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## Hexapod Herald – Volume 18, Number 5, November 2006

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# Hexapod Herald

Volume 18

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Number 5

## WELCOME

New Distance Masters Students:

Spring 2007: **Kenneth Berry**, Rex, GA; **Shane Smith**, Fayetteville, GA; **Jessica Strange-George**, Andover, MN; **Lynn Westcott**, Castlegar, BC, Canada.

**Sek Yee Tan** will be pursuing a Ph.D. degree under the supervision of **Dr. Blair Siegfried**. Sek Yee received her Bachelor of Science (Bioindustry) degree from the Universiti Putra Malaysia in 1999 with a major in horticulture. She received her Master of Agriculture Science specializing in Biological Control from the Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2003. For the past three years, Sek Yee has been employed by DuPont as a field biologist.



## CONGRATULATIONS

**Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss** has been selected as one of the Regional United States Department of Agriculture Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award recipients. As a regional award winner, a \$2,000 award will be disbursed to UNL to be used for purposes she will designate in support of strengthening instructional programs. Tiffany was recognized and received a plaque at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) held November 12, 2006 in Houston, TX.

**Drs. Blair Siegfried** and **Z B Mayo** were honored at the Gamma Sigma Delta Initiation and Awards Banquet held October 29, 2006. Blair received the Excellence in Research Award and Z B was honored with the Award of Merit. **Andrea Gutsche**, **Abby Stilwell**, and **Chelsey Wasem**, all M.S. students in the Entomology Department, were initiated as new members at the awards banquet also.

**Dr. David Stanley** was honored by election to Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Sek Yee Tan** has received a Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the Agricultural Research Division in the amount of \$5,000 for the 2006-2007 academic year.

## GRANTS

### Marion Ellis

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ..... \$50,000  
Reduction of the Varroa Mite Populations in Honey Bee Colonies

### Leon Higley

- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. .... \$22,760  
Develop Captive Rearing Protocols for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle

### Lance Meinke

- BASF Corporation ..... \$14,175  
Efficacy of BAS 320 00I Solo and in Mixture with Fipronil Against Soil Pests on Corn

The Entomology Department received a Recruitment Grant Allocation of \$2,000 from the Office of Graduate Studies. The Department also was awarded five Edgren Fellowships as part of our 2007-2008 Recruiting Fellowship Allocation.

## ***PUBLICATIONS***

**Aliano, Nicholas P., Marion D. Ellis, and Blair D. Siegfried.** 2006. Acute Contact Toxicity of Oxalic Acid to *Varroa destructor* (Acari: Varridae) and Their *Apis mellifera* (Hymenoptera: Apidae) Hosts in Laboratory Bioassays. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 99(5): 1579-1582.

**Golick, Douglas A., and Marion D. Ellis.** 2006. An Update on the Distribution and Diversity of *Bombus* in Nebraska (Hymenoptera: Apidae). *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society.* 79(4): 341-347.

**Husen, Timothy J., Shripat T. Kamble, and Julie M. Stone.** 2006. Microsatellite Genotyping to Distinguish Colonies and Intra-Species Genetic Variation in the Eastern Subterranean Termite, *Reticulitermes flavipes* (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae). *Sociobiology* 48(3): 819-835.

**Mamo, M., W.L. Kranz, E.R. Douskey, S. Kamble, and J.F. Witkowski.** 2006. Impact of Tillage and Placement Methods on Terbufos Insecticide Runoff. *Applied Engineering in Agriculture* 22(4): 555-560.

**Ocampo, F.C. and D.C. Hawks.** 2006. Molecular phylogenetics and evolution of the food relocation behaviour of the dung beetle tribe Eucraniini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae). *Invertebrate Systematics* 20: 557-570.

**Ocampo, F.C. and A.B.T. Smith.** 2006. *Puelchesia gracilis*, a new genus and species of Pachydemini endemic to the Monte biogeographic province in Argentina (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae). *Zootaxa* 1349: 53-62.

**Ratcliffe, B.C.** 2006. Book Review. Atlas of Japanese Scarabaeoidea. Volume 1. Coprophagous Group by S. Kawai, S. Hori, M. Kawahara, and M. Inagaki (authors and editors). *Coleopterists Bulletin* 60: 70-71.  
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/entomologypapers/47>

## ***MEET A DISTANCE STUDENT***

Distance M.S. Student - **Christopher Logue**

I have worked for Cornell Cooperative Extension in Schenectady County since 1993. Initially I was appointed as an extension agent and over the years have held several job titles. Currently I am known as the Agriculture/Horticulture Team Coordinator. My job here in extension is always changing, and I have the opportunity to focus on several areas. On a regional basis, I work with an outstanding team that provides educational programming to the agricultural industry. My role in this venue is to work with greenhouse producers in Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer Counties on a wide variety of topics, including nutrient management and production scheduling, marketing and business management.



In Schenectady County I also have the opportunity to work with our community horticulture program. This includes a wonderful group of about 70 Master Gardener volunteers. In addition, we operate a 5,000 square foot greenhouse facility/educational center, where we offer job training for youth and adults as well as horticultural classes for the general public.

On the personal side, I have been married for almost fifteen years and have two great kids, Brigham who is five and just started kindergarten, and Olivia who will be eleven. We have a small farm where we raise registered

Suffolk and Tunis Sheep. I am a 4-H leader and work with Natural Resources and Agriculture/ Animal Science Projects and have taught tractor safety several times.

