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Hexapod Herald

Volume 22

June 2010

Number 3

WELCOME

New Distance Masters Students –

Summer 2010: **Sherry Spriggs**, Odenton, MD

Fall 2010: **Kevin Peters**, Phoenixville, PA; **Abbey Rardin**, Slater, IA

Kayode Akinwande of Lagos, Nigeria, arrived in May to spend a year conducting research with **Dr. Marion Ellis** on honey bee health. Akinwande, who has been granted professional development leave, is an instructor at the University of Lagos. In Nigeria, he works with *Apis mellifera andersonii*, a highly defensive race of honey bees. His work will also include developing methods for selecting and improving local populations for apiculture. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Zoology (Entomology) from Lagos and his M.Phil (Entomology) from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife. He is looking forward to experiencing Nebraska winter, Big Red Football, and meeting and greeting each of you.



Lia Da Silva Marchi is a new masters student working under the supervision of **Drs. Tiffany Heng-Moss** and **Tom Hunt**. Lia was Tom's first student in the Brazilian Undergraduate Training Program held last July-November with UNESP, Botucabu Campus, Sao Paulo, Brazil. This program reinforces the relationship between Brazilian universities and UNL and has helped to establish collaborations and student and faculty exchanges. She completed her senior project on soybean aphids and contributed to the validation of a soybean aphid population growth model. Lia was then recruited to join the Entomology Department as an M.S. student starting this summer.



Chelsea Piitz is a new masters student working under the supervision of **Drs. Tom Hunt** and **Blair Siegfried**. She will be working on the effects of neonicotinoid seed treatments of corn and soybean on above ground insect pests. Chelsea, who is from Brainard, NE, received her B.S. degree in Agronomy from UNL this past spring.



Carrie Snyder is the new Grants Manager in the AVE Business Center. Carrie comes from industry, and has over 20 years of experience in all areas of accounting and financial management. She will split her time between Animal Science (C206k ANSC, phone 2-3537) and the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (105 VBS, phone 2-6059). Once she has had an opportunity to settle in, Carrie will spend her mornings in Animal Science and her afternoons in the SVMBS, with periodic visits to Entomology, although her schedule will be flexible based on the needs of faculty. Carrie will be responsible for managing both pre-award and post-award activities, compiling grants.gov and other submission packages for faculty, and submitting them via NUgrant. On the post-award side, she will oversee budgeting and expenditures, manage the PAR process, and close out projects.



ESA is now on Facebook! If you have a Facebook account, please visit this link and request to be a friend with Esa Manden: <http://www.facebook.com/eas.manden> By befriending ESA, you will receive updates on your wall when things are posted and you will be more in touch with what is happening with ESA.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Roberto Cortinas received the Faculty of the Year Award voted on by the second-year veterinary class in the professional program in veterinary medicine.

Tim Husen received the Ph.D. Student Scholarship Award at the National Conference on Urban Entomology (NCUE) held May 16-19, 2010, in Portland, OR. The \$1,500 scholarship was given to recognize an outstanding graduate student studying urban entomology or industrial pest management full-time at an accredited U.S. college or university. **Dr. Shripat Kamble** is Tim's advisor.

The following students graduated May 2010:

- Ture Carlson**, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
- Travis Culpepper**, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
- Vaughn Hammond**, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
- Tonya Kurcharski**, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
- Frederick Springer**, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
- Bethany Teeters**, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
B.S. in Diversified Agriculture – **Casey Collins, Matthew Hollman, Tyler Hueftle, Nathan Hughes, Brian Kohmetscher, Abbie Rempel, Daniel Sobota, Shane Strobe**
- B.S. in Forensic Science – **Courtney Cubrich, Joseph Ferretti, Janson Hustedt, Anton Jensen**
- B.S. in Insect Science – **Ransom Sitz**

GRANTS

Fred Baxendale/Tiffany Heng-Moss

- DuPont \$9,600
 "Turfgrass Pest"
- Syngenta \$10,000
 "Turfgrass Pest"

Shripat Kamble

- DuPont \$5,500
 "Urban Research"

Robert Wright

- Bayer \$3,500
 "Crop Insect Management Research"
- Monsanto \$18,000
 "Crop Insect Management Research"
- Syngenta \$7,000
 "Crop Insect Management Research"

Jesús Orozco Araujo was awarded an Ernst Mayr Grant for \$1,500 from the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

Sean Whipple received a \$250 student grant-in-aid from the Center for Great Plains Studies for "Dung preference and niche partitioning among dung beetles in western Nebraska."

STUDENT NEWS

Rachael Fithian is the recipient of a Milton E. Mohr Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 from the Center for Biotechnology. Rachel is an insect science major.

