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## Hexapod Herald – Volume 21, Number 2, March 2009

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# Hexapod Herald

Volume 21

March 2009

Number 2

## WELCOME

New Distance Masters Students:

Spring 2009: **Vaughn Hammond**, Nebraska City, NE

Summer 2009: **Lisa Huffman**, Avon, IN; **Kathlyne Rog**, Washington, DC

Fall 2009: **Jay Seaton**, Beatrice, NE; **Robert Stanley**, Milford, CT

**Lizette (Liz) Peters** has joined **Dr. Blair Siegfried's** toxicology group as a research technician. She will primarily be working with Ethovision software to track animal behavior of honey bees, European corn borers, and western corn rootworm. Liz recently received her M.S. degree in entomology from Texas A&M University. For her thesis research, she studied the effects of primer pheromones and pollen on the protein content of honey bee mandibular and hypopharyngeal glands. She received her B.S. degree in biological sciences from UNL.



## CONGRATULATIONS

The Entomology Department was well represented at the 2009 Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence recognition event that was held March 11, 2009, at the East Campus Union. **Dr. John Foster** received a Senior Faculty Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence, and **Jeremy Wagnitz** was a recipient of a Teaching Assistant Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence. **Dr. Connie Reimers-Hild**, former Distance Education Coordinator for the Entomology Department, who received her M.S. in Entomology under the supervision of Dr. Foster, was also honored as a recipient of a Senior Faculty Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence.

**Dr. Brett Ratcliffe** was awarded the Charles E. Bessey Award (Center for Great Plains Studies) for best natural science article published in *Great Plains Research* in 2008 for the paper entitled, "Engineer Cantonment, Missouri Territory, 1819-1820: America's First Biodiversity Inventory," by H. Genoways and **B. Ratcliffe**.

**Dr. David Carter** will receive the 2009 UNL Sigma Xi Outstanding Junior Scientist Award. Dr. Carter will be recognized with a plaque at the Sigma Xi awards banquet April 23, 2009.

**Drs. David Carter** and **Tiffany Heng-Moss** received certificates of recognition for contributions to students at a ceremony hosted by the UNL Teaching Council and the UNL Parents Association held on January 30, 2009. This is the sixth such honor for Tiffany and the second for Dave.

**Dr. Marion Ellis** and his wife, Susan, are the proud grandparents of twins born on March 11, 2009, in Mount Holly, NJ, to their daughter Lindsey and husband, James Lee. Sawyer David arrived first weighing in at 6 lbs., 3 oz., and was 19½ inches long. His younger sister, Scarlett Suzanne, was 6 lbs., 5 oz., and was 19¼ inches long. Grandbee Susan reported that she may HAVE to stay longer than originally planned helping out the new parents.



**John Wang** and his wife, Lucy Lin, are the proud parents of a daughter born on January 31, 2009. Her full name is Weili Wang, and her nickname is PanPan. PanPan weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz., and was 20 inches long. We think John is finally getting some sleep now.



# GRANTS

## Leon Higley

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. ....\$60,000  
"Salt Creek Tiger Beetle Rearing & Reintroduction Pilot Program"

## Blair Siegfried

- Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. ....\$13,000  
"Industry Research"

**Tierney Brosius** has received a 2009 Nebraska Environmental Trust PIE Grant, "Salt Creek Environment: Local and Endangered" for \$2,500 for 2009. This funding will be used to publish an educational publication and catalogue to supplement the art exhibit she is curating this July at the Haydon Art Gallery.

# PUBLICATIONS

**Becker, Sabine C. and Lance J. Meinke.** 2008. A Technique to Morphologically Differentiate Larvae of *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* and *D. barberi* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). J. Kansas Entomol. Soc. 81(1): 77-79.

**Alamalakala L., S.R. Skoda, and J.E. Foster.** 2009. Amplified fragment length polymorphism used for inter- and intraspecific differentiation of screwworms (Diptera: Calliphoridae). Bulletin of Entomological Research 99(2): 139-149.

**Ratcliffe, B.C.** 2009. Their scientific names. Scarabs 37: 16-17 (popular article).

Santiago-Blay, J.A., **B.C. Ratcliffe**, F.-T. Krell, and R. Anderson. 2008. Allotypes should be from the type series: a position paper for reinstating Recommendation 72A from the third edition of the Code that defines the term "allotype". Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature 65(4): 260-264.

