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Hexapod Herald

Volume 21

September 2009

Number 5

WELCOME

New Distance Masters Students:

Fall 2009: **Kent Chittenden**, McLeod, MT; **Jeffrey Cooper**, Scottsdale, AZ; **Brenda Coyle**, Brick, NJ; **Charlene Legerton**, North Palm Beach, FL

Spring 2010: **Michael Sowers**, South Portland, ME

Amanda Fujikawa will continue on in the Entomology Department to pursue her Ph.D. degree after completing her M.S. degree this summer. She will be working under the supervision of **Drs. David Carter** and **Leon Higley**.

Amy Maile is a new masters student who will be working under the supervision of **Dr. David Carter**. Amy received her bachelor's degree in biology-chemistry in May from Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, IN.

Julianne Matczyszyn is a new masters student, although she is not new to the Entomology Department, as she received her bachelor's degree in insect science from UNL this past May. Juli will be working under the supervision of **Dr. Roberto Cortinas**.

A. Justin McMechan, an international student from Canada, will be working towards a masters degree under the supervision of **Dr. Gary Hein**. Justin received his bachelor's degree in agronomy from the University of Minnesota-Crookston this past May.

Kentaro Miwa graduated with his M.S. degree from our department this summer and started his Ph.D. program this fall working under the supervision of **Dr. Lance Meinke**.

Wayne Ohnesorg, extension educator in Pierce County, is a new Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Tom Hunt** and **Bob Wright**. Wayne received his B.S. degree in agroecology from the University of Wyoming in 2005, and his M.S. degree in entomology from Iowa State University in 2008.

Muhammad Irfan Ullah, a new Ph.D. student from Pakistan, will be working under the supervision of **Drs. Wyatt Hoback** and **John Foster**. Irfan received his B.S. degree in agriculture in 2001, and his M.S. degree in agricultural entomology in 2003, both from the University of Agriculture-Faisalabad-Pakistan.



Amy



Julianne



Justin



Wayne



Irfan

New insect science majors are Renee Berger, West Chicago, IL; Alex Heiden, Aurora, NE; Andy Matz, Omaha, NE; and Nick Miller, Lincoln, NE.



Renee



Andy



Nick

CONGRATULATIONS

The following students graduated August 2009:

- Ph.D. Degree - **Neil Spomer** (Advisor: **Dr. Shripat Kamble**)
- M.S. Degree - **Geoffrey Day** (Advisor: **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
- **Ryan Evans** (Advisor: **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
- **Amanda Fujikawa** (Advisor: **Dr. David Carter**)
- **Kentaro Miwa** (Advisor: **Dr. Gary Brewer**)
- **Keith Morton** (Advisor: **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
- **Lanae Pierson** (Advisors: **Drs. Tiffany Heng-Moss/Tom Hunt**)
- **Sandra Schaeffer** (Advisors: **Drs. Fred Baxendale/Tiffany Heng-Moss**)
- **Paul Timm** (Advisor: **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
- **Jeremy Wagnitz** (Advisor: **Dr. Marion Ellis**)

B.S. in Insect Science - **Keith Lloyd**

The S-1039 committee is the 2009 recipient of the National Excellence in Multi-State Research Award. **Drs. Tom Hunt, Leon Higley, and Tiffany Heng-Moss** are members of this committee.

Dr. Reed Johnson was awarded the Eastern Apicultural Society 2009 Student Award at the society's annual meeting August 4-8, in Ellicottsville, NY. Reed also gave the presentation "Interactions Between Miticides" at the meeting.

Ana Vélez recently defended her M.S. thesis entitled, "Characterization and genetic structure of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera Noctuidae) host strains in corn, cotton, rice and sorghum crops in the Tolima region of Colombia" and graduated with her M.S. from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Medellin in August. Congratulations to Ana!

The following University employees were honored for years of service at the Service Awards ceremony held September 10, 2009 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts: **Drs. Frederick Baxendale** and **Lance Meinke** (25), **Dr. Leon Higley** (20), **Bill McCormick** (10), and **Dr. Thomas Weissling** and **Rebecca (June) Snyder** (5).