I developed an interest in entomology as an undergraduate at the University of Vermont where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Plant and Soil Science in 1987. Over the years in extension, my interest in entomology grew, and several years ago with the encouragement and help of my family and numerous folks within extension, I enrolled in the distance program. Having a young family, a full time job, and a farm that all require time commitments every day, a distance program was the only way I would have been able to earn an advanced degree. As I complete my final projects and prepare for graduation, I want to thank everyone in the department as well as the other distance students for a challenging and valuable educational experience.

## ***GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS***

**Chelsey Wasem** was an invited speaker at the regional Educating the Educators Conference, "Technology Transfer for the Burgeoning Midwest Grape Industry" held November 1-2, 2006, at the Kimmel Research and Education Center in Nebraska City, NE. Chelsey's talk was entitled "Insects in the Vineyard."

**Sabine Becker** presented her thesis defense seminar on Tuesday, November 21, 2006. Her title was "Stage-specific development and mortality of western corn rootworm reared on transgenic event MON863 vs. a non-transgenic isoline field corn hybrid." Sabine's advisor is **Dr. Lance Meinke**.

**Benjawan (Bea) Siritwetiwat's** dissertation defense seminar was held on Tuesday morning, November 28, 2006. Her title was "Interactions Between the Wheat Curl Mite, *Aceria tosichella*, Keifer (Eriophyidae), and Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus and Distribution of Wheat Curl Mite Biotypes in the Field." **Drs. Gary Hein** and **John Foster** are Bea's advisors.

**Abby Stilwell** presented her thesis defense on Tuesday afternoon, November 28, 2006. The title of her defense was "Degree day requirements for alfalfa weevil development in eastern Nebraska and comparison of sampling techniques." Abby's advisors are **Drs. Tom Hunt** and **Bob Wright**. Abby will pursue her Ph.D. degree at UNL with **Dr. Gary Hein** serving as her advisor.

**Tom Eickhoff's** dissertation defense will be held on Friday, December 8, 2006. Tom's title is "An investigation of chinch bug, *Blissus occiduus* Barber resistance in warm-season grasses and enzymatic responses in plants challenged by phloem feeding insects." **Drs. Fred Baxendale** and **Tiffany Heng-Moss** are Tom's advisors.

## ***UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS***

The Insect Science Club held their annual Honey Sale November 15-16 at the City and East Campus Unions. Items sold included honey, comb honey, wax candles, lotion bars, and lip balm. **Drs. Marion Ellis** and **Tiffany Heng-Moss** are co-advisors for the club.

## ***TRAVEL***

**Drs. Brett Ratcliffe** and **Mary Liz Jameson** attended the 7th Meeting of Latin American Scarab Workers in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia in November and also collected there after the meetings.

**Dr. Federico Ocampo** attended the ScarabNet meetings and the 7th Meeting of Latin American Scarab Workers in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia in November. Fede also collected in northern Argentina and SW Bolivia after the meetings.

# CONDOLENCES

**Dr. Leroy L. Peters**, 75, died July 23 in Wamego, KS. Dr. Peters worked at UNL from 1972 to 1991 as a research and extension entomologist. Our sincere condolences to Leroy's wife, Bobbie and family.

Beth Michele Putnam, 49, wife of **Sean Putnam**, died August 15, 2006, after a long struggle with multiple sclerosis. Memorial services were held in Plainview, NE. Our sincerest sympathy to Sean and daughter, Michele.

Ruth E. Heng, 83, grandmother of **Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss**, died August 29, 2006 in Omaha. Services were held in Nebraska City, NE. Our sincere condolences to Tiffany and family.

Liela H. Meinke, 97, grandmother of **Dr. Lance Meinke**, died September 7, 2006 in Lincoln. Our sincere sympathy to Lance, Lisa, and family.

Delores M. Weissling, 71, mother of **Dr. Tom Weissling**, died September 21, 2006 in Oshkosh, WI. Our sincere condolences to Tom and family.

Marie Vermaas Spomer, 82, mother of **Steve Spomer**, died October 24, 2006 in Lincoln. Our sincere sympathy to Steve and family.

Rita M. Brewer, 81, mother of **Dr. Gary Brewer**, died October 28, 2006 in Grand Island, NE. Services were held in Lexington, NE. Our sincere condolences to Gary and family.

## Calendar of Events

### December 1, 2006

- Entomology Seminar - Neil Spomer, Graduate Student  
4:00 p.m., East Campus Union

### December 4, 2006

- Cookie Day - Entomology Department hosting the Forestry Department  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m., 214 PI

### December 8, 2006

- Entomology Seminar - Drs. Erin Blankenship & Walter Stroup, Statistics Department  
4:00 p.m., East Campus Union

### December 10-13, 2006

- Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America  
Indianapolis, IN

### December 14, 2006

- Cookie Day - Forestry Department hosting the Entomology Department  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Forestry Conference Room

### December 15, 2006

- Entomology Faculty Meeting, 214 PI, 8:30 a.m.

### December 16, 2006

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

### December 23-January 1, 2007

- Holiday Closedown

### January 4, 2007

- Faculty Planning Session, East Campus Union, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### January 8, 2007

- Second Semester begins

### January 12, 2007

- Entomology Department Party  
6:30 p.m. at the WSI Hall

### January 15, 2007

- Martin Luther King Day (Student and Staff Holiday)

### January 23-24, 2007

- 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Urban Pest Management Conference  
The Cornhusker-Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE

Do you know someone who's thinking about college? Do you know someone who may be interested in entomology or agriculture as a career? The department's undergraduate insect science and diversified agriculture majors are looking for interested students. If you know of a student that would like more information on either major, send their name and contact information to Lisa Silberman, [lsilberman1@unl.edu](mailto:lsilberman1@unl.edu)