant future. Renovation of research labs is first on the list of improvements.



GRANTS

John Foster

- Monsanto \$5,000
 "Diabrotica and Maize"

Tiffany Heng-Moss

- Industry Research Fund \$5,000
 "USGA- Resistant Turfgrasses"

Robert Wright

- Syngenta \$16,500
 "Crop Insect Management"

MEETING NEWS

Ninety-four new beekeepers attended beginning Beekeeping Workshops conducted in Kearney and Lincoln on March 1 and 8, respectively. There was a field day on April 12, 2008 at the ARDC where these new beekeepers hoped to gain hands-on experience working with honey bees, but the cold weather limited them to inside activities. There will be a Master Beekeeping Workshop at the ARDC on June 26-28. Registration information is available at <http://entomology.unl.edu/beekpg/08masterbeekeeping.pdf>

Dr. David Carter and three undergraduate students, Jennifer Bushing (UNL), Reyna Johnson (UNL), Ashley Spicka (Nebraska Wesleyan University) presented research at the 60th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, February 19-23, 2008, in Washington D.C.

PUBLICATIONS

Carter, D.O., and M. Tibbett. 2008. Cadaver decomposition and soil processes. *In*: M. Tibbett and D.O. Carter (eds), p. 29-52. Soil Analysis in Forensic Taphonomy: Chemical and Biological Effects of Buried Human Remains. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, USA.

Carter D.O., D. Yellowlees, and M. Tibbett. 2008. Using ninhydrin to detect gravesoil. *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 53(2): 397-400.

Davis, Robert W., and Shripat T. Kamble. 2008. Effect of Rod Tips and Soil Types on the Distribution of Imidacloprid and a Water Soluble Dye Following Subsoil Rodding Application for Subterranean Termite Control (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae). *Sociobiology* 51(2): 437-460.

DeHeer, Christopher J. and Shripat T. Kamble. 2008. Colony Genetic Organization, Fusion and Inbreeding in *Reticulitermes flavipes* from the Midwestern U.S. *Sociobiology* 51(2): 307-325.

Eickhoff, Thomas E., Tiffany M. Heng-Moss, Frederick P. Baxendale, and John E. Foster. 2008. Levels of Tolerance, Antibiosis, and Antixenosis Among Resistant Buffalograsses and Zoysiagrasses. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 101(2): 533-540.

Genoways, H.H. and **B.C. Ratcliffe.** 2008. Engineer Cantonment, Missouri Territory, 1819-1820: America's First Biodiversity Inventory. *Great Plains Research* 18(1): 3-31.

Huntington T.E., D.O. Carter, and L.G. Higley. 2008. Testing multigenerational colonization of carrion by blow flies in the Great Plains. *Great Plains Research* 18(1): 33-38.

Jameson, M.L. 2008. Review of the genus *Microchilus* (Blanchard) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae: Geniatini). *Insect Mundi* 25: 1-14.

Nowatzki, T.M., S.A. Lefko, R.R. Binning, S.D. Thompson, T.A. Spencer, and B.D. Siegfried. 2008. Validation of a novel resistance monitoring technique for corn rootworm (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) and event DAS-59122-7 maize. *J. Appl. Entomol.* 132(3): 177-188.

Pereira, Eliseu, J.G., Bruce A. Lang, Nicholas P. Storer, and Blair D. Siegfried. 2008. Selection for Cry1F resistance in the European corn borer and cross-resistance to other Cry toxins. *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicante* 126(2): 115-121.

Ratcliffe, B.C. and R.D. Cave. 2008. The Dynastinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) of the Bahamas with a description of a new species of *Cyclocephala* from Great Inagua Island. *Insecta Mundi* 24: 1-10.

Spomer, Stephen M., Paul D. Nability, and Mathew L. Brust. 2008. Larval Description of *Cicindela (Dromochorus) Pruinina* (Casey) (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Cicindelinae) with Notes on Habitat and Adult Behavior. *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 62(1): 37-41.

Tibbett M., and **D.O. Carter** (eds.) 2008. *Soil Analysis in Forensic Taphonomy: Chemical and Biological Effects of Buried Human Remains.* CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, USA.

MEET A DISTANCE STUDENT

Distance M.S. Student - **Kristina Cornwell**

Greetings from Iraq; I am currently deployed in restive Diyala Province just north of Baghdad and nearing the end of my second tour over here and am working as the Military Intelligence Company Commander for the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

I first became interested in the Entomology Masters program during my first tour in Iraq. I was looking for a degree that offered flexibility while challenging my scientific background accumulated during my undergraduate work.

I graduated from the University of Iowa with a Biology degree in 2001. Shortly thereafter I was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army Military Intelligence CORPS where I was stationed in Germany and then deployed to Iraq.

In the course of my first deployment I decided to apply for an advanced degree. The MS in Entomology was very well suited, not only because it allowed me to continue my scientific studies, but it also brought



me one step closer to my goals upon completion of my military career. I have always been interested in infectious diseases and planned on having a career in bio-terrorism after the military. Since insects are the most common vectors of disease, I considered learning their biology, ecology, biochemistry and management techniques would help jump start long term goals.

During my time in Germany and Iraq, I began to study the ecologies of both locations which are diametrically different. What I found most interesting was the diversity of insect species in each of these countries to include peculiarities/niches associated with various species and groups.