## MEETING NEWS

### Urban Pest Management Conference

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Urban Pest Management Conference was held on February 17-18, 2009 at The Cornhusker-Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, NE. **Dr. Shripat Kamble**, coordinator for the conference, reported a total of 129 pest management professionals and 19 exhibitors were in attendance to hear 23 speakers cover 58 topics. Frank Andorka, editor of the magazine, *Pest Management Professional*, covered the conference.

### Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Seventy-eight participants attended the Beginning Beekeeping Workshop held February 21, 2009 at the Lancaster County Extension Office. Presenters included **Marion Ellis, Reed Johnson, Jeremy Wagnitz and Dori Porter**. A follow-up field day will be held on April 11, 2009 at the ARDC for participants to gain hands-on experience in handling honey bees.

### ESA North Central Branch Meeting

**Drs. Matt Brust, Wyatt Hoback and Bob Wright** were awarded the 2009 Entomology Educational Project Award, presented by the Board Certified Entomologists of Mid-America, for *The Grasshoppers of Nebraska*, UNL Extension Book 3.

**Dr. Wyatt Hoback** received the 2009 ESA-NCB Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching.

**Abby Stilwell** received a 3rd Place award for the Ph. D. paper presentation, "Utilizing remote sensing to track wheat streak mosaic virus in wheat." Co-authors were **Drs. Gary Hein** and Donald Rundquist.

**Sean Whipple** received a 3rd Place award for the Ph. D. paper presentation, "Rangeland grasshopper numbers and species composition in Nebraska: A comparison of fields, fences, and roadside ditches." Co-authors were **Drs. Matt Brust and Wyatt Hoback**.

**The UNL Linnaean Team** won 2nd Place and will compete at the ESA National meeting in Indianapolis, IN this December. Team members were: **Tim Husen, Erica Lindroth, Mitch Stamm, Ken Miwa, and Abby Stilwell**. Coaches for the team were **Drs. Ken Pruess and Bob Wright**.

# ***MEET A DISTANCE STUDENT***

Distance M.S. Student – **Nancy Bosold**

I'm an extension educator for Penn State Cooperative Extension, and have been employed by Penn State for 18 years. My most recent job assignment is as a multi-county turfgrass management educator for nine counties surrounding Philadelphia, PA. That means I consult and provide training opportunities for professional turf managers working on lawns, landscapes, golf courses, and athletic fields.

My parents tell me I made my first insect collection when I was 5 years old. I don't remember it, but I do know that I've always loved insects and was never without a net in my hand. I now enjoy photographing and even trying to draw insects.



I started taking the online classes from UNL in 1999, one at a time, while working full time. It had been almost 20 years since I'd gone to college, so one of the first things I learned was how much had changed. I use something learned from UNL entomology classes regularly at work. Our office gets many requests for insect identification, and there are plenty of turf insect problems to keep things interesting. I plan to use the network and resources discovered during my classes to expand my entomology contributions beyond the lawn.

## ***STUDENT NEWS***

Nine entomology students and three professors spent their spring break exploring insect, plant, and animal diversity at two biological stations in Costa Rica that are administrated by the Organization for Tropical Studies. Their first stop was the La Selva OTS biological station which is located on the Carribbean side of the mountains and is a lowland tropical rain forest site. They spent three days there, exploring the 1600 hectares of rain forest, documenting insect diversity through photographs and video segments and participated in a tour of a banana plantation. After LaSelva, the group drove to Arenal Volcano and hiked in to see and hear the active volcano. Then it was on to the Palo Verde OTS biological station, located in Palo Verde National Park, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. The Palo Verde station is on the Pacific side of the central spine of mountains and contains 19,000 hectares of tropical dry forest and wetlands. The group continued their study of tropical diversity, contrasting fauna and flora found in lowland rain and dry forest. Of note were the species of scorpions present and an impressive army ant invasion that occurred in the forest. A GREAT time was had by all.



The Costa Rica Crew-Top, L-R, Lance Meinke, Ransom Sitz, Tom Powers, Matt Yans, Matt Moore, Becca Striman, and Sara Pritchard; Front, L-R, Fred Baxendale, Keith Lloyd, Rachael Fithian, Crystal Ramm, and Dori Porter

**Tierney Brosius** was at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa from January 23 to March 21, 2009, collaborating on a book with Professor Michael Samways. This highly illustrated book will address the principles of conservation and give special attention to issues surrounding invertebrate conservation. The book is to be published by Wiley-Blackwell in 2010 and will be coauthored by both Brosius and Samways.

