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Hexapod Herald – Volume 20, Number 4, September 2008

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"Hexapod Herald – Volume 20, Number 4, September 2008" (2008). *Hexapod Herald & Other Entomology Department Newsletters*. 1.

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Hexapod Herald

Volume 20

September 2008

Number 4

WELCOME

New Distance Masters Students:

Fall 2008: **Elisa Gonzalez**, Carson, CA; **Aaron Hassell**, Fredericksburg, TX; **Rebecca Szkotak**, Audubon, NJ; **Jody Wilson**, Miden, WV. Spring 2009: **Jorge Arellano**, McAllen, TX.

New Insect Science Majors: Morgan Kraft, Omaha, NE; Keith Lloyd, Omaha, NE; Megan Mumford, Papillion, NE; Sarah Pritchard, Omaha, NE; Tyler Thompson, Lincoln, NE.

Esayas Mendesil Amosa is a new M.S. student from Ethiopia working under the supervision of **Drs. Fred Baxendale** and **Jerry Zhu**. Esayas received his M.S. degree in insect science from Addis Ababa University in 2002 and his B.S. degree in 1994 from the Alemaya University of Agriculture, majoring in plant sciences. Most recently, Esayas worked as an Associate Researcher II in Entomology for the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research at the Jimma Agricultural Research Center in Jimma.



Dr. Hong Chen has joined **Dr. Blair Siegfried's** toxicology lab as a Senior Research Associate. He received his Ph.D. degree from the Department of Entomology at Pennsylvania State University and both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Entomology from the Beijing Agricultural University. Most recently, Dr. Chen was a vector control specialist in the College of Health Sciences at University of California where he studied the fitness of wild and genetically modified mosquitoes, *Anopheles stephensi*. At UNL, he will be investigating the population genetics of insecticide resistance in the western corn rootworm.



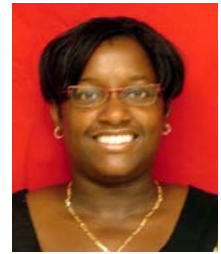
Dr. Manuel Roberto Cortinas is a new Assistant Professor of Veterinary and Medical Parasitology and Entomology in the Department of Entomology and the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Cortinas received his Ph.D. degree in Veterinary Pathobiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 2007, his D.V.M. degree from Colorado State University in 1998, his B.S. degree in ecology, evolution, and animal behavior from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in 1991, and his B.A. degree in chemistry from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1990. His office is temporarily Room 12BA in Entomology Hall. His phone number is 472-6502 and his email is rcortinas@unl.edu Roberto and his wife, Julia have three children, Julian, 8, Gabe 4, and new baby daughter, Elsa.



Ryan Geisert will be pursuing a M.S. degree working under the supervision of **Dr. Lance Meinke**. Ryan received his B.S. degree in entomology this past May from Oklahoma State University.



Mirhuanda Meeks joined our Business Center as Payroll Associate on August 1, 2008. Mirhuanda will be housed in Animal Science, but will be responsible for payroll entry for Entomology, Animal Science, and Veterinary Science. Before coming to UNL, Mirhuanda worked as an Accounting Supervisor at Cook's Hams in Lincoln for 14 years. Mirhuanda's office will be in C203 Animal Science, her phone number is 2-2050, and her email is mmeeks2@unl.edu.



Dr. Murugesan Rangasamy is a new post doc in **Dr. Blair Siegfried's** toxicology lab. Dr. Rangasamy received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology. His dissertation and post-doctoral research at the University of Florida involved identifying the mechanisms of southern chinch bug resistance in St. Augustine grass. He received his M.S. degree from Punjab University and B.S. degree from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in India. Here he will work on estimation of Bt resistance allele frequencies in European corn borer and RNA interference in western corn rootworms.



C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

The following students graduated August 2008:

- Ph.D. Degree - **Analiza Alves** (Advisor: **Dr. Blair Siegfried**)
 - Mathew Brust** (Advisors: **Drs. Wyatt Hoback** and **Robert Wright**)
 - André Crespo** (Advisor: **Dr. Blair Siegfried**)
 - Timothy Huntington** (Advisor: **Dr. Leon Higley**)
- M.S. Degree - **Santiago Palizada** (Advisors: **Drs. John Foster** and **Thomas Hunt**)
- Distance M.S.- **Rodney Atchley, Kerry John, Edward Patterson, Ryan Rider, Brian Vitelli**
- B.S. in Insect Science - **Jeffrey Hays**

The following University employees were honored for years of service at the Service Awards ceremony held September 4, 2008 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts: **Dr. Brett Ratcliffe** (40), **Drs. Steve Danielson** and **Shripat Kamble** (30), **Dr. Gary Hein, Lisa Silberman** and **Dr. Robert Wright** (20), **Jeri Cunningham** (15), and **Bruce Koehler** (5).

