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August 2014

Department of Entomology  
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Vol. 26, No. 4

## Welcome

New insect science majors are: **Noah Arthur**, Oakland, CA; **Tessa Blair**, Marathon, WI; **Jacob Duncan**, Lincoln, NE; **Laura Gatch**, Fort Worth, TX; **Erin Jefferson**, Wright City, MO; **MaKenzie Nansel**, North Platte, NE; **Shelby Patak**, Loup City, NE; **James Schacht**, Tallahassee, FL; **Morgan Tranmer**, Wilber, NE.

New Off-Campus M.S. Students: **Gangadai Azore**, Davie, FL; **Ellen Buntyn**, Gulfport, MS; **Donald Kessler**, Riverton, NJ; **Allen Miller**, Southbury, CT; **Kevin Welton**, Zebulon, NC; **Jonathan Wischmeyer**, Dillon, CO.

**Dr. Saumik Basu** is a new postdoc working under the supervision of **Dr. Joe Louis**. Dr. Basu, from Kolkata, India, obtained his B.S. degree in physiology from the University of Calcutta, his M.S. degree in biotechnology from Visva Bharati University in Santiniketan, India, and his Ph.D. degree in molecular virology from the School of Life Sciences in Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India. Dr. Basu's research at UNL will focus on understanding the molecular and biochemical aspects of plant-insect interactions.

**Dr. Flavio Gonçalves de Jesus** is a visiting scientist from Federal Institute Goiano, Campus Urutaí, Goiás, Brazil, who will be here until May 2015 working under the supervision of **Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss** studying the resistance of soybean genotypes to the soybean aphid, (Hemiptera: Aphididae). Dr. Jesus received his B.S. degree in agronomy from Goiás State University, Ipameri, Goiás, Brazil, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in entomology from São Paulo State University, Júlio de Mesquita Filho.

**Aaron Gilman** is a new M.S. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Kristina Friesen** and **Gary Brewer**. Aaron graduated from UNL this past May with his B.S. degree in insect science. His research will focus on stable fly larval olfaction and design and implementation of a push-pull management strategy.

**Débora Goulart Montezano** is a new Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Tom Hunt** and **Blair Siegfried**. Débora's B.S. degree was in biological sciences and her M.S. degree was in biotechnology, both from Caxias do Sul University (UCS) Brazil where she worked with biotic potential, fertility, life table, and developmental parameters of immature stages of *Spodoptera* on artificial diet. At UNL, Débora will be working on western bean cutworm (*Striacosta albicosta*) IPM and IRM specifics to be determined.

**Daniele Pinheiro** is a visiting scholar from Camp Belo, Brazil. She received her B.S. degree in biological sciences and her M.S. degree in plant biotechnology at Federal University of Lavras, Lavras, Brazil. She is currently working on a doctoral degree in plant biotechnology at that same institution. At UNL, Daniele's research involves functional analysis of RNAi pathway genes in *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* Le Conte.

**Dariane Sagaseta de Oliveira Souza** will be working under the supervision of **Dr. Blair Siegfried** as a new Ph.D. student. Dariane is here under the LASPAU administered scholarship—Science without Borders. She received her B.S. degree in agronomy and her M.S. degree in entomology both from Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz" ESALQ/USP in Piracicaba/SP, Brazil. For the last two years, she has been working for Syngenta Brazil. Her research at UNL will focus on developing her skills in insect resistance management using genetic, biochemistry, and molecular tools.



Basu



Jesus



Gilman



Montezano



Pinheiro



Souza

## Congratulations

The following students graduated August 2014:

**Adam Barnard, M.S.** (Advisor - **Dr. Thomas Weissling**); **Ashley Yates, M.S.** (Advisor - **Dr. Nicholas Miller**); **Ralph Narain, Ph.D.** (Advisor - **Dr. Shripat Kamble**)  
Applied Science graduates: **Toni Brady, Austin Gutzmann, and LuAnne Stang.**

**Dr. Gary Brewer** (photo on right) presents Ph.D. graduate **Ralph Narain** with an entomological themed pillowcase. **Barb Andersen**, retired accountant from the Entomology Department, has been sewing pillowcases for each Entomology Department undergrad and graduate student since the first insect science major, **Lanae Pierson**, graduated in 2006.

