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Hexapod Herald

Volume 20

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WELCOME

New Distance Masters Students for Fall 2008: **Elizabeth Bell**, Lompoc, CA; **Alfredo Haddad**, Somerset, MA; **Martin Matisoff**, Louisville, KY.

Abdul Hafiz Ab Majid is a new Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Dr. Shripat Kamble**. Hafiz received his M.S. degree in Applied Entomology (Urban and Industrial Entomology) in 2008, and B.S. Degree in Applied Science (Biology and Management of Vector and Parasite) in 2005, both from the Universiti Sains Malaysia. Hafiz received a fellowship for his Ph.D. studies under the Academic Staff Training Scheme from the Universiti Sains Malaysia.



Silvana Moraes is a new Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Tom Hunt** and **Bob Wright**. Silvana received her M.S. in Entomology in 1997, and her B.S. degree in Agronomy in 1993, both from the Universidade Federal de Viçosa. Silvana was awarded a scholarship from the Brazilian Agriculture Research Corporation - Embrapa to pursue her Ph.D. degree.



Sheri Svehla is pursuing a Ph.D. degree under the supervision of **Dr. Leon Higley**. She received her M.S. degree in Entomology from UNL in May 2007 under the supervision of **Drs. Leon Higley** and **Tom Hunt**. Sheri received her B.S. degree from UNL in Natural Resources in December 2004 with a major in Fisheries and Wildlife and a minor in Insect Science.



Dori Porter is a new M.S. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Marion Ellis** and **Bob Wright**. Dori graduated from UNL this past May, majoring in Insect Science and minoring in Biological Sciences. Dori was a past president of the Insect Science Club.



Louis Chapon is a Masters student from the University of Avignon (France) who is completing a portion of his graduate research here under the direction of **Dr. Marion Ellis**. French Masters students must complete three four-month internships as part of their graduate program. Louis is examining the role of *Nosema ceranae* in colony collapse disorder, and his results strongly support the hypothesis that the organism is a primary factor in recent colony losses in the U.S. and Europe. Louis was a student in the apiculture class taught by Marion during his sabbatical. In addition to his research, he is studying English for six hours per week. He plans to compete in the Cornhusker Games Triathlon. He will return to France in September to continue his studies. Be sure to wish him a *Bonjour* when you see him.



CONGRATULATIONS

The following students graduated May 2008:

- Ph.D. Degree - **Nicholas P. Aliano** (Advisor: **Dr. Marion Ellis**)
Joan A. Christen (Advisors: **Drs. John Foster** and **Steven Skoda**)
- M.S. Degree - **Julia B. Colby** (Advisor: **Dr. Brett Ratcliffe**)
Luciana Toda (Advisors: **Drs. Fred Baxendale** and **Tiffany Heng-Moss**)
- Distance M.S.-**Annette K. Bredthauer**, **Blake T. Murnan**, **Julie M. Palm**, **Vaidhehi Regapathy**
- B.S. in Insect Science - **Dori A. Porter**

Dr. Tom Weissling, the Entomology Department's Distance Education Coordinator, has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Practice effective July 1 and was honored at a reception held April 29, 2008. Tom was hired as the Distance Education Coordinator in June 2006. He received his Ph.D. in Entomology from UNL in 1990, his M.S. in Entomology in 1986, and his B.S. in Entomology in 1984, both from Colorado State University.



Dr. Brett Ratcliffe's new species of rhinoceros beetle, *Megaceras briansaltini*, has been selected by the International Institute for Species Exploration at Arizona State University as one of the top ten species described in 2007. It is the only insect so designated. Rhinoceros beetles are named for the horn-like structures on their heads and *M. briansaltini's* is unique, because it most closely resembles that of Dim, the blue rhinoceros beetle in the Disney/Pixar animated film, "A Bug's Life." "It's a rare instance of nature imitating art," said the institute's Web site (<http://species.asu.edu/topten2008.php>). "The international committee of taxon experts who made the selection of the top ten from the thousands of species described in calendar year 2007 is helping draw attention to biodiversity, the field of taxonomy, and the importance of natural history museums and botanical gardens in a fun-filled way," says Professor Quentin Wheeler, an entomologist and director of ASU's International Institute for Species Exploration.

Dr. Earle Raun was selected as a new member of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. Dr. Raun was the Entomology Department Head from 1966 to 1970 and moved to extension administration in 1971. In 1974, he originated the Pest Management Company, the first independent crop consulting firm in the Midwest, specializing in research and advisory work on insect problems.

