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## Hexapod Herald - Vol. 26, No. 1, February 2014

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## W e l c o m e

**Sanjay Basnet** is a new Ph.D. student who will be working under the supervision of **Dr. Shripat Kamble**. Sanjay obtained his B.S. degree from the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences at the Rampur Campus of Tribhuvan University in Chitwan, Nepal in 2008. After a 10-month internship in Israel, he joined the Department of Entomology at Nepal Agriculture Research Council as a research assistant. From 2011–2013, Sanjay was a M.S. student in entomology at Virginia Tech working under Dr. Douglas Pfeiffer and received his degree in January 2014. Sanjay's area of study will be urban entomology with research emphasis on bed bugs and molecular toxicology.

**Catarina Lopes** is an undergraduate student here from the Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco in Brazil for a full academic year through the Science without Borders program working in **Dr. Blair Siegfried's** insect toxicology lab. She is currently assisting Ph.D. student, **Adriano Pereira** with maintenance of the southern corn rootworm colony, along with learning laboratory procedures. When finished, she hopes to receive an internship in her major, agronomy.

**Camila de Oliveira**, while not new to the Entomology Department, is new to our Ph.D. program and will be working under the supervision of **Dr. Julie Peterson**, who will be located at the West Central Research and Extension Center. Camila, originally from Brazil, received a B.S. degree in biological sciences and a B.A. degree in anthropology both from the University of Missouri at Columbia in 2010. She completed her M.S. degree in entomology from UNL in December 2013 under the supervision of **Dr. Gary Hein**. Camila's research will focus on the ecology and management of the western corn rootworm, exploring food web interactions and potential for biological control options.

**Erin Ingram** is another new Ph.D. student who received her M.S. degree in entomology at UNL in December under the supervision of **Drs. Marion Ellis** and **Blair Siegfried**. Erin will be working under the supervision of **Dr. Doug Golick** on science and entomology literacy research. Erin, originally from Franklin, NE, received her B.S. in Education & Human Sciences from UNL in 2004 and then spent the next six years in the Pacific Northwest working as a nanny and tutor before returning to Nebraska in 2010.

**Ashley Foster** is in the Master of Applied Science program and is working under the supervision of **Drs. Fred Baxendale** and **Ashley Hall**. Ashley received her B.A. in forensic biochemistry from Northern Michigan University in May 2013. Ashley will be researching the effects of DNA sequence and histone placement on the incident of strand breaks using next generation sequencing technology.

**Suresh Varsani** is a new Ph.D. student who will be working under the supervision of **Dr. Joe Louis**. Suresh received his integrated B. Tech/M. Tech degree in biotechnology in 2012 from the Padmashree Dr. D Y. Patil University in Navi Mumbai, India. He then worked as a junior research fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Research in Gujarat before coming to Nebraska. Suresh's research will focus on understanding the molecular basis of plant-insect interactions.



Basnet



Lopes



Oliveira



Ingram



Foster



Varsani

Welcome, con't.

New Off-Campus M.S. Students: **Tiffini Bailey**, Lincoln, NE; **Mark Bashaw**, APO, AP; **Amadeus DeKastle**, Bishkek Chu, KYRGYZSTAN; **Joellen Hodge**, New City, NY

New insect science majors: **Mary Foshee**, Bellevue, NE; **Anna Levinson**, Wahoo, NE; **Carter Westerhold**, Stanton, NE; **Jacob Young**, Beatrice, NE

## Congratulations

The following students graduated December 2013:

**Camila de Oliveira**, M.S. (Advisor- **Dr. Gary Hein**); **Jense Fredericks**, M.S. (Advisor- **Dr. Tom Weissling**); **Erin Ingram**, M.S. (Advisors- **Drs. Marion Ellis, Blair Siegfried**); **Amanda Maegli**, M.S. (Advisor- **Dr. Roberto Cortinas**); **William Runkle**, M.S. (Advisor- **Dr. Tom Weissling**)

**Dori (Porter) Osantowski** received her Doctor of Plant Health (D.P.H.) degree in December. Dr. Osantowski is the second graduate from the D.P.H. program. She received her bachelors degree in insect science in 2008 and her masters degree in entomology in 2010 both from UNL. Her masters degree was under the supervision of **Drs. Marion Ellis** and **Robert Wright**.

**Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss** has received the 2013 National Teaching Award for Food and Agriculture Sciences. Tiffany was one of two professors in the nation to be honored by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. The award was presented in November at the 126th annual APLU meeting in Washington, D.C. The annual award includes a stipend of \$5,000 to be used for improving teaching at the awardee's respective university.

**Dr. Laramy Enders**, a post doc working with **Dr. Nick Miller**, was an invited speaker at the annual Ecological Genomics Symposium (ECOGEN) November 1–3, 2013, in Kansas City, MO. Laramy's talk was entitled "Quantifying the effects of stress: Transcriptomic and proteomic approaches in aphids" and was on research funded by the UNL Life Sciences grant on soybean aphid stress biology.