**Camila de Oliveira** and **Greg Hofman** were married August 9 in Barreiras, Bahia, Brazil in a bilingual ceremony. Camila is a Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Julie Peterson and Lance Meinke**. Greg is pursuing his undergraduate degree in the UNL Computer Science program.



## Faculty News

We have had a recent, welcome change in the Entomology Department. Many of you know **Dr. Tom Weissling** as an Associate Professor of Practice, hardworking coordinator of our Distance M.S. degree program, and constructor of bee hotels. Tom joined the Entomology Department in June 2006 as Coordinator of the Entomology Distance Masters Degree Program providing leadership and oversight. He has been responsible for ensuring quality instruction, scheduling and delivery of courses, recruitment, and supporting our 120 online students through academic planning, advising and mentoring. Under Tom's leadership, we have had a 35% increase in the number of active students and almost 100 graduates. Although most students in the degree are full-time, working professionals, their time to degree completion averages 3.5 years which compares favorably to our full-time, research masters students. He has also provided leadership for Entomology's science literacy programs which includes major efforts with the Lincoln Children's Zoo and the Omaha Children's Museum to create educational programming focused on children and an experientially diverse learning public. In addition, Tom has had an increasing role in undergraduate education with responsibility for two classes to prepare insect science students for a research experience. In acknowledgement of his contributions we had the opportunity to transfer Tom to a new position as Associate Professor with tenure. Congratulate Tom the next time you see him.



## Publications

**Ab Majid, Abdul Hafiz and Shripat T. Kamble.** 2014. Behavior of *Reticulitermes flavipes* during colony fusion. Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Urban Pests, Zurich, Switzerland, pp. 271-278.

**Husen, Timothy J. and Shripat T. Kamble.** 2014. An evaluation of chitinase inhibitors, psammaphin A and pentoxifylline treated diets against the Eastern subterranean termite. *Journal of Entomological Science*. 49(3):228-245.

**Palizada, Santiago A., Bamphitlhi Tiroesele, Difabachew Belay Kondidie, Muhammad Irfan Ullah, Fatima Mustafa, Thomas E. Hunt, Pete L. Clark, Jaime Molina-Ochoa, Steven R. Skoda and John E. Foster.** 2014. Minute pirate bug (*Orius insidiosus* Say) populations on transgenic and non-transgenic maize using different sampling techniques. *Pak. Entomol.* 36(1):1-6.

**Paulsen, M.J. and D.C. Hawks.** 2014. A review of the primary types of the Hawaiian stag beetle genus *Apterocyclus* Waterhouse (Coleoptera, Lucanidae, Lucaninae), with the description of a new species. *ZooKeys* 433:77-88. doi: [10.3897/zookeys.433.8022](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.433.8022)

**Ullah, Muhammad Irfan, Fatima Mustafa, Kate M. Kneeland, Mathew L. Brust, W. Wyatt Hoback, Shripat T. Kamble and John E. Foster.** 2014. Forms of *Melanoplus bowditchi* collected from different host plants are indistinguishable genetically and in aedeagal morphology. *PeerJ* 2:e418; DOI 10.7717/peerj.418.

## Grants

### Fred Baxendale/Tiffany Heng-Moss

Syngenta.....\$5,000  
*"Turfgrass Pest"*

### Shripat Kamble

Bayer, Inc.....\$4,000  
*"Ant Research"*

### Lance Meinke

Bayer Crop Science.....\$6,500  
*"Diabrotica Biology, Ecology, and Management"*

### Robert Wright

Bayer CropScience.....\$5,500  
*"Crop Insect Management Research"*

Dow AgroSciences.....\$4,000  
*"Crop Insect Management Research"*

FMC Corporation.....\$7,500  
*"Crop Insect Management Research"*

Syngenta Crop Protection LLC.....\$12,000  
*"Crop Insect Management Research"*

## Travel

Kyle Koch, Dr. Edson Baldin, Travis Prochaska, José Paulo Gonçalves (pictured left to right), and Dr. Joe Louis (not pictured) attended the second International Hemipteran-Plant Interactions Symposium at the University of California-Riverside in Riverside, CA, June 22–25, 2014. Dr. Louis presented a twenty minute paper while Kyle, Edson, Travis, and José each presented a poster on their respective research while at the conference.



