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## Hexapod Herald – Volume 21, Number 3, May 2009

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# Hexapod Herald

Volume 21

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Number 3

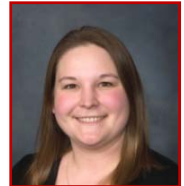
## WELCOME

New Distance Masters Students:

Summer 2009: **William Coello-Sanchez**, San Antonio, TX; **Genifer Lara**, Philomath, OR; **Keeley Muncrief**, Anthony, NM

Fall 2009: **Jaime Schultz**, El Paso, TX; **Jeffrey Sharpton**, Boaz, AL

**Jessica Jurzenski** is a new doctoral student who will be co-advised by **Drs. Wyatt Hoback** and **Shripat Kamble**. Jessica received a B.S. in Comprehensive Biology in 2004, and her M.S. in Biology in 2007, both from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. For the past two years she was a lecturer in the Department of Biology at Doane College in Crete, NE.



**Travis Prochaska** will be pursuing his masters degree under the supervision of **Drs. Tiffany Heng-Moss** and **Tom Hunt**. Travis received his B.A. this May from Concordia University, Nebraska in Seward, NE, with a double major in Biology and Business Administration.



**Crystal Ramm** is a new masters student who will be working under the supervision of **Drs. Fred Baxendale** and **Tiffany Heng-Moss**. Crystal received her B.S. in Insect Science with a minor in Biological Sciences from UNL this May.



## CONGRATULATIONS

The following students graduated May 2009:

Distance M.S. – **Nancy Bosold, Marie Elwood-Hendrichs, Lee McPhatter, Stuart Slocum, Jessica Strange-George, Wendy Varnado**

B.S. in Insect Science – **Josh Chess, Julianne Matczyszyn, Matthew Moore, Crystal Ramm, Becca Striman, Matthew Yans**

B.S. in Diversified Agricultural Studies – **Thomas Eller, Michael George, Phillip Goering, Aaron Johnson, Mitchell Novacek, Abbie Rempel**

B.S. in Forensic Science – **Yidan Qin**

**Dr. Gary Brewer** was honored by Kansas State University, Department of Entomology, as their Distinguished Alumnus of 2009 at a May 8 presentation and seminar. While at Kansas State University, Gary worked under the guidance of Dr. Ernst Horber and earned his Ph.D., "Resistance of pubescent *Medicagospecies* to the alfalfa seed chalcid, *Bruchophagus roddi* (Guss.)" in 1984. Gary's seminar was titled "Sunflower Pests & Pollinators: an IPM Story."

**Arnubio Valencia**, a visiting scientist in **Dr. Blair Siegfried's** Toxicology Lab, recently traveled to Brazil to defend his Ph.D. dissertation from the University of Brasilia. Arnubio successfully defended his dissertation in April. Please congratulate Dr. Valencia when you see him.

**Dr. Z B Mayo** was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement at their annual banquet May 1, 2009. Z B joined the UNL Department of Entomology in 1972. He served as interim department head from 1988-1989, and from 1993-1995, and head from 1999-2005, when he was named interim dean and director for UNL's Agricultural Research Division. He was then interim

associate dean and director of the ARD until his recent retirement. He continues to provide support for IANR in his part-time role as coordinator for IANR's International Agricultural Program.

**Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss** and husband, Mike, are the proud parents of a son, Max Michael, born April 29, 2009. Max weighed 7 lbs., 8 oz. and was 19¾ inches long. Big sister, Emma thinks that Max is A-OK.



**Dr. Gautam Sarath** and wife, Rachel, are the proud parents of a son, Krishna Russel, born May 12, 2009. Krishna was 5 lbs., 2 oz. and 18 inches long. LITTLE Krishna is doing great!

## ***G R A N T S***

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### **Lance Meinke**

- Syngenta ..... \$35,280  
"MIR604 and 5307: Evaluation of Corn Rootworm Refuge Strategy"

**Dr. John Foster** was awarded \$30,000 funding from Extended Education and Outreach for course development for eight courses leading to an online Forensic Graduate Certificate. He was also awarded \$5,000 from EE&O for development funding for the course, Invasion Pests and International Trade.

**Drs. Brett Ratcliffe** and **Mary Liz Jameson** were awarded a visiting curator grant by the Natural History Museum in London to identify their scarab collections during a two week period this coming August.

**Sean Whipple** has been awarded a \$300 research grant from The Center for Great Plains Studies for research on dung beetles in western Nebraska. Sean is a Ph.D. student under the supervision of **Drs. Wyatt Hoback** and **John Foster**.