**Justin McMechan** was awarded 1st place in the student competition at the Entomological Society of America's annual meeting in Austin, TX this past November. His paper, "Window of risk for volunteer wheat establishment during the heading stages of wheat and the potential for wheat curl mite infestation" was co-authored with his advisor, **Dr. Gary Hein**.

App team, **Pierce Hansen**, **Clyde Ogg**, **Wayne Ohnesorg**, and **Erin Bauer** had their PeRK (Pesticide Record Keeping) selected as #9 in "15 Best New Agriculture Apps Worth Downloading in 2014" by CropLife. Check it out at <http://www.croplife.com/editorial/15-best-new-agriculture-apps-worth-downloading-in-2014/#/BlackoutGallery/51104/9>

**Dr. Shripat Kamble** received the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta Award for Excellence in Extension at Gamma Sigma Delta's annual initiation and awards banquet held January 26, 2014. **Jenny Freed** and **David Wangila**, entomology graduate students, and **Katie O'Brien**, an undergraduate in the insect science program, were new initiates.



## Grants

**Fred Baxendale** and **Tiffany Heng-Moss**

PBI/Gordon Corporation ..... \$12,000  
"Turfgrass Pest"

**Robert Wright**

AMVAC Chemical Corporation ..... \$ 5,250  
"Crop Insect Management"

**Dr. Laramy Enders** was awarded a USDA NIFA Postdoctoral Fellowship for January 2014–January 2016 in the amount of \$132,988. The title of the project is "Investigating the Role of Bacterial Endosymbionts In Response to Stress in the Soybean Aphid". Co-mentors for the project are **Dr. Nick Miller**, UNL, and **Dr. Andrew Michel**, The Ohio State University.

## Publications

Confitti, I.M., K.P. Pruess, A. Cywinska, T.O. Powers, and D.C. Currie. 2013. DNA barcoding distinguishes pest species of the black fly genus *Cnephia* (Diptera: Simuliidae). *J. Medical Entomol.* 50(6): 1250-1260.

de Oliveira, C.F., E.Y. Long, and D.L. Finke. 2013. A negative effect of a pathogen on its vector? A plant pathogen increases the vulnerability of its vector to attack by natural enemies. *Oecologia*, doi 10.1007/s00442-013-2854x

Louis J., D.S. Luthe, and G.W. Felton. 2013. Salivary signals of European corn borer induce indirect defenses in tomato. *Plant Signaling & Behavior* 8, e27318.

Ratcliffe, B.C. 2013. A revision of the Neotropical genus *Desicasta* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae: Gymnetini). *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 67(4): 447-456.

Ratcliffe, B.C. 2013. The dung and carrion feeding scarabs (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea) of an Amazonian blackwater rainforest: results of a continuous, 56 week baited pitfall study. *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 67 (4): 481-520.

Ratcliffe, B.C. and R.D. Cave. 2013. A biotic survey and inventory of the dynastine scarab beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) of the West Indies. *Scarabs* 74: 8- 17.

Stamm, M.D., T.M. Heng-Moss, F.P. Baxendale, J.D. Reese, B.D. Siegfried, T.E. Hunt and R.E. Gaussoin. 2013. Effects of thiamethoxam seed treatments on soybean aphid (*Aphis glycines*) feeding behavior. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 106(6): 2384-2390.

Zepeda-Jazo, Isaac, Jaime Moline-Ochoa, Roberto Lezama-Gutierrez, Steven R. Skoda, and John E. Foster 2014. Survey of entomopathogenic nematodes from the families Steinernematidae and Heterorhabditidae (Nematoda: Rhabditiada) in Colima, Mexico. *International Journal of Insect Science*, doi:10.1017/S1742758413000416.

## Meet an Off-Campus Student

### Off-campus student—Juan Rodriguez

I am currently employed at Saudi Aramco Oil Company in Saudi Arabia as an entomologist. I graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Entomology. I am also currently the International Representative for Certification Board Members of the ESA. My career in urban pest management started with Orkin Pest Control holding numerous positions - PC technician, service manager, training specialist, and training director in the UAE franchise.



Like most kids, I was fascinated with bugs at an early age. I wanted to study insects but wasn't sure in which direction! After completing my BS, I landed an internship with Orkin Pest Control. I thought it was the coolest experience. I knew immediately that I wanted to continue my career in the industry. Pest management is much like solving a puzzle- you have to gather the pieces before you can see the big picture.

Three years later, I had the opportunity to work abroad- UAE. During that time, I obtained my Board Certified Entomologist. Now, I am working in Saudi Arabia and ready to complete my M.S. degree. The degree program offers the flexibility that I need to gain the knowledge and skills set needed in pest management. After completing the program, I will be eligible for upper management positions within the company along with opening doors to academia.

