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Hexapod Herald

Volume 22

August 2010

Number 4

WELCOME

Dr. Ashley Hall has joined the Forensic Science program as an assistant professor with a .60 FTE teaching in Entomology and .40 FTE research in Biochemistry. Dr. Hall received a B.S. in molecular biology and microbiology in 1997, a M.S. in forensic biochemistry in 2001, and a Ph.D. in biomolecular science in 2005, all from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL. Dr. Hall will teach Forensic Biology in spring 2011 and Elements of Biochemistry fall 2011. Her research focuses on the forensic analysis of human DNA from biological stains with the main goal being the development of techniques for handling samples containing limited and/or compromised DNA that would result in the recovery of a genetic profile from previously intractable samples.



Dr. Nicholas Miller is now an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology with a .80 FTE in research and a .20 FTE in teaching. Dr. Miller received his B.S. in biology (genetics) in 1996 and a Ph.D. in genetics in 2000, both from the University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK. Dr. Miller's background is in the population genetics of agricultural pest insects. He is especially interested to develop his research on how insects adapt to the innate defenses of their host plants and some of the control tactics we use on them. In particular Dr. Miller is planning to use modern genomic techniques to study the molecular mechanisms that are responsible for these adaptations. He will also be teaching an insect physiology course starting fall 2011.



Lizette (Peters) Dahlgren is a new Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Marion Ellis** and **Blair Siegfried**. Liz received her B.S. degree in biological sciences from UNL in 2005 and her M.S. degree in entomology from Texas A&M in 2008 and has been working as a research technician in Dr. Siegfried's toxicology group since early 2009. She is currently investigating how honey bee queens are affected by exposure to various pesticides. Congratulations are also in order for Liz as she and Mike Dahlgren were married on August 13, here in Lincoln, NE.



Ralph Narain received his M.S. degree August 13 under the supervision of **Dr. Shripat Kamble** and is now a new Ph.D. student again working with Dr. Kamble. (He says he is a New Yorker but likes the good life in Nebraska.) Ralph's thesis research was on morphological characterization and molecular mediated genetic variation of thief ants, and he will continue with his advanced molecular research on ants.



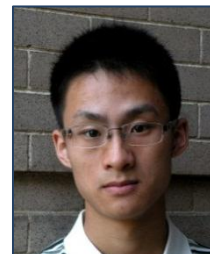
R. Johannes Pretorius is a Fulbright scholar from Bloemfontein, Free State, South Africa who will be working on a Ph.D. degree under the supervision of **Drs. Jeff Bradshaw** and **Gary Hein**. Johan received his Bachelor of Technology in agriculture in 2003 and his Master of Technology in agriculture in 2009, both from Central University Tech, in South Africa. He will be studying the biology and ecology of the sugarbeet root aphid (*Pemphigus betae*) in sugarbeet, including various aspects of how root aphid populations are regulated, how this may differ within the *P. betae* complex, and how these two factors ultimately interact with host plant resistance in the field.



Bethany Teeters is another student who, although a new Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Marion Ellis** and **Blair Siegfried**, is not entirely new to the Entomology Department. She received her M.S. degree in entomology in May 2010 via our distance program and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay with a B.S. in biology in 2006. She will be investigating the sub-lethal effects of various pesticides on honey bee behavior using EthoVision to monitor movement, social interactions, and orientation.



Zixiao Zhao will be pursuing a M.S. degree under the supervision of **Dr. Nicholas Miller**. Zixiao received a B.S. in applied biology in June of 2009 from Zhejiang University, Haujiachi, China. Although Dr. Miller and Zixiao have not definitely decided on his research project, it will probably address how insects respond to and defeat the defenses of their host plants. Zixiao will also assist with a project to develop genetic markers in Lepidoptera.



New Distance Masters Students –

Fall 2010: **Kristin Binkley**, Alexandria, VA; **Daniel Jones**, New Lenox, IL; **Joe Olobor**, Jamaica, NY; **Cassandra Skinner**, Eastlake, OH; **Joyce Todd**, Manhattan, KS; **Stefan Tonsberg**, Lacey, WA; **Andi Turner**, Tuckerman, AR

Spring 2011: **Jarrod Calhoun**, Aurora, IN

We are pleased to welcome six new insect science majors to the Department this fall – **Kaitlin Armitage**, Papillion, NE; **Logan Campbell**, Lincoln, NE; **Aaron Gilman**, Omaha, NE; **Katie O'Brien**, Newman Grove, NE; and **David Peaslee**, Lincoln, NE. **Adam Dolezal**, from Lexington, NE, is a dual insect science/forensic science major.

Dr. David Carter, Coordinator of the Forensic Science Program, reported approximately 35 new forensic science students joining the program this fall.