Presently, I am located in one of the most fertile areas in Iraq. Our Brigade has several State Department and US Agricultural Department representatives assigned to assist with agricultural initiatives throughout the province. Though I do not work with these organizations personally, the information they provide in the form of atmospheric allows my intelligence apparatus to focus its efforts on disrupting enemy activity within vulnerable population centers.

I couldn't be more pleased with the level of attention and service that the UNL Entomology Department bestows upon its distance students and am truly proud to be a part of this fine institution as well as its cohorts. I hope you all have a safe and wonderful summer!

STUDENT NEWS

Matt Brust, Abby Stilwell, Jeremy Wagnitz, and Stephen Young all received travel support from the Myron H. Swenk Memorial Fund to attend the North Central Branch Entomological Society of America Meeting in Columbus, OH, March 24-27, 2008.

Joan Christen's dissertation defense was held March 21, 2008. The title was "Molecular-Based Identification of the New World Screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax* (Coquerel) (Diptera: Calliphoridae)." Joan's advisors are **Drs. John Foster** and **Steven Skoda**.

Nicholas Aliano's dissertation defense was on April 4, 2008. His title was "An investigation of techniques for using oxalic acid to reduce *Varroa* mite populations in honey bee colonies and package bees." Nick's advisor was **Dr. Marion Ellis**. Nick is now a program manager with UNL's Office of Technology Development.

Julia Colby's thesis defense was held on April 16, 2008. Julia's title was "Monographic revision of the genus *Aegidinus* Arrow, 1904 and phylogeny of the world genera of the Orphninae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)." Julia's advisor is **Dr. Brett Ratcliffe**.

Dori Porter, Crystal Ramm, Julianne Matczyszyn, Becca Striman, and Jessica Wilkerson (not pictured) were honored February 12, 2008 during February Forum, an annual event hosted by UNL's Center for Science, Mathematics and Computer Education. A total of 69 undergraduate women representing 15 UNL science departments were honored as outstanding women students. Students were selected by their department chairs for their outstanding achievements as junior or senior women studying in the science fields. **Dr. Gary Brewer**, Head of the Entomology Department, also attended the event and is pictured on the far right.



Mathew Brust has accepted an assistant professor position at Chadron State College in Chadron, NE to begin this coming fall. Matt will be teaching courses in general zoology, entomology, limnology, and ornithology. Do you think there are enough grasshoppers there to keep Matt happy?

Jeffrey Belmont, an insect science major, has been selected to serve as a 2008-2009 CASNR Student Ambassador. Ambassador groups support the Office of Admissions recruitment plans by providing on-campus tours, sitting on student panels, hosting prospective overnight students, and assisting with event planning.

Newly elected Insect Science Club Officers are: President - **Becca Striman**, Vice President - **Crystal Ramm**, Secretary - **Matt Moore**, Treasurer - **Ransom Sitz**, **Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss** will continue to serve as the faculty advisor.

FROM THE OFFICE

UNL's Office of Research - NUgrant basics - Introduction to NUgrant, offered April 30 and May 28, 1:00-2:30 p.m., 201 Alexander West. For more information or to register, go to <http://research.unl.edu/nuramp/nugrant.shtml>

Reminder: Age Requirements for Employment Eligibility - UNL requires that applicants must be at least 16 years of age to be eligible for employment. This minimum age of 16 applies to all employment categories and statutes at UNL, including regular, temporary and on call positions. For some occupations deemed to be hazardous, federal law requires that applicants be at least 18 years of age. Federal law also prohibits on-the-job driving by employees who are younger than 18 years of age. Under certain restrictions employees who are 17 years of age may do occasional or incidental driving (using either a personal vehicle or University vehicle for job related reasons).

Travel Expense Reminder - Employees traveling on University business should claim only actual amounts paid for meals. Employees should not submit claims based on any per diem amount. The University may require receipts where claims are questionable or excessive. Please visit our travel web site for further information at <http://travel.unl.edu/>

Safety of sensitive information - Portable storage media devices (portable computers, USB drives, or other device) are frequently used to hold our most current and valuable data. With the use of portable storage media, loss of sensitive data has become easier. There are daily reports of these data losses, such as: *"Recently, after an external computer hard drive was reported stolen from a locked office, X University had to notify approximately 38,000 current & former students, faculty and staff that a recent computer theft may have exposed their personally identifiable information such as name and social security numbers."* We all must make a diligent effort to ensure the safety of personal information. Do not retain social security numbers, driver's license numbers or credit card information on portable devices. Some measures that can be followed when using portable devices are:

1. Physically secure the devices
2. Transmit data securely
3. Encrypt data
4. Disable access
5. Scan devices before use.

Calendar of Events

April 28, 2008

- Entomology Seminar - Kathleen Kneeland, Graduate Student, 4:00 p.m., East Campus Union

May 3, 2008

- Last Day of Classes

May 5 - 9, 2008

- Second Semester Final Exams

May 10, 2008

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

May 19, 2008

- Pre-Session and Eight Week Session Begin

May 26, 2008

- Memorial Day Holiday - No classes and offices closed

June 9, 2008

- First Five-Week Session Begins

June 26-28, 2008

- Master Beekeeping Workshop, ARDC, Mead, NE

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