Dr. Scott Hutchins has been elected as an Entomological Society of America Fellow for 2009. Scott is currently senior director and global leader of crop protection research and development for Dow AgroSciences and has an adjunct professor appointment in the department.

Dr. Shripat Kamble became a grandfather when his daughter Paima and husband, Bill Fendrick became the proud parents of a baby boy, Leo Anthony, born September 3, 2009. Leo weighed 9 lbs., 9 oz. and was 21 inches long. Congrats to Grandpa Shripat, Grandma Linda, and family!



Abdul Hafiz Ab Majid and his wife, Nurul Izza Hafiz, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Nurul "Iman" Abdul Hafiz, who was born on August 11, 2009. Iman was 7 lbs., 3 oz., and was 20 inches long. What a sweetie! Hafiz is a Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Dr. Shripat Kamble**.



Dr. Andre Crespo and his wife, Maria have a new baby daughter, Maria Lucia, born September 10, 2009. Maria was 7 lbs., 8 oz., and 20.5 inches long. Andre received his Ph.D. in 2008 under the supervision of **Dr. Blair Siegfried** and is now a research entomologist working for Syngenta Biotechnology, Inc. in Research Triangle Park, NC.



Dr. Connie Reimers-Hild and her husband Jim, are the proud parents of a boy, Jagger James Kenneth, who was born September 10, 2009. He weighed 8 lbs., 3 oz., and was 21.5 inches long. Big sister Raquel, along with Fred and Barney (the two dachshunds) are adjusting well. Connie reports that when Jagger cries, Fred cries. Lively household! Connie, former distance education coordinator for the department, is an associate extension educator for the Southeast Research and Extension Center located in Nebraska City, NE.



PUBLICATIONS

Aliano, Nicholas P. and **Marion D. Ellis.** 2009. Oxalic acid: a prospective tool for reducing *Varroa* mite populations in package bees. Exp Appl Acarol 48: 303-309. DOI 10.1007/s10493-009-9240-8

Neita, J. C. and **J. Orozco.** 2009. Larval and pupal descriptions for the genera *Podischnus* and *Heterogomphus* (Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae: Oryctini). Zootaxa 2168: 34-44.

Ruiz-Nájera, Ramiro, **Jaime Molina-Ochoa,** James E. Carptenter, Jorge A. Espinosa-Moreno, José Alfredo Ruiz-Nájera, Roberto Lezama-Gutiérrez, and **John E. Foster.** 2007. Survey for Hymenopteran and Dipteran Parasitoids of the Fall Armyworm (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in Chiapas, Mexico. J. Agric. Urban Entomol. 24(1): 35-42.

GRANTS

Fred Baxendale /Tiffany Heng-Moss

- DuPont Crop Protection \$15,200
 "Turfgrass Pest"
- Syngenta. \$2,000
 "Turfgrass Pest"

Marion Ellis

- Wisconsin and South Dakota Honey Producers \$2,683
 "Honey Bee Research and Education"

Reed Johnson/Marion Ellis/Blair Siegfried

- National Honey Board \$26,300
 "Biomarkers of sublethal pesticide exposure in honey bees"

Shripat Kamble

- Dow AgroScience..... \$10,000
 "Urban Research"
- DuPont Crop Protection \$45,200
 "Urban Entomology"

Lance Meinke

- AMVAC Chemical Corporation \$3,500
 "Biology and Ecology of Diabrotica"
- Bayer CropScience..... \$20,000
 "Biology and Ecology of Diabrotica"
- Syngenta Biotechnology, Inc. \$80,000
 "CRW Stacked Events: Refuge Strategy Adult Emergence Tent Studies"

Blair Siegfried

- Monsanto. \$10,000
 "Baseline Susceptibility in Field Populations"

Robert Wright

- AMVAC Chemical Corporation \$4,000
 "Crop Insect Management"
- Bayer CropScience..... \$4,000
 "Crop Insect Management Research"
- Monsanto. \$10,000
 "Smartstax Insect Efficacy Trial – Protocol Number 2009-01-39-03"

Improving Organic Farming Systems and Assessing Their Environmental Impacts Across Agroecoregions, \$1,419,710, USDA Organic Program, 2009-2013. C. Shapiro, J. Brandle, C. Francis, S. Knezevic, V. Schlegel, **R. Wright**, C. Wortmann, M. Bernards, G. Hergert, R. Ferguson, J. Quinn & D. Lyon.