Dr. Steve Danielson, Coordinator of the Applied Science Program, estimates approximately 15 new applied science students joining the program this fall.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following students graduated August 2010:

Tierney Brosius, Ph.D. (Advisor – **Dr. Leon Higley**)
Jennifer Johnson, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
Martin Matisoff, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)
Ralph Narain, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Shripat Kamble**)
Dori Porter, M.S. (Advisors – **Drs. Marion Ellis, Bob Wright**)
Melissa Smith, M.S. (Advisor – **Dr. Tom Weissling**)

Matthew Zeleny, **FIRST** B.S. in Applied Science



Dori Porter, Tierney Brosius and Ralph Narain at reception honoring graduates

PUBLICATIONS

Kalisch, James A. and **Frederick P. Baxendale**. 2010. Insect Borers of Shade Trees and Woody Ornamentals. UNL Extension Circular 1580, online at <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/sendIt/ec1580.pdf>

Ratcliffe, B. C. 2010. A new Bolivian *Bothynus* Hope, 1837 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae: Pentodontini), with a key to the species in Bolivia. The Coleopterists Bulletin 64(2):105–108.

Ratcliffe, B. C. and R. D. Cave. 2010. New species of *Orizabus* Fairmaire (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae: Pentodontini) from Mexico and Guatemala, with a revised key and checklist of the species in the genus. *Insecta Mundi* 0127: 1-16.

Ratcliffe, B. C. and Zubair Ahmed. 2010. Additions to the distribution of Scarabaeidae (Insecta: Coleoptera) in northern Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Zoology* 42: 827-830.

Whipple, Sean D., Mathew L. Brust, W. Wyatt Hoback, and Kerri M. Farnsworth-Hoback. 2010. Sweep sampling capture rates for rangeland grasshoppers (Orthoptera: Acrididae) vary during morning hours. *Journal of Orthoptera Research* 19(1): 75-80.

G R A N T S

Fred Baxendale/Tiffany Heng-Moss

- Phyllom LLC \$5,250
 "Turfgrass Pest"
- Syngenta \$2,000
 "Turfgrass Pest"

Shripat Kamble

- DuPont \$15,000
 "Termite Research"
- FMS Corporation \$8,000
 "Termite Research"

Lance Meinke

- Dow AgroSciences \$4,500
 "Biology, Ecology, and Management of Diabrotica"
- Bayer \$3,500
 "Biology, Ecology, and Management of Diabrotica"

Robert Wright

- Gowan Company \$3,750
 "Crop Management Insect Research"
- Bayer Crop Science \$2,000
 "Crop Insect Management Research"

Drs. Marion Ellis, Reed Johnson, and Blair Siegfried have been awarded a USDA CAPS grant in the amount of \$31,000 for "Sustainable Solutions to Problems Affecting Honey Bees."

F A C U L T Y N E W S

Dr. Shripat T. Kamble was elected Director of the Certification Board of the Entomological Society of America. He will serve as Director-elect in 2011 and Director in 2012.

Dr. Robert Wright was appointed the Entomological Society of America's representative to the Advisory Committee for **IPM Voice**, a new independent group promoting greater awareness and support of IPM. For more information about this organization, go to <http://www.ipmvoice.org>.

Below are new adjunct and courtesy appointments that have been approved recently –

- Dr. Annette Bredthauer**, Dept. of Health and Human Services, adjunct assistant professor
- Dr. Jennifer Brisson**, School of Biological Sciences, UNL, courtesy assistant professor
- Dr. Mathew Brust**, Chadron State College, adjunct assistant professor
- Dr. Eileen Hebets**, School of Biological Sciences, UNL, courtesy associate professor
- Dr. Sean Putnam**, Lincoln High School, adjunct assistant professor

The Entomology Department faculty hosted a reception for **Dr. John Owens**, past IANR Vice Chancellor, to recognize his many contributions to the Department and the Institute while serving as

Vice Chancellor. Dr. Owen's home department has been the Entomology Department since he first came to UNL. He will begin his new appointment with a 3 month sabbatical in Rome, Italy, with the Food and Agriculture Organization. Upon his return, he will have an office at the Kimmel Education and Research Center.

MEET AN OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT

Off-Campus M.S. Student – **Nicholas Paquette**, with wife, Lyndsay, and son, Cameron

My name is Nicholas Paquette. I currently live in Lake Park, North Carolina, which is just East of Charlotte. I have lived in North Carolina my entire life. I enjoy taking mini vacations, spending time with my wife, and playing with our 11 month-old son, Cameron. I have always had an interest in insects, and after receiving a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, I sought an institution that offered a specialty in entomology. Fortunately, I found UNL and the distance graduate education program.

I find it rigorous, yet flexible enough to raise a family. I enjoy 'meeting' other students and instructors who share an interest in entomology and life-long learning. I was so pleased that the program was able to accommodate me so that I could attend **Dr. Ellis'** Master Beekeeping Workshop in June. The workshop provided a wealth of knowledge and a forum to interact and connect with several faculty members and students. I look forward to 'meeting' all who receive the *Hexapod Herald*. Go Huskers!



STUDENT NEWS

Jesús Orozco Araujo has been awarded a Presidential Fellowship for the 2010-2011 academic year. This is the University of Nebraska's most prestigious graduate fellowship and is awarded for superior academic performance and exceptional scholarly potential. The Presidential Fellowship carries a stipend of \$24,000 as well as payment of tuition, fees, and the University's portion of the student health insurance premium. Jesús is a Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Dr. Brett Ratcliffe**.