Two future entomologists have arrived, both on 8-8-08! **Dr. Gary Hein**, and wife, Wanda, are the proud grandparents of a little boy, Thomas Zane Walter, born to their daughter Krista and her husband Kyle in Omaha, NE. **Dr. Jack Campbell** and wife, Jane, are proud grandparents for the 12th time. Lacia Mae Kleumpers was born in Lenexa, KS, to Jack and Jane's daughter and son-in-law, Jean and Tim.

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

Brust, Mathew L., W. Wyatt Hoback, and Robert J. Wright. 2008. A Synopsis of Nebraska Grasshopper Distributions. *J. Kansas Entomol. Soc.*, 81(3): 208-255.

Epsky, N.D., **T.J. Weissling**, A. Walker, A.W. Meerow, and R.R. Heath. 2008. Life History and Damage of a new Baradinae Weevil (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) on Amaryllis. *Florida Entomol.* 91(2): 214-219.

- Magalhaes, Leonardo C., Thomas E. Hunt, and Blair D. Siegfried.** 2008. Development of methods to evaluate susceptibility of soybean aphid to imidacloprid and thiamethoxam at lethal and sublethal concentrations. *Entomological Experimentalis et Applicata* 128(2): 330- 336.
- Ocampo, F. and M.J. Paulsen.** 2008. Lucanidae. p. 501-504, *In: Claps, L.E., G. Debandi, and S. Roig-Juñent (Eds.). Biodiversidad de Artrópodos Argentinos, Vol. 2.* Editorial Sociedad Entomológica Argentina, Mendoza.
- Orozco, J. and M. Perez.** 2008. Escarabajos coprofagos (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidea) del Parque Nacional Los Estoraques (Norte de Santander, Colombia). *Revista Brasileira de Entomomlogia* 52: 36-40.
- Ratcliffe, B.C.** 2008. More new species of *Cyclocephala* from South America (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae). *Coleopterists Bulletin* 62: 221-241.
- Ratcliffe, B.C. and A.B.T. Smith.** 2007. *Bothynus* Hope, 1837 (Insecta, Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae): proposed conservation of usage by designation of *Scarabaeus ascanius* Kirby, 1819 as the type species. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 64, Case 3369 (see Opinion 2199).
- Saran, Raj K. and Shripat T. Kamble.** 2008. Concentration-Dependent Degradation of Three Termiticides in Soil Under Laboratory Conditions and Their Bioavailability to Eastern Subterranean Termites (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae). *J. Econ. Entomol.* 101(4): 1373-1383.
- Spomer, Neil A., and Shripat T. Kamble.** 2008. Translocation of [¹⁴C] Fipronil from Treated Soil into Artificial Foraging Galleries by *Reticulitermes flavipes* (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae). *Sociobiology* 52(1): 207-220.

GRANTS

Frederick Baxendale

- Arysta LifeScience \$6,000
 "Turfgrass Pest Management"
- Phyllom LLC \$3,250
 "Turfgrass Pest Management"
- The Scotts Company \$8,500
 "Turfgrass Pest Management"
- Syngenta \$3,000
 "Turfgrass Pest Management"

Marion Ellis and Blair Siegfried

- California Almond Board \$8,500
 "Tests for sublethal effects of oxalic acid on reproductive caste of honey bees"

Shripat Kamble

- Dow AgroSciences \$7,500
 "Termite Research"

Lance Meinke

- Bayer CropScience \$22,000
 "Diabrotica Ecology and Management"

Dr. Mary Liz Jameson is a co-PI on a major NSF cyberinfrastructure grant entitled "An Extensible Semantic Bridge between Biodiversity and Genomics." This project is under the direction of Stephen D. Scott, Etsuko Moriyama, Leen-Kiat Soh, Mary L. Jameson, and Scott Henninger. It is a 3-year grant for a total of \$1,367,121.