**Cash Receipts:** A reminder that if you accept cash from students or members of the public, for any reason, you need to give them a receipt. This includes cash and checks received for class materials, student trips, promotional articles, clothes, etc. The AVE Business Center can provide you with a receipt book. Please let them know if you have questions.

## ***P U B L I C A T I O N S***

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Blanco, Carlos A., Nicholas P. Storer, Craig A. Abel, Ryan Jackson, Rogers Leonard, Juan D. Lopez, Jr., Gregory Payne, **Blair D. Siegfried**, **Terence Spencer**, and Antonio P. Terán-Vargas. 2008. Baseline susceptibility of tobacco budworm (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) to Cry1F Toxin from *Bacillus thuringiensis*. J. Econ. Entomol. 101: 168-173.

Gatewood, Anne G., Kelly A. Liebman, Gwenaél Vourc'h, Jonas Bunikis, Sarah A. Hamer, **Roberto Cortinas**, Forrest Melton, Paul Cislo, Uriel Kitron, Jean Tsao, Alan G. Barbour, Durland Fish, and Maria A. Duik-Wasser. 2009. Climate and Tick Seasonality are Predictors of *Borrelia burgdorferi* Genotype Distribution. Applied and Environmental Microbiology, 75(8): 2476-2483.

**Husen, T.J.**, **N.A. Spomer**, and **S.T. Kamble**. Degradation of Fipronil (Termidor®) in Aqueous Solution Stored in Polyethylene Tanks Exposed to Sunlight or Shade. Bull. Environ. Contam. Toxicol. 82(5): 605-609.

**Meinke, Lance J.**, Thomas W. Sappington, David W. Onstad, Thomas Guillemaud, Nicholas J. Miller, Judit Komáromi, Nora Levay, Lorenzo Furlan, József Kiss, and Ferenc Toth. Western corn rootworm (*Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* LeConte) population dynamics. Agricultural and Forest Entomology 11(1): 29-46.

Miller, Nicholas J., Thomas Guillemaud, Rosanna Giordano, **Blair D. Siegfried**, Michael E. Gray, **Lance J. Meinke**, and Thomas W. Sappington. 2009. Genes, gene flow and adaptation of *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*. J. Agric. Forest Entomol. 11(1): 47-60.

**Paulsen, M.J.** and M.S. Caterino. 2009. The *Platycerus* (Coleoptera, Lucanidae) of California, with the recognition of *Platycerus cribripennis* Van Dyke as a valid species. *ZooKeys* 8: 89-94.

**Pereira, E.J.G.**, N.P. Storer, and **B.D. Siegfried**. 2008. Inheritance of Cry1F resistance in laboratory-selected European corn borer and its survival on transgenic corn expressing the Cry1F toxin. *Bull. Entomol. Research* 98(6): 621-629.

**Ratcliffe, B. C.** 2009. A Most Unusual Scarab. *Unusual* (en/yoo/zh/ooel): unlike what is expected, differing in some way from the norm. *Weird. Scarabs* 40: 11-14.

**Ratcliffe, B. C.** 2009. Planning and research trip to Mexico, September 2005.  
<http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Mexico-Survey/trips/Mexico-2005.html>

**Ratcliffe, B. C.** 2009. Museum trip to Budapest and Vienna. June 2006.  
<http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Europe%202006/trip.html>

**Ratcliffe, B. C.** 2009. Meeting/collecting trip to Bolivia. November 2006.  
<http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Bolivia-2006/trip.html>

**Ratcliffe, B. C.** 2009. Research/collecting trip to Belize. May-June 2008.  
<http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Belize-2008/trip.html>

**Ratcliffe, B. C.** 2009. A biotic survey and inventory of the dynastine scarab beetles of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize. <http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Mexico-Survey/home.html>

## ***THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO***

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A Beekeeping Value-Added Products Workshop will be held June 12-13, 2009, at UNL's Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC) at Ithaca, NE. The program will begin at 8:30 a.m. each day with training that includes both classroom and hands-on sessions. Friday's session will include creamed and comb honey production and marketing. Meadmaking Explained is Saturday's all day session. The brochure is available at <http://entomology.unl.edu/beekpg/2009valueaddedworkshop.pdf>

An evening combining insects and art, what could be better? Everyone is invited to the opening of the art exhibit "Salt Creek Environment: Local and Endangered" curated by Ph.D. candidate, **Tierney Brosius**. With the involvement of over 20 talented artists, this exhibit will present the Salt Creek tiger beetle in a positive and thought provoking context by bringing to the public a "bug's eye view" of the salt marsh. "Salt Creek Environment: Local and Endangered" involves the collaborative effort of many artists and organizations, and therefore, includes a community-building component, which is vital for any successful conservation effort. The exhibit opens July 10, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Haydon Art Gallery located in Lincoln's Haymarket. If you can't make the opening, remember that the exhibit will be up the whole month of July.