Living abroad has opened new opportunities for me. I have traveled to 30 countries. I also enjoy studying languages. Being able to speak four languages has broadened my network of friends and professional colleagues. Another passion of mine is travel photography. I have been able to photograph my travel experiences and I plan to develop more of my artistic talent through photo manipulation.

## Faculty News

**Dr. Joe Louis** has been appointed as the associate editor for the Journal of Arthropod-Plant Interactions and the Journal of Economic Entomology.

## Bruner Club News

The Lawrence Bruner Entomology Club presented **Dr. Thomas Clark** with their Distinguished Alumnus award in January for his career achievements, professionalism, contributions and dedication to science. Dr. Clark received his masters and doctorate degrees from UNL and was nominated by **Dr. John Foster**. His graduate degree work focused on marker based diagnosis, molecular genetics and discovery of population altering endosymbionts for selected diabroticites. Dr. Clark was one of the first students to take advantage of the Dow AgroSciences internship program. Bruner Club President, **Ashley Yates** presented him with a plaque commemorating the award, and his name was added to the Bruner Distinguished Alumni Recognition plaque.



## Blasts from the Past

**Dr. Nick Aliano** and wife Jess are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Evelyn Lucia, born January 16, 2014. Max and Will are her big brothers. Nick received his masters degree in 2004 and his doctoral degree in 2008, both from UNL under the supervision of **Dr. Marion Ellis**. Nick is a licensing manager at DuPont Pioneer in Johnston, IA (Des Moines) in the Technology Transfer and Licensing group.



Graduates from the Distance Masters in Entomology Program, (left-right) **Ted Schneski**, **Steve Robertson**, and **Liz Foley** met for dinner while Steve was attending an Environmental Impact Analysis Process course in Dayton, OH last December. Steve is a Command Entomologist at Langley AFB in Virginia and teaches the distance medical entomology course for UNL. Ted and Liz are now medical entomologists at the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine in Ohio.



## Condolences

**Dr. John (Jack) Campbell**, age 80, passed away December 29, 2013 at Centennial Park Retirement Village in North Platte, NE. After earning his Ph.D. from Kansas State University, Jack began his career in Lincoln, NE with the US Department of Agriculture. When a research and extension position opened in 1969 at the University of Nebraska Experiment Station, Jack and family moved to North Platte where he worked until he retired in 2007. Our sincere sympathies go out to Jack's wife, Jane, and his family.

**Dr. Walter Gary** passed away at the age of 69 at his home on January 2, 2014 after a year-long illness. Walt received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in entomology from UNL. He was the scout supervisor for the Clay County Pest Management Project from 1973 until 1978 while working on his Ph.D. degree. After completing this project and his degree, he was the extension agent (educator) in Walla Walla, WA for 25 years. Our sincere condolences go out to Walt's wife, Marge, and his family.

**Spring 2014 Entomology Department Meetings**  
**Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m., ENTO 110**  
**February 12, March 19, April 16, and May 14**

# Retirement Receptions

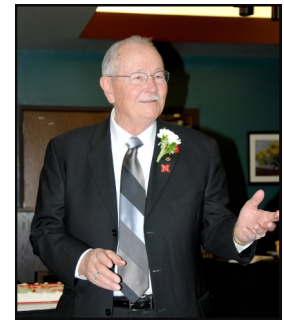
**Dr. John Foster 's retirement reception was held December 4, 2013. His work in research, teaching, and extension was recognized in appreciation for his 24 years of service to the University of Nebraska. He is missed.**



John and Karen Foster with Darrell Nelson, past Dean and Director of ARD



Tom Hunt and Fred Baxendale signing in



John, always teaching



Kathleen Lodi, Assoc. Dean of Extension presenting appreciation plaque



Talks by Connie Reimers-Hild and Z B Mayo



John and Karen Foster with retired colleague, E.A. "Short" Heinrichs

**A retirement reception was held for Dr. Marion Ellis on January 23, 2014. Dr. Ellis was honored, thanked, and roasted for 15 years of service to the University of Nebraska. He will be missed.**



Marion and Susan Ellis



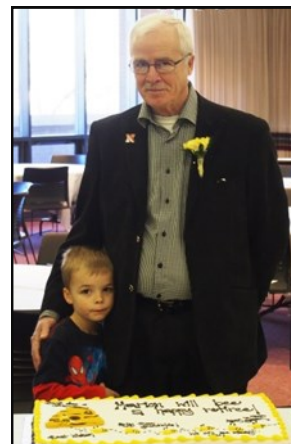
Marion and co-instructor, Lana Johnson



First graduate student, Doug Golick



Receiving service recognition



Marion and grandson, Sawyer



Insect Science Club t-shirt



Chuck Hibberd, Extension Director



Warren and Jane Nelson



Scarlett Lee, Susan & Marion Ellis, Sawyer Lee, daughter, Lindsey Lee, and Penelope Lee.