Dr. Z B Mayo, Interim Dean and Director of the Agricultural Research Division, has been named National Educational Administrator of the Year. Dr. Mayo won the Nebraska Educational Office Professionals Association (NEOPA) Educational Administrator of the Year Award in October 2007, which made him eligible to compete on the national level. This award will be given during the National Association of Educational Office Professionals (NAEOP's) Annual Conference July 9, 2008.

GRANTS

Frederick Baxendale

- DuPont Crop Protection \$12,000
 "Turfgrass Pest Management"

Marion Ellis and Blair Siegfried

- USDA-CAPS \$140,000
 "Colony Collapse Disorder"

Leon Higley

- Government of Canada \$1,000
 "Forensic Entomology"

Shripat Kamble

- DuPont Crop Protection \$12,000
 "Urban Entomology"

Lance Meinke

- Dow Agro Sciences \$2,500
 "Corn Insecticide Research"

Robert Wright

- BASF \$5,400
 "Crop Insect Research"
- Bayer CropScience \$4,000
 "Crop Insect Research"
- Dow AgroSciences \$16,000
 "Crop Insect Research"
- Nufarm \$1,500
 "Crop Insect Research"
- Syngenta Crop Protection..... \$9,300
 "Crop Insect Research"

Dr. Blair Siegfried, along with five Co-PIs, received second-year funding in the amount of \$20,000 for fiscal year 2008-2009, for the Interdisciplinary Research project entitled, "Isolation and Characterization of Novel Cellulose Digesting Enzymes."

Dr. David Carter has received a Faculty Seed Grant in the amount of \$7,838 from UNL's Research Council for a 12-month period (Jan 1, 2008 through Dec 31, 2008) to devote to his research entitled "Estimating Time Since Death: Seasonal Effects on Nitrogen Dynamics in Gravesoil."

WORKSHOP NEWS

Fifty-one beekeepers from six different states gathered in Mead, NE, June 26-28, 2008, for the Department of Entomology's Master Beekeeping Workshop. Despite periodic showers, severe weather, and an apiary surrounded by a moat of water, the bees were gracious to our guests, and participants enjoyed a great educational program, interaction with other beekeepers and scientists, and a good dose of Nebraska hospitality.



Susan Ellis worked hard to get the perfect bee photo. She also got the perfect chigger infestation.



John Talbert and Blake Shook of Josephine, TX, are learning how to interpret the honey bee's dance language.



Katie Lee, Univ. of MN graduate student and guest speaker, demonstrated techniques for detecting parasitic bee mites.

PUBLICATIONS

Ratcliffe, B. C. and **M. J. Paulsen.** 2008. The Scarabaeoid Beetles of Nebraska. *Bulletin of the University of Nebraska State Museum* 22: 1-570.

Spomer, Neil A., Shripat T. Kamble, Richard A. Warriner and **Robert W. Davis.** 2008. Influence of Temperature on Rate of Uptake and Subsequent Horizontal Transfer of [14-C] Fipronil by Subterranean Termites (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae). *Journal of Economic Entomology* 101(3): 902-908.

Spomer, Stephen M., Mathew L. Brust, Douglas C. Backlund, and Scott Weins. 2008. Tiger Beetles of South Dakota and Nebraska. Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE.

MEET A DISTANCE STUDENT

Distance M.S. Student - **Monti Vandiver**

I am the proud husband and father of a wonderful wife, Lyn, and two daughters, Cydni and Cami Jo. Cydni is currently attending graduate school at Southern Methodist University (SMU), and Cami Jo is a junior at the University of Texas at Dallas. As you can imagine, the high gas prices take a "backseat" to tuition around our house!



I grew up on a High Plains corn and cotton farm located near Muleshoe, Texas. I received my undergraduate degree in plant science and agriculture business from Lubbock Christian University in 1984. After graduation, I returned to the farm where I spent the next 17 years as a self employed agriculture producer.

As fate would have it, I had the opportunity to join the Texas AgriLife Extension team in 2002 as an Extension Agent-IPM. My primary responsibilities as an Extension educator are focused on integrated pest management in production agriculture. I work very closely with agriculture producers in developing and implementing integrated pest management programs and applied research projects. I really enjoy macro-photography of insects; the images are excellent educational materials, I have found that the old adage "a picture is worth a thousand words" has some validity to it. I also provide entomological programming for 4-H and youth.