Painting by Dorothia Rohner

## ***FACULTY NEWS***

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**Dr. Bob Wright** chaired the annual meeting of NCERA 201, the USDA regional committee on IPM, on March 23, in Portland, OR. He also participated in the 6th International IPM Symposium held March 24-26, also in Portland, OR, where he co-organized and moderated an invited workshop, *IPM Working Groups: Transcending Boundaries Across States, Disciplines, and Agencies to Implement IPM*.

Jung Jae Shin and Jeon Jin Wha from Korea visited the Team Scarab Lab for three days in late April to film part of a documentary being prepared for Korean television on scarab beetles.

**Dr. Bob Wright, Terry DeVries, and Ryan Gerloff** presented information about insects to 650 4th grade students at the Hall County Ag Day in Grand Island, NE on March 31.

**Drs. Bob Wright** and **Tom Hunt** participated in the annual meeting of the Great Plains IPM Working Group at Brookings, SD, on April 22.

## ***STUDENT NEWS***

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

<b>Tim Husen</b>	\$650 Fred Clute Memorial Scholarship Fund
<b>Jeffrey Belmont</b>	\$700 Earl & Bertha Ramsey Memorial Fund and \$700 Ephriam & Veallon Hixson Memorial Scholarship Fund
<b>Ransom Sitz</b>	\$300 Insect Science Scholarship Fund
<b>Rachael Fithian</b>	\$300 Insect Science Scholarship Fund

Newly elected Bruner Club Officers are: President – **Erica Lindroth**, Vice President – **Ken Miwa**, Secretary – **Dori Porter**, Treasurer – **Khanobporn “Kim” Tangtrakulwanich**, Student Representative to faculty – **Mitch Stamm**, and Graduate Student Association Representative – **Silvana Moraes**. **Drs. Roberto Cortinas** and **Tom Weissling** will serve as faculty advisors.

Newly elected Insect Science Club Officers are: President – **Ransom Sitz**, Vice President – **Sara Pritchard**, Secretary – **Megan Mumford**, and Treasurer – **Rachael Fithian**. **Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss** serves as faculty advisor.

**Jeff Belmont**, a biology and insect science double major student, is featured in the “Student Highlights” section on the CASNR homepage (<http://casnr.unl.edu>). Jeff was also recently accepted in the CASNR ambassadors program.

**Jeff Belmont**, **Keith Lloyd**, **Crystal Ramm**, **Becca Striman**, and **Matt Moore** were recognized at the Undergraduate Teaching Assistants Luncheon held April 22, 2009.

Check out the Department of Entomology page on Facebook!

Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska - Go Huskers! Come, meet old friends, and talk bugs! Go to: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Department-of-Entomology-University-of-Nebraska-Go-Huskers/75295812835?ref=ts> and become a fan.

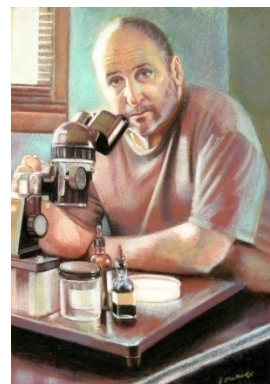
## ***MEET A DISTANCE STUDENT***

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Distance M.S. Student – **Marty Matisoff**

I first entered college in 1975 as a premed student. I had great aspirations of becoming a neurosurgeon; however, those dreams were soon shattered when I realized I didn't have the discipline I needed to finish college, let alone complete medical school. Two years after starting college, I dropped out for the first time. I took a job in the toxicology lab of the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner/Coroner's office. I thoroughly enjoyed working in the laboratory, and to this day, it remains the most exciting job that I ever had. It was during this time that I first discovered my passion for laboratory research. Unfortunately, it was to take another 23 years before I finally earned my bachelor of arts. And, although I changed my major many times and eventually earned my degree in humanities, I never stopped loving science. I always kept my hand in it. But, instead of performing research for my own sake, I wrote about other peoples' research. I thought about going back for my master of science several times; unfortunately, I was working full time and there were no distance education programs available.

Ten years passed since I'd earned my bachelor of art. I'd often thought about going on to graduate school, but I didn't have the ways or means to do it. Then, in March 2008, the decision was made for me. My wife, Sharon, was speaking on the phone with my mother, who lives in California. Both of





them were concerned that I was wasting away my life on meaningless jobs. Halfway through their discussion, my mother suddenly had an epiphany: "He needs to go back to college and get his Ph.D.," she asserted. "He needs school," she said, "like a fish needs water." At first, my wife disagreed, fearing the expense of an advanced education and knowing our current financial situation. But then, I guess, the clouds opened up for her too, and the next thing I knew, the two of them were scheming to get me to go back to college (in all honesty, it didn't take much coercion).