Amy Maile, Ken Miwa and **Travis Prochaska** were each awarded a Milton E. Mohr Fellowship in the amount of \$2,000, **Khanobporn "Kim" Tangtrakulwanich** was selected to receive a Shear-Miles Fellowship Award in the amount of \$2,000, and **Kate Kneeland** received the Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award in the amount of \$2,000. All of these 2010-2011 award recipients will be honored at a luncheon on Friday, October 8, 2010 in the Nebraska East Union.

Abdul Hafiz Ab Majid, Tim Husen, and **Ralph Narain** are the recipients of the Ward A. and Helen W. Combs Scholarship in the amount of \$200 each. This scholarship was established by the Presto-X Company. Hafiz, Tim, and Ralph were also awarded a Fred Clute Memorial Fellowship for which they each will receive \$240.

Ken Miwa, Travis Prochaska, Crystal Ramm, Mitchell Stamm, and **Sek Yee Tan** traveled to the Monsanto Learning Center near Monmouth, IL. The group was hosted by **Dr. Tom Eickhoff**, the Learning Center facility manager and former graduate student of the department. The group toured research plots, learned about the job interview process, and future employment opportunities with Monsanto.

Jenny Freed and **Ginny Morgal**, both in our insect science program, were awarded scholarships from both the Earl & Bertha Ramsey Memorial Fund and the Ephriam and Veallon Hixson Memorial Scholarship Fund for 2010-2011. **Christina Doehling** and **Rachael Fithian**, also in the insect science program, each received an Insect Science Scholarship Fund Award for 2010-2011.

Sek Yee Tan presented her dissertation defense, "Comparative Susceptibility and Binding of Cry1 *Bacillus thuringiensis* Toxins to the Asian and European Corn Borers" on August 17, 2010, and will receive her Ph.D. degree in December. In the meantime, she will begin a new job with Dow AgroSciences in Indianapolis, IN on October 1, as a senior biologist in R & D under the input traits. **Dr. Blair Siegfried** is Sek Yee's advisor.

Dori Porter presented her thesis defense, "An investigation of wild bee diversity and abundance in south-central Nebraska and the associations of beneficial arthropods to native Nebraska flora" on July 15, 2010. Dori is currently exploring her options regarding future studies/employment.

FROM THE OFFICE

UNL – Office of Research and Economic Development

Online Application Required for Internal Funding - The Office of Research and Economic Development now requires applicants to use an electronic submission process for internal funding opportunities from ORED and the Research Council. The new application form, which features electronic approval and routing, is accessible through NUgrant (<https://nugrant.unl.edu>) under the Internal Competitions heading on the main page. Applications must be submitted through NUgrant; paper applications will no longer be accepted. For questions about the new application procedure or internal funding opportunities, contact Noah Clayton, project manager, 472-8031, nclayton3@unl.edu

Funding Opportunity. NSF, Basic Research to Enable Agricultural Development (BREAD)

http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2010/nsf10589/nsf10589.htm?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click

Application Deadline: 9/16/10 (Letter of Intent, required); 11/16/10 (Full Proposal) More information: Nathan Meier (2.1808/ nmeier@unl.edu)

We are moving to a new business center. We have been pleased to work with Allen Specht and others in the AVE business center but the needs of Animal Science and Veterinary Biomedicine are becoming overwhelming. Consequently, reorganization was thought to be in order. We will be joining the ASSIST business center with AgLec and 4-H. Karen Gatherer is the manager. If you are working on a new grant, contact Judy Hostetler. She is very experienced in grants management. Karen and her team will be meeting you as soon as possible. Contact information is below.

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TRAVEL

Jesús Orozco conducted 5 weeks of scarab research in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua . . . on his motorcycle. Fortunately, he did return safely on August 10.

CONDOLENCES

Selma Danielson, mother of **Dr. Steve Danielson** passed away at the Hooper Care Center in Hooper, NE on August 1, at the age of 91. Funeral services were held at the Moses Hill Evangelical Covenant Church northwest of Holdrege, NE on August 4.

Calendar of Events

September 6, 2010

- Labor Day (Student and Staff Holiday-UNL offices closed)

September 7, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Silvana Moraes, Entomology Graduate Student
4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

September 14, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Ana Maria Vélez, Entomology Graduate Student
4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

September 21, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Wan Zaki Wan Mamat, Entomology Graduate Student
4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

September 22-24, 2010

- Department of Entomology 2010 NIFA Program Review

September 28, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Muhammad Irfan Ullah, Entomology Graduate Student
4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

September 29, 2010

- Entomology Department Meeting, 9:30 a.m., ENTO 214

October 5, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Crystal Ramm, Entomology Graduate Student
4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

October 12, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Fatima Mustafa, Entomology Graduate Student
4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

October 18-19, 2010

- Fall Semester Break (Student Holiday – UNL offices open)

October 20, 2010

- Entomology Department Meeting, 9:30 a.m., ENTO 214

October 26, 2010

- Entomology Seminar – Kentaro Miwa, Entomology Graduate Student
4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union