I was very reluctant to pursue an advanced degree nearly 20 years after I completed my Bachelors of Science, but the friendly staff at the University of Nebraska, my desire to learn, and career ladder benefits provided the encouragement and motivation to pursue a Masters of Entomology via the distance program at UNL. The distance program has proven perfect for my situation and I appreciate the ability to tailor course work to enhance my Extension programming. While I have been involved in agriculture pest management for 22 years, the Master of Science in Entomology distance program has turned me into a well-rounded entomologist.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Bob Wright made presentations on *Wheat insect management* on June 11 at the Wheat Production and Pest Management Workshop at ARDC, and on June 19 at the Saline County Winter Wheat Variety Test Plot Tour.

Dr. Shripat Kamble served on an Executive Committee and participated in a National Conference on Urban Entomology (NCUE) in Tulsa, OK, May 18-21, 2008. He was also elected as a Treasurer for NCUE.

STUDENT NEWS

Analiza Alves will present her dissertation defense seminar, "Application of Insect Genomics in the Identification of Resistance Mechanisms and Novel Target Sites" on Monday, July 28 at 2:00 p.m. Ana's advisor is **Dr. Blair Siegfried**. Ana has taken a position starting in August as a Research Scientist at Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Johnston, IA, within the Trait Characterization and Development Team.

Mathew Brust's dissertation defense seminar was held on July 1, 2008. His title was "Rangeland grasshoppers in Nebraska: Distribution, densities, and contributing factors." **Drs. Wyatt Hoback** and **Bob Wright** were his co-advisors. Matt has accepted an assistant professor position at Chadron State College in Chadron, NE to begin this coming fall.

Andre Crespo presented his dissertation defense seminar, "Characterization of Resistance to the Cry1Ab Toxin from *Bacillus thuringiensis* Berliner in a Field-Derived Strain of European Corn Borer, *Ostrinia nubilalis* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae)" on June 6, 2008. Andre's advisor is **Dr. Blair Siegfried**. Andre will be working as a Scientist - Insect Resistance for Syngenta Biotechnology Inc. in Durham, NC for their Department of Insect Resistance Management starting in August.

Julia Colby, has accepted a job as an assistant entomology collections manager at the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Julia was a M.S. graduate this past May and was advised by **Dr. Brett Ratcliffe**.

Tierney Brosius was awarded a National Science Foundation Project Fulcrum assistantship for \$27,500 for the academic year 2008-2009.

Ransom Sitz, **Belay Kondidie**, and **Sek Yee Tan** were each awarded a Milton E. Mohr Scholarship from the UNL Center for Biotechnology in the amount of \$1,000 for 2008-2009.

Khanobporn "Kim" Tangtrakulwanich has been awarded a \$8,000 P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship.

Neil Spomer was awarded one of four \$1,500 Pi Chi Omega Scholarships for 2008-09. Pi Chi Omega is a national professional pest control fraternity.

Jesus Orozco-Araujo has received a \$500 travel award from the David H. and Annie E. Larrick Student Travel Fund for attendance at the ESA Annual Meeting in Reno, NV next November.

Josh Chess, **Dori Porter**, and **Becca Striman**, all Insect Science majors, were on the CASNR Dean's List for Spring 2008.

The following students have been awarded scholarships from the Entomology Department:

Belay Kondidie	\$250	Fred Clute Memorial Scholarship Fund
Julianne Matczyszyn	\$200	Ephriam & Veallon Hixson Memorial Scholarship Fund
Crystal Ramm	\$250	Insect Science Scholarship Fund
Sandra Schaeffer	\$250	Fred Clute Memorial Scholarship Fund
Katherine Schueths	\$200	Insect Science Scholarship Fund
Ransom Sitz	\$200	Fred Clute Memorial Scholarship Fund
Becca Striman	\$700	Earl & Bertha Ramsey Memorial Fund and
	\$500	Ephriam & Veallon Hixson Memorial Scholarship Fund

Newly elected Bruner Club Officers are: President - **Mitch Stamm**, Vice President - **Sandra Schaeffer**, Secretary - **Kate Kneeland**, Treasurer - **Erica Lindroth**, Student Representative - **Tim Husen**, and Graduate Student Association Representative - **Sek Yee Tan**. **Drs. David Carter** and **Tom Weissling** will serve as faculty advisors.