FROM GARY'S DESK

Entomology is undergoing some significant changes. Staffing changes include current searches for new positions in molecular arthropod host interactions and in forensic biology. Dr. John Owens will be returning to the Entomology Department in July 2010, when he concludes his current position as Harlan Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources for the University of Nebraska. The next phase of his career will be in extension entomology.

Our undergraduate majors in insect science continue to provide special vigor and energy to the department, and many are successfully moving into graduate programs. The forensic science degree is flourishing, and with over 100 students, is enjoying growing pains. Besides the forensic biologist position, we are also searching for an academic advisor for the forensic science program.

A major change in our degree offerings is the evolution of Diversified Agriculture to Applied Science. The change is more than cosmetic and offers significant advantages for students interested in applications of science in business and government. The degree is also unique in offering site-bound students, with their first two years of college credit, a degree completion option by taking on-line classes.

Our resident graduate program is flourishing with 35 students. Currently, students from Botswana, Brazil, Columbia, Ethiopia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Thailand make up about half of the resident graduate students.

The distance-delivered MS in entomology degree program has an enrollment of about 170 students with an average of 74 taking classes each semester. This program generates an average of 616 graduate student credit hours each year in entomology and, to date, 83 students have graduated from the program. These students are valued and respected members of our department, and we are pleased to get to know them better and to introduce them to you. Look elsewhere in this issue of the Hexapod Herald for the "Meet an Off-Campus Student" article.

Besides staffing and program news, Entomology is nearing completion of a significant facelift. Renovations to the third floor and two other labs in Entomology Hall are almost complete. The labs will greatly improve our capacity in molecular biology. Go to our newly revised home page to see a pictorial essay of the renovation work. Below are some pictures of remodeled labs on the third floor.



Room 306



Room 310



Room 311

STUDENT NEWS

Tierney Brosius, Kathleen Kneeland, and Crystal Ramm were awarded a Milton E. Mohr Fellowship for 2009-2010. The fellowship adds a \$2,000 stipend to each of their assistantships.

Amanda Fujikawa was awarded a National Science Foundation/Project Fulcrum assistantship for the academic year 2009-2010. This fellowship consists of a salary of \$30,000 over twelve months and pays full tuition remission and a contribution to the health insurance coverage.

Ralph Narain is the recipient of the Ward A. and Helen W. Combs Scholarship in the amount of \$600. This scholarship was established by the Presto-X Company.

Difabachew Belay Kondidie was selected to receive a Shear-Miles Fellowship Award in the amount of \$2,000 for 2009-2010.

Tim Husen received a Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award for 2009-2010 in the amount of \$2,000.

MEET AN OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT

Off-Campus M.S. Student – **James Cannon**

I originally received a BFA from the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, OH. My artistic specialty is oil painting. I continued my education at MSJ in psychology and biology after obtaining my BFA. I became fascinated with entomology, and decided that I simply had to pursue a degree in this field.

I started a master's program at Ohio State University in medical entomology, where I researched the effects of sugar feeding on **Anopheles gambiae s.s.** At the time, I answered a patriotic call to arms and joined the U.S. Army as a chemical officer. I transferred to UNL and also into the US Army Medical Service Corps as an entomologist. I currently serve as the commanding officer of a preventive medical detachment out of New Orleans. Recently, I have received word that I'll deploy to Afghanistan as the executive officer and entomologist of another unit in December.



I would like to say that I have found my home at UNL. I am not only pleased with the education from this school, but I am proud to say that I am part of the UNL family!