Tierney Brosius presented her dissertation defense seminar, "Niche Specialization and Conservation Biology of *Cicindela nevadica lincolniana*" on June 25, 2010. Tierney will be an assistant professor of biology at McMurry University in Abilene, TX, where she will be teaching entomology, zoology, genetics, and general biology. Tierney's advisor is **Dr. Leon Higley**.

Ralph Narain will present his thesis defense seminar, "Morphological Characterization and Molecular Mediated Genetic Variation of Thief Ant (*Solenopsis molesta* Say, Hymenoptera: Formicidae)" on July 7, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. Ralph has been accepted in the Ph.D. program and will continue to work with **Dr. Shripat Kamble**.

Jesús Orozco Araujo is the recipient of a Milton E. Mohr Fellowship in the amount of \$1,000 from the Center for Biotechnology. He was also awarded a Warren F. and Edith R. Day Student Aid Fund in the amount of \$500 to partially support his travel in May for his dissertation research at the University of Minnesota and the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, IL. Jesús is working under the supervision of **Dr. Brett Ratcliffe**.

Khanobporn "Kim" Tangtrakulwanich has been awarded \$500 from the David H. & Annie E. Larrick Memorial Travel Fund to attend the Entomology Society of America meeting in San Diego, CA next December. Kim is a Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Fred Baxendale** and **Jerry Zhu**.

Newly elected Bruner Club Officers are: President – **Jess Jurzenski**, Vice President – **Justin McMechan**, Secretary – **Ken Miwa**, Treasurer – **Travis Prochaska**, Student Representative to faculty – **Erica Lindroth**, and Graduate Student Association Representative – **Ana Velez**. **Dr. Nick Miller** will serve as faculty advisor.

Newly elected Insect Science Club Officers are: President – **Ginny Morgal**, Vice President – **Christina Doehling**, Secretary – **Stephen Losey**, Treasurer – **Rachael Fithian**, Fundraising Social Chair – **Renee Berger**. **Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss** serves as faculty advisor.

UCARE awards for 2010-2011 have been given to students listed below, along with their advisor and the amount of the award:

Insect Science students:

Christina Doehling	Dr. Fred Baxendale	\$2,000 (year 1)
Rachael Fithian	Dr. Fred Baxendale	\$2,400 (year 2)
Alex Heiden	Dr. Marion Ellis	\$2,000 (year 1)
Sara Pritchard	Dr. Gary Brewer	\$2,400 (year 2)

Forensic Science students:

Alex Brodersen	Dr. Michael Carlson	\$2,000 (year 1)
Kaitlin Leslie	Dr. David Carter	\$2,000 (year 1)

Tim Husen, Jess Jurzenski, and Travis Prochaska led an entomology session at the Omaha Public Schools 7th grade career fair on May 7, 2010, where they talked to approximately fifteen 7th graders in each of the 7 sessions. Travis spoke on the soybean aphids and finding ways to help agriculture, Tim talked about environmentally friendly pest management, and Jess told the students what she found amazing about burying beetles and also spoke about conservation of endangered species (American burying beetle). They had live Madagascar hissing cockroaches, a giant African millipede, mealworms, termites, and bed bugs all for holding (except for the bed bugs). They were the only session featured on an Omaha TV station later that day.



PUBLICATIONS

Ángel-Sahagún, C.A., R. Lezama-Gutiérrez, **J. Molina-Ochoa**, A. Pescador-Rubio, **S.R. Skoda**, C. Cruz-Vázquez, A.G. Lorenzoni, E. Galindo-Velasco, H. Fragoso-Sánchez, **J.E. Foster**. 2010. Virulence of Mexican isolates of entomopathogenic fungi (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae) upon *Rhipicephalus=Boophilus microplus* (Acari: Ixodidae) larvae and the efficacy of conidia formulations to reduce larval tick density under field conditions. *Veterinary Parasitology* 170(3-4): 278-286.

Céspedes, A. and **B. C. Ratcliffe**. 2010. *Golofa clavigera* (Linnaeus, 1771) in Bolivia: a new country record (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae). *Ecología en Bolivia (Revista del Instituto de Ecología, Carrera de Biología, Facultad de Ciencias Puras y Naturales, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, La Paz, Bolivia)* 45:73-76.

Huntington, Timothy E. and **Leon G. Higley.** 2010. Decomposed Flesh as a Vitellogenic Protein Source for the Forensically Important *Lucilia sericata* (Diptera: Calliphoridae). *J. Med. Entomol.* 47(3):482-486.

Jourdie, Violaine, Nadir Alvarez, **Jaime Molina-Ochoa**, Trevor Williams, Daid Bergvinson, Betty Benrey, Ted C.J. Turlings, and Pierre Franck. 2010. Population genetic structure of two primary parasitoids of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera), *Chelonus insularis* and *Campoletis sonorensis* (Hymenoptera): to what extent is the host plant important? *Molecular Ecology* 19(10):2168-2179.