UCARE awards for 2008-2009 have been given to students listed below, along with their adviser and the amount of the award:

Joshua Chess	Fred Baxendale	\$2,000 (year 1)
Samantha Hiemer	Blair Siegfried	\$2,000 (year 1)
Matthew Moore	Blair Siegfried	\$2,400 (year 2)
Crystal Ramm	Tiffany Heng-Moss	\$1,000 (year 1)
Ransom Sitz	Tiffany Heng-Moss	\$1,000 (year 1)
Becca Striman	David Carter	\$2,000 (year 1)

FROM GARY'S DESK

Since I last communicated with you, the Plant Industry Building was renamed Entomology Hall. While we are still sharing the building with the Nebraska Forest Service, they are scheduled to move to the former Natural Resources Hall, renamed Forestry Hall, in about a year. Once they have moved, we will be the only unit in Entomology Hall.

Besides just a name change, Entomology Hall will undergo renovations to install a dedicated third floor air handling system and to make extensive upgrades to the third floor labs. The project is expected to be complete in August of 2009 and will increase our capacity to meet current and future research needs. Although the completed project will be greatly beneficial and increase our competitiveness, the process will be painful as we will need to vacate the third floor during the construction phase of the project.

Other news includes our Linnaean Team again setting the standard with a first place showing at the March North Central Branch meeting and a pending competition at the Annual Entomological Society of America meeting November 16-19, 2008 in Reno, NV.

The Insect Science undergraduate major is a great success and in its third year beginning to graduate a steady stream of quality students. Several have stayed with us and others have moved into graduate programs such as the University of Kentucky. 'Our' other undergraduate programs are also positive. The Diversified Agriculture major will be changing its name to Applied Science to focus more on today's students and marketplace and is incorporating capacity for on-line degree completion. This means site-bound students will be able to complete their third and fourth years of study from anywhere in the world and graduate with a BS in Applied Science. Our other undergraduate degree, Forensic Science, will be one year old this fall semester and is expected to have about 70 majors. Overall, Entomology's academic programs continue to innovate and provide quality opportunities for our students.

Finally, Dr. Manuel Roberto Cortinas will join us in August. His responsibilities include teaching parasitology to second year veterinary students as part of the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Cortinas' research area is in geospatial analysis of parasite epidemiology.

CONDOLENCES

Terence Spencer's father, Robert Spencer of Aurora, NE, died May 13, 2008 at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha. Funeral services were held May 19 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Grand Island, NE. Our sincerest sympathy is extended to Spence and his family.

TRAVEL

Dr. **Matt Paulsen** traveled to California for three weeks in May and June to collect and consult with colleagues at the University of California-Riverside.

Dr. **Brett Ratcliffe** reports "Team Scarab (Drs. **Brett Ratcliffe** and **Mary Liz Jameson**, **Jesus Orozco**, and **Ron Cave** from the University of Florida) conducted field research in Belize for two weeks in June . . . which coincided with Hurricane Arthur from the Atlantic and Tropical Storm Alma from the Pacific that resulted in a "perfect storm" with rain for 24 hr/day for the first five days of collecting. No kidding. Much of northern Belize was devastated by flooding. Still, we collected lots of beetles."



Jesus Orozco with *Inca clathratus*.

BLASTS FROM THE PAST

Dr. **Matthew E. Byers** (Ph.D. from UNL in 1990) is the Onsite Manager for the Zoeller Company of Louisville, Kentucky. He has a role in technology development, science, engineering, marketing, sales, and administration. He also manages the patent and trademark work for the corporation. Matt has been with Zoeller for ten years. Dr. **Shripat Kamble** was Matt's PhD advisor.

Dr. **Sasi Maliphan** (Ph.D. from UNL in 2006) has changed countries and changed positions with Monsanto. She has moved to Japan and is in Biotechnology Regulatory Affairs with the responsibility for conducting field trials for regulated transgenic crops. Drs. **John Foster** and **Steve Skoda** were Sasi's advisors.

Dr. **Benjawan "Bea" Siritiwitwat** (Ph.D. from UNL in 2006) and Peerapong Arkrawiwatdumrong were married May 24 in Nakornsawan, Thailand.

Calendar of Events

July 11, 2008

- Classes end and final exams for Eight-Week Session and First Five-Week Session

July 14, 2008

- Second Five-Week Session Begins

July 18, 2008

- Entomology Department Meeting, 2:30 p.m., 214 ENTO

August 14, 2008

- Classes end and final exams for Second Five-Week Session

August 16, 2008

- Summer Graduation, 9:30 a.m., Bob Devaney Sports Center

August 22, 2008

- Entomology Department Meeting, 2:30 p.m., 214 ENTO

August 25, 2008

- First Semester Begins