FROM THE OFFICE

From the Office of Sponsored Programs - PROPOSAL & PRE-PROPOSAL ROUTING REQUIREMENTS: The NUgrant routing form provides a clear and concise overview of all the administrative and general budget requirements of each sponsored proposal. It also provides for appropriate approvals that ensure acknowledgement and acceptance of compliance requirements and cost sharing commitments. OSP requires a completed routing form prior to the submission of a proposal to an external sponsor requesting new funding, including those submitted electronically. A completed routing form is also required prior to submission of any pre-proposal that is required to include a detailed budget and/or cost share commitments of any kind. Please provide detailed submission instructions and allow adequate time for OSP review of proposal. For paper submission, also provide a mailing address (no PO Boxes for overnight delivery) and allow extra time for preparation of mailing package. Send to OSP the original and all copies required to send to sponsor. Contact June Snyder if you have questions.

Windows 7. Microsoft has released a new Windows operating system called Windows 7. At this time, you're encouraged to not use this operating system as it has not been fully tested with any of the Firefly or SAP applications. An additional news article will be published once it has been fully tested and validated as an acceptable browser by both SAP and the University of Nebraska. Contact the campus help desk if you have questions.

NIH Changes its Grant Application Format - NIH has reduced the number of pages allowed in grant applications, reformatted bio sketches, and reorganized proposal components. The new bio sketch format is required for all noncompeting continuation progress reports starting October 1, 2009. The new grant application format is required for all applications, including resubmissions, due on or after January 25, 2010. While NIH has notified applicants of the changes, it appears the revised forms will not be released until December. Faculty planning to submit applications in January should wait until December to download the new Grants.gov application packages. Full details, including links to NIH information, are available on the Office of Research website.

Office of Research—Internal Funding Opportunities—The Office of Research is pleased to announce the call for proposals for the Arts & Humanities Research Enhancement, Minority Health Research, and Layman Awards internal funding programs. All proposals for these programs are due November 11, 2009 at Noon. Applications for the Strategic Research Clusters now are accepted at any time during the year. http://research.unl.edu/facultyresources/annual_competitions.shtml

Office of Research—2010 Research Development Fellows Program – The Office of Research is pleased to announce the 2010 Research Development Fellows Program (RDFP). The RDFP is an initiative to help full-time pre-tenure faculty develop and submit competitive grant proposals; the program includes mentoring, learning activities, and expert consultation. Twelve fellows will be selected for the 2010 program. For further information, visit the RDFP website or plan to attend the Faculty Forum scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on September 30, 2009, in the City Campus Union.
<http://research.unl.edu/facultyresources/fellowsprogram.shtml>

TRAVEL

Dr. Marion Ellis attended the Apimondia 2009 meeting September 15-25 in Montpellier, France, where he presented a summary of his work on *Varroa* mite management.

Dr. Reed Johnson was a panel member of the EPA honey bee science panel and pesticide protocol development workshop in Crystal City, VA, held July 8-9, 2009.

Drs. Brett Ratcliffe and **Mary Liz Jameson**, at the invitation of the British Museum of Natural History in London, spent two weeks in August curating and identifying parts of their scarab collections. While there, both presented guest lectures on their scarab research.

Dr. Matt Paulsen spent two weeks in September at the University of California-Riverside conducting molecular studies on scarabs with colleague David Hawks.

Dr. Bob Wright participated in the Syngenta Seeds 'Agrisure® Traits Corn Pest Forum', August 24-25, 2009 at Minnetonka, MN.

Dr. Bob Wright participated in Husker Harvest Days, September 15-17, 2009 at Grand Island, NE. The theme of the IANR display was 'Crops for the Future'.

Calendar of Events

October 6, 2009

- Entomology Seminar – Difabachew Belay Kondidie, Entomology Graduate Student
4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

October 19-20, 2009

- Fall Semester Break – Student Holiday – UNL offices open

October 23, 2009

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

October 27, 2009

- Entomology Seminar – Dr. J. Lindsey Flexner and Dr. Tim Nowatzki, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., DuPont Agriculture Biotechnology Group, Laura Higgins, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

November 3, 2009

- Entomology Seminar – Ryan Geisert, Entomology Graduate Student

November 10, 2009

- Entomology Seminar – Khanobporn "Kim" Tangtrakulwanich, Entomology Graduate Student

November 20, 2009

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

November 25, 2009

- Student Holiday – UNL offices open

November 26-29, 2009

- Thanksgiving Vacation – UNL offices closed

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.