Dr. Shripat Kamble attended the International Conference on Urban Pests in Zurich, Switzerland June 20–23, 2014. At the meeting, he moderated a scientific session and presented a paper entitled: "Behavior of subterranean termites during colony fusion".

Dr. Brett Ratcliffe conducted collections research at the Museum of Natural History in Geneva, Switzerland and The Natural History Museum in London, UK in late July. He also participated in The First London Scarab Beetle Symposium at The Natural History Museum in London in late July and the European Congress of Entomology in York, UK in early August.

Dr. David Stanley traveled to China in April, 2014, where he visited colleagues in the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Shanghai), Zhejiang University (Hangzhou), Yangzhou University (Yangzhou) and Fujian Forestry and Agriculture University (Fuzhou). He also participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Molecular Insect Science, Amsterdam, the Netherlands in July, 2014.

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## Meet an Off-Campus Student

### Nadia Ruffin

My name is Nadia Ruffin, and I am from Cincinnati, OH. This is my second year in the Distance M.S. in Entomology Degree Program. I applied to the program for two reasons: I want to learn about pest management for horticultural, urban and greenhouse pests and also more about vector-borne diseases.



I have always had a love for insects, agriculture, animals, science, and technology. My love for insects started as a hobby at a very young age. I can recall far back as 4 or 5 years old sitting in the living room staring at jars of insects I collected for the day. I would study their every action. This was pretty intense for a preschooler/kindergartner. I would go to the library and check out books about insects so I could learn more. Most adults (my parents included) and other children thought I was different, but I really did not care one bit, because I found the insect world to be very fascinating. My grandmother saw my interest in insects and supported my hobby by always having a jar of insects ready for me when I would visit her. I was always grateful even though she put spiders, ants and fireflies all together in the same container. As I grew older my focus in entomology has been geared towards studying insect vector-borne diseases. It is very fascinating to me how such small creatures can transmit a disease that can affect millions. Positions I have held at the University of Georgia, Ohio State University, and the Ohio Department of Agriculture have allowed me to work on research projects that studied vector-borne diseases.

I currently work as a Communicable Disease Investigator at Hamilton County Public Health in Cincinnati, OH. Basically, I investigate and try to prevent reportable disease outbreaks. I encounter on a regular basis many diseases that are vector-borne like Lyme Disease and West Nile. When I am not at my job, you can find me working in my urban farm. As an urban farmer I, on a daily basis, must use my entomology knowledge to control pests in and on my crops. When I am not working in my farm, you can find me spending time with my son and family, working on building websites and apps, watching cartoons, and last but not least, educating anyone who will listen about insects.

After completion of the program I would love to work for the CDC as an entomologist or buy an acreage and start a teaching farm.

## Student News

**Melina Florez-Cuadros** received a \$500 student travel grant award as one of five graduate students recognized at the 58th Livestock Insect Workers' Conference held June 22–25, 2014 in San Diego, CA for their outstanding work. The student awards were also sponsored by Bayer Animal Health, and the grants were to be used to cover travel expenses for the recipients to attend the conference.

**Alister Bryson** who received his M.S. degree this past May is back on active duty as a Navy entomologist. He works for the Navy Environmental and Preventative Medicine Unit 2 (NEPMU-2) based out of Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

**Ralph Narain** who received his Ph.D degree this August will continue to work as a post doc for **Dr. Shripat Kamble**. His research projects will include bed bugs, ants, termites, and houseflies.

**Justine LaViolette**, an insect science major, and **Tate Enamuel**, an applied science major are CASNR Ambassadors for 2014-2015. Ambassadors' responsibilities are to create awareness of agricultural sciences and natural resource programs/careers, to recruit for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) through campus and outreach activities, and to promote CASNR and UNL.