The driving force behind my decision was that we had just celebrated our 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and neither of us had made our mark on society. What kept holding me back was a comment that one of my professors had made decades back: "People in the sciences," he said, "do their greatest work in their early twenties; whereas, people in the arts do their best work late in life."

My wife and I knew that the chances of me finding meaningful employment as an entomologist in my 60s was slim. But neither of us cared anymore. We decided that she would quit working full time and pursue her career in fine art, and I would go back to school and get my Ph.D. Shortly after making this fateful decision, we both broke out in hives and spent many sleepless nights panicking about our decisions.

For the next few weeks, I searched the Internet for an accredited master of science degree. I narrowed my search down to three programs: Johns Hopkins University's *Masters in Public Health*, Michigan State University's *Master of Science in Beam Physics*, and University of Nebraska's *Master of Science in Entomology*. All three programs interested me. The criteria I used to determine which school would ultimately become my alma mater, however, had to do with practicality and cost. Johns Hopkins University offered an excellent reputation and a lot of clout. The problem was the MPH program was that it was very expensive and the salary upon graduation would be very low. That left Michigan State and UNL. Michigan State's master of science in beam physics would have required me to repeat several of my undergraduate courses in mathematics and physics, which I had taken back in the mid 1970s. I wasn't willing to do that, so I looked into UNL's distance education master degree program in entomology. I had just finished reading an editorial by Durland Fish, editor of *Vector Borne and Zoonotic Diseases*, entitled, "Wanted: Medical Entomologist." I knew at that moment that I wanted to study entomology – not so much because I loved insects per se, but because of their biological diversity and behavioral complexity.

I shot an email off to Dr. Tom Weissling asking about UNL's program, and he responded back promptly to my request for more information. He told me that UNL offered classes in medical and forensic entomology, as well as insect physiology, behavior, and evolution. Best of all, I wouldn't have to repeat any of my prior coursework. The only caveat, he said, was that I had to take an introductory course in entomology, or I had to test out of the course. I opted to test out. I asked Dr. Weissling for a list of the best books to read on entomology. "Definitely Borror and DeLong," he said. Then he referred me to Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss, who suggested that I also read Romoser's *The Science of Entomology*. I was accepted for Fall 2008 entry. That summer, I read everything I could find on general entomology in preparation for the exam. In late September 2008, I took the test and passed. Step one was now complete. Now came the real test: to see if I still had the stamina to complete a master of science program and continue toward my PhD.

This fall will be my second year in the program. I have no expectations of obtaining a research position when I graduate with my Ph.D. By then, I will be in my mid-sixties. I do not, however, believe that it is unreasonable to think that I might obtain a position as an adjunct professor at a local college or work as a researcher-at-large. My greatest aspiration would be to serve on the editorial board of a major science publication such as *Science* or *Nature*.

I recently found an anonymous quote that I think best describes my academic career: "There is no telling how many miles you will have to run while chasing a dream." One of my advisors recently told me that I "should be glad that I found my path, however late in life. Some people," he added, "can go a lifetime without ever realizing their potential." Sound words to live by.

My wife created this pastel portrait of me at my microscope in the role that she felt I should have taken long ago: that of a research scientist. To see this image and others on my wife's representational figurative art website, click [here](#).

## Calendar of Events

**June 8, 2009**

- First Five –Week Session Begins

**June 12-13, 2009**

- Beekeeping Value-Added Products Workshop, ARDC, Ithaca, NE

**June 16, 2009**

- Spomer Defense Seminar, 8:30 a.m., Nebraska East Union

**June 26, 2009**

- Pierson Defense Seminar, 9:30 a.m., Nebraska East Union

**June 26, 2009**

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

**July 3, 2009**

- Holiday - No Classes, Offices Closed

**July 10, 2009**

- Eight-Week Session and First Five-Week Session End

**July 13, 2009**

- Second Five-Week Sessions Begins

**July 14, 2009**

- Schaeffer Defense Seminar, 9:00 a.m., Nebraska East Union

**July 17, 2009**

- Young Defense Seminar, 1:30 p.m., Nebraska East Union

**July 24, 2009**

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

**August 13, 2009**

- Second Five-Week Session Ends

**August 14, 2009**

- Graduate Commencement, 3:00 p.m. Bob Devaney Sports Center

**August 15, 2009**

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

**August 21, 2009**

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

**August 24, 2009**

- First Semester 2009-2010 Begins