**Abdul "Hafiz" Ab Majid, Kate Kneeland, Belay Kondidie, Ken Miwa, Ralph Narain, Abby Stilwell,** and **Bamphitlhi "Banks" Tiroesele** all received travel support from the Myron H. Swenk Memorial Fund to attend the North Central Branch Entomological Society of America Meeting in St. Louis, MO, March 15-18, 2009. **Dori Porter** received travel support from the Myron H. Swenk Memorial fund to attend The Bee Course 2009, in Portal, AZ.

The following Insect Science majors made the Dean's List for Fall 2008: **Rachel Fithian, Keith Lloyd, Julianne Matczyszyn, Crystal Ramm, Ransom Sitz,** and **Becca Striman.**

**Crystal Ramm, Julianne Matczynsyn, Becca Striman**, (Insect Science) **Laura Jo Cook** and **Yidan Qin**, (Forensic Science) were honored February 10, 2009, during February Forum, an annual event hosted by UNL's Center for Science, Mathematics, and Computer Education.

## ***FACULTY NEWS***

**Dr. Bob Wright** made presentations on insect management at the UNL Extension Crop Production Clinics at Beatrice, York, Hastings, Kearney, and North Platte in January. Presentations from the Beatrice meeting will be televised by NET2 during March. The session will include discussion of corn diseases by Amy Ziems, UNL Extension Educator and Coordinator of the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Center; managing insects in soybeans by **Dr. Bob Wright**, UNL extension entomologist; and managing glyphosates resistance weed threat by Lowell Sandell, UNL extension weed science educator. The program aired on March 7 and 8 and is scheduled again for March 28 at 8:00 p.m. and March 29 at 2:00 p.m.

The Team Scarab lab hosted Petr Sipek from Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, who was conducting research on scarab larvae.

## ***TRAVEL***

**Dr. Bob Wright** participated in the Syngenta Agrisure Traits Corn Pest Forum in Dallas TX, February 24, 2009.

**Dr. Ken Pruess** attended the annual meeting of the North American Black Fly Association at Lake Placid, FL, February 4-6, 2009.

**Dr. David Stanley** was a visiting professor at the National Taiwan University from February 27 – March 13, 2009, presenting a graduate course based entirely on his research into prostaglandins in insect biology.

## ***FROM THE OFFICE***

**F & A On- versus Off-Campus Rate.** There has been some confusion about when an on-campus or off-campus F & A Rate should be used. We are issuing this clarification to assist in making this determination: On-Campus: A project is defined to be "on-campus" if 50% or more of the **UNL activities** are performed in facilities owned by UNL and/or to which rent is directly paid by UNL. In this case, the MTDC on-campus rate will apply to the entire project and the first \$25,000 of each subcontract unless specific sponsor rules apply. UNL activities are defined as those tasks performed by UNL employees. Tasks performed by consultants or subawardees should not be considered when determining if the project qualifies as on-campus or off-campus. We have posted this information on the Sponsored Programs website with some examples on applying the F & A to help clarify this issue. --Jeanne Wicks, Director, Office of Sponsored Programs

### **Calendar of Events**

#### **March 31, 2009**

- Entomology Seminar - Erica Lindroth, Entomology Graduate Student, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

#### **April 7, 2009**

- Entomology Seminar - Dori Porter, Entomology Graduate Student, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

#### **April 14, 2009**

- Entomology Seminar - Lanae Pierson, Entomology Graduate Student. 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

#### **April 21, 2009**

- Entomology Seminar - Dr. Spencer T. Behmer, Texas A & M University, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

#### **April 24, 2009**

- Entomology Department Meeting, 10:30 a.m., ENTO 214

#### **April 28, 2009**

- Entomology Seminar - Dr. Keith Philips, Western Kentucky University, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

#### **May 2, 2009**

- Last Day of Classes

#### **May 8, 2009**

- Doctoral Hooding and Graduate Commencement

#### **May 9, 2009**

- Second Semester Commencement

#### **May 18, 2009**

- Pre-Session and Eight-Week Session Begins