Paulsen, M.J. 2010 Stag beetles of the genus *Dorcus* MacLeay in North America (Coleoptera, Lucanidae). In: Ratcliffe B, Krell F-T (Eds.), *Current advances in Scarabaeoidea research*. ZooKeys 34: 199-207.

Paulsen M.J. and A. B. T. Smith. 2010. Revision of the genus *Chiasognathus* Stephens of southern South America with the description of a new species (Coleoptera, Lucanidae, Lucaninae, Chiasognathini). *ZooKeys* 43: 33-63.

Ratcliffe, B. C. 2010. A review of the Blaesiina (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae, Cetoniinae, Gymnetini). *Zookeys* 34: 105-128.

Ratcliffe, B. C. 2010. VIII Reunión Latinoamericana de Scarabaeoidología, 13-17 de October, 2009, Xalapa, Mexico. <http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/RELAS/Mexico-2009/Mexico.html> and <http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/RELAS/Mexico-2009/fotos.html>.

Ratcliffe, B. C. and F.-T. Krell (editors). 2010. *Current Advances in Scarabaeoidea Research*. ZooKeys 34: 1-207.

Ratcliffe, B. C. and J.-P. Saltin. 2010. Melanistic *Mitracephala humboldti* Thomson (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae). A tale from the dark side. *Scarabs* 51: 1-9.

Ratcliffe, B. C. and **M. L. Jameson.** 2010. Research/curation at the Natural History Museum (BMNH), London. <http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Mexico-Survey/trips/London-2009.html>

Ratcliffe, B. C. and R. D. Cave. 2010. Research/collecting trip to Guatemala. June-July 2009. <http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Mexico-Survey/trips/Guatemala-2009.html>

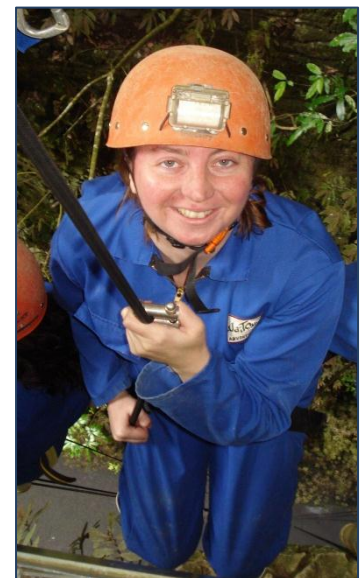
MEET AN OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT

Off-Campus M.S. Student – **Lesley Beattie**

Hiya, I'm Lesley. I'm originally from Scotland, although I've lived in England for the last 15 years. Back in my school days I was hoping to become a cell biologist. I started my first degree at Glasgow University, studying biology, chemistry and physics. Biology class sizes at Glasgow were immense – about 800 people taking the first year course. It was all a bit impersonal for me, and after a year I decided to change and become a physicist instead.

During my physics degree at Dundee University, I became interested in semiconductors and was lucky enough to research their properties in my Ph.D., which was part of the Large Hadron Collider project at CERN in Switzerland.

I have spent the last 12 years in software development, working in both commercial and local government organizations, but it was only a few years ago when I got my first digital camera with macro lens that I discovered a passion for nature, and specifically insects. Working for the fire service in Devon was ideal – their HQ was in the countryside and a walk at lunchtime would see me spotting a bug here, or a wildflower there, and my knowledge started to grow. They also had what I termed the “moth wall” just outside my office. As they had lights that were left on all night, I'd arrive in the morning and there would be a new moth there most days.



I'm just at the beginning of my studies at Nebraska, but really looking forward to understanding and learning much more, and hope to be working in entomology in the not-too-distant future.

The picture was taken in New Zealand, just before an abseil into the caves near Waitomo, a pretty scary experience, but just one that I had when I took some time off and travelled in New Zealand and Australia over this past winter.

CONDOLENCES

Carol Reimers, mother of **Dr. Connie Reimers-Hild**, passed away June 22 at her home. Funeral services were held June 26 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, West Point, NE. Our sincerest sympathy goes to Connie and her family.

Calendar of Events

July 2, 2010

- Entomology Department Meeting, 9:00 a.m., ENTO 214

July 5, 2010

- Holiday - No Classes, Offices Closed

July 7, 2010

- Narain Defense Seminar, 10:00 a.m., Nebraska East Union

July 9, 2010

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

July 12, 2010

- Second Five-Week Sessions Begins

July 15, 2010

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

July 30, 2010

- Entomology Department Meeting, 9:00 a.m., ENTO 214

August 12, 2010

- Second Five-Week Session Ends

August 13, 2010

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

August 14, 2010

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

August 23, 2010

- First Semester 2010-2011 Begins