MEET A DISTANCE STUDENT

Distance M.S. Student - **Melissa Smith**

I am a fourth-semester distance M.S. student who lives in coastal North Carolina but grew up in a far north suburb of Chicago and was transplanted to Athens, GA in high school. It was through my undergrad program that I initially got interested in entomology. I earned an interdisciplinary BFA degree in scientific illustration from the University of Georgia in 1999, which integrated all kinds of science courses, including entomology, and quite a bit of illustration work using insects, because of their portability and durability as models. Insects quickly became my "thing," because of both their innate beauty and value to the earth. A few years later, I earned a second bachelors degree in art history, decided that perhaps it was time to get back to the scientific side of my interests, and shortly thereafter found out about the distance M.S. program in entomology at UNL. As I recounted in my letter of intent, I really and honestly danced a "jig of glee" in my kitchen when I figured out that I could keep my day job, stay at the beach (!) and still work on a degree in entomology. Despite the fact that I consistently have a freezer full of insects and am now endearingly referred to as "the bug lady" in my office, the distance M.S. program has proven to be a good match for me.



I have worked as an artist/illustrator in one capacity or another at the Center for Marine Science at the University of North Carolina Wilmington for eight years. I definitely enjoy working amongst scientists and students in an academic setting; I literally find that I learn something new about the world around me every day, which is very exciting and keeps me engaged in my work.

Considering my non-traditional background, people ask me all the time what I am going to do with a master's degree in entomology - especially my mom! My short answer? *"I just want to draw bugs."* While I am not particularly interested in making a big switch to a brand new career, I feel like the knowledge I will have acquired through the program will help me be more specialized as an illustrator, and hopefully open new doors to me in the future. I would also like to explore another way of combining my love of art with entomology and am quite interested in urban pest management applied to art and artifact museums.

FACULTY NEWS

Drs. Michael Culy, Thomas Weissling, and Junwei "Jerry" Zhu were appointed to the Graduate Faculty of UNL effective August 20, 2008.

Dr. Shripat Kamble hosted the Board Certified Entomologists-Mid America Meeting in Lincoln, NE on August 15-16, 2008. Following the business meeting, the group toured the RNAi research facility in the Beadle Center and attended the presentation, "Importance of RNAi research in pest management."

STUDENT NEWS

Jeremy Wagnitz was an invited speaker at the Eastern Apiculture Society's meeting on August 8, 2008 in Murray, KY. He presented his M.S. research on combining artificial breaks in brood rearing with oxalic acid treatment to enhance the efficacy of fall treatments.

Tim Husen has passed the Board Certified Entomology Exams and became a BCE-Intern.

Amanda Fujikawa attended the 93rd Annual International Association for Identification Conference in Louisville, KY, on August 17-23, 2008. She presented a poster titled "*Calliphora vicina* (Diptera: Calliphoridae) and their ability to alter the morphology and presumptive chemistry of bloodstain patterns." Amanda won 1st Place in the poster competition and received a crime scene textbook and a \$200 scholarship.

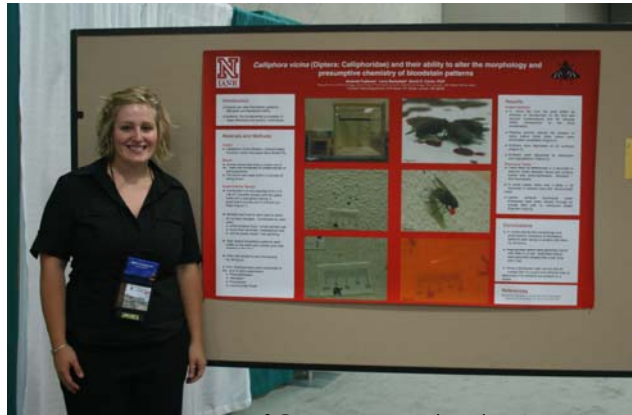


Photo courtesy of Erin Sims, Lincoln Police Dept.

Neil Spomer has been selected to receive the 2008 Jeffery P. LaFage Graduate Student Research Award and will be recognized at a dinner at the Entomological Society of America's Annual Meeting in Reno, NV on November 19, 2008.

The following students were awarded fellowships/awards for the 2008-2009 academic year:

Tierney Brosius	William J. Curtis Endowed Fellowship Fund	\$2,000
Kathleen Kneeland	William J. Curtis Endowed Fellowship Fund	\$2,000
Belay Kondidie	Shear-Miles Fellowship	\$2,000
Jesus Orozco-Araujo	William J. Curtis Endowed Fellowship Fund	\$2,000
Dori Porter	Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship	\$3,000
Neil Spomer	Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award	\$2,000
Stephen Young	William J. Curtis Endowed Fellowship Fund	\$2,000

Belay and Neil will be honored at a luncheon at the Nebraska East Union on September 19, 2008.

TRAVEL

Dr. Marion Ellis conducted an applied beekeeping workshop July 24-25, 2008, in Grand Junction, CO for 85 participants from 5 different states.

Dr. Shripat Kamble participated as a state liaison at the North Central Regional IR-4 (minor use of pesticides) planning meeting in Madison, WI, August 8-12, 2008.

Drs. Matt Paulsen and **Brett Ratcliffe** traveled to Ottawa, Canada this summer for a week of collections research at the Canadian Museum of Nature and Canadian National Collection.

FROM THE OFFICE

As of July 7, 2008 a new University prime vendor lab supplies contract with Fisher Scientific went into effect. This contract was awarded to Fisher based on the outcome of a competitive bid. Though this cannot be mandated as an exclusive contract, the pricing and other terms of the agreement make it to your advantage to "think Fisher first" for your lab supply needs. Some highlights of the contract:

- Continued free freight for regular delivery
- No dry ice charges, fuel surcharges or hazmat fees
- 30 day "no hassles" return policy (with an RGA)
- Full-time dedicated customer service rep, housed in UNMC Purchasing, Dianna Jerman, 402-559-5821, fax 402-559-3121, which started July 14
- If you cannot reach Dianna and need immediate help, you can still call Ginger Spencer in Cincinnati as a back up (866-897-9924) until 3:00 p.m. our time
- Improved discounts off list price on many products you use

New Minimum Wage took effect on July 24, 2008: As you hire student workers for the new semester, remember that the new minimum wage is \$6.55/hour. This change in the minimum wage represents the second of three consecutive annual adjustments to the federal minimum wage covered under the Fair Labor Standards Act as amended by Congress and administered by the US Department of Labor. The current pay structure for student workers and interns can be found on the HR website at http://hr.unl.edu/pdf/Student_Employee_Wages2008.pdf

Global Industries Furniture Contract: The UNL Purchasing Department would like to introduce Global Industries as a contract vendor for consideration of your furniture needs. In addition to contracted pricing, Global offers an e-commerce site with over 200 products available for immediate shipment through the Global quick ship program. This site accepts your UNL Procurement card and is a cost effective solution for high quality furniture products that carry a lifetime warranty. Pricing information and order placement is available via the following website: <http://www.eandiglobalonline.furnishgroup.com/SWAPPID/77>

See the Purchasing Department website, <http://www.purchasing.unl.edu> for more information.

VISITORS

Louis Chapon, a M.S. student from the University of Avignon, has completed a four month internship working with Dr. Marion Ellis. He worked on surveying regional apiaries for *Nosema ceranae*, a possible cause of the high colony losses experienced by beekeepers in recent years. In addition to his survey, he conducted studies on sampling methods, anti microsporidial drugs, and partitioning of *Nosema* between foragers and nurse bees.

The Team Scarab lab hosted Shinya Kawai from Tokyo, Japan in June. Mr. Kawai is the founder of the Japanese Society of Scarabaeidions and publisher of two major Japanese entomological journals, *Kogane* and *Saikaku-Tsushin*.

Dr. Paul Hammond from Oregon State University conducted butterfly research in the Entomology Collections at UNL's State Museum for three days in July.

Calendar of Events

September 19, 2008

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

September 21, 2008

- Insect Science Open House, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Entomology Hall

October 1, 2008

- Informal coffee with IANR administrators, 8:30 a.m., ENTO 204

October 20-21, 2008

- Fall Semester Break (Student Holiday - UNL offices are open)

October 24, 2008

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

November 16-19, 2008

- National ESA Meeting, Reno, NV

November 21, 2008

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

November 26, 2008

- Student Holiday (UNL offices are open)

November 27-30, 2008

- Thanksgiving Vacation (UNL offices are closed)

Experience the Power of Bugs Insect Science Open House

Sunday, September 21, 2008, 1-4 p.m.
Entomology Hall (Formally the Plant Industry Building)
UNL East Campus

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® wigglers!

CHEER: For your favorite roach in the Cockroach Races!

Food! Fun! Prizes! Bugs!
Don't Miss it!

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