

Welcome

New Off-Campus M.S. Students: **Joshua Matta**, Schaumburg, IL; **Katherine Underwood**, Oklahoma City, OK; **Illya Wells**, Toledo, OH

Kaitlin Armitage is a new M.S. student who received her B.S. degree this past May, majoring in insect science. Kait, originally from Papillion, NE, will be working under the supervision of **Drs. Tiffany Heng-Moss** and **Joe Louis** and will be focusing on plant-insect interactions, specifically the integration of insect resistant genes from *Arabidopsis* into rice and soybean.

José Paulo G. F. da Silva is a Ph.D. student from FCA/UNESP – Botucatu, Brazil, who will be conducting research with **Dr. Tom Hunt** at the Haskell Ag Lab, Concord, NE through February 2015. He will be examining intraguild competition among noctuids in corn. His major advisor is **Dr. Edson L. L. Baldin**, and a key member of his committee is **Dr. Silvana Paula-Moraes** (Embrapa Cerrados, Brasilia, Brazil).

Phillip Kuehn is the new Research Project Coordinator at the Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC) at Ithaca, NE. Phillip received his B.S. degree in applied science this past May and will be working closely with **Dr. Lance Meinke** on projects at the ARDC.

Katie O'Brien is another new M.S. student who received her B.S. degree in insect science this past May from UNL. She will be working under the supervision of **Drs. Tiffany Heng-Moss** and **Tom Weissling** with her research focusing on the arthropods associated with switchgrass and other warm season grasses in Nebraska. Katie is originally from Newman Grove, NE.

Dawn Sikora will be working under the supervision of **Drs. Jeff Bradshaw** and **Gary Brewer** as a new M.S. student. Dawn received her B.S. degree in biochemistry and her M.S. degree in library and information sciences both from Dominican University in River Forest, IL. Dawn is studying the host plant resistance of sunflower to the sunflower moth (an important sunflower pest throughout the Great Plains). This work is in collaboration with Jarrad Prasifka at the USDA-ARS Sunflower Unit in Fargo, ND.

Patrick Wagner is a new M.S. student who will be working under the supervision of **Drs. Jeff Bradshaw** and **Tom Weissling**. Pat received his B.S. degree in insect science from Iowa State University in May. Pat will be working on the ecology of dung beetles (chiefly scarabs) within rangeland systems. Specifically, he will be studying the impact that various cattle grazing strategies have on dung decomposition, carbon and nutrient cycling, and greenhouse gas emissions.



Armitage



da Silva



O'Brien



Sikora



Wagner

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



[Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska](#)



[UNL Entomology ID Lab](#)



[@UNLEntomology](#)



[@UNLAgriculture](#)



[@UNLEntoIDLab](#)

Congratulations

The following students graduated May 2014:

Alister Bryson, M.S. (Advisor - Dr. Roberto Cortinas); **Lizette Dahlgren**, Ph.D. (Advisors - Drs. Marion Ellis, Blair Siegfried); **Kentaro Miwa**, Ph.D. (Advisor - Dr. Lance Meinke); **Crystal Ramm**, Ph.D. (Advisors: Drs. Fred Baxendale, Tiffany Heng-Moss); **Mitchell Stamm**, Ph.D. (Advisors: Drs. Fred Baxendale, Tiffany Heng-Moss)

Insect science graduates were **Kaitlin Armitage**, **Aaron Gilman**, and **Kathryn O'Brien**. Applied Science graduates were **Cody Cunningham**, **James Hinz**, **Anastasia Johnson**, **Phillip Kuehn**, **Cole Lewandowski**, **Drew Sommer**, and **Aaron Stech**.



Front - Ramm, Bryson, Back - Miwa, Dahlgren, Stamm

Dr. Shripat Kamble and his wife, Linda, are the proud grandparents of a new grandson, **Henry Blaise Fendrick**, born May 28, 2014. Henry weighed 10 lbs., 1 oz., and he was 22.5 inches in length. Parents are **Praima (Kamble)** and **Bill Fendrick** of Lincoln. Big brothers, **Leo** and **Frankie**, and big sister, **Adella**, welcomed Henry home.

Beth Teeters and husband, **Matt**, are the proud parents of a little girl, **Olivia Augusta Teeters**, born April 10, 2014. Olivia weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz. Beth received her masters in entomology through the online program in 2010 and is currently in the Ph.D. program in the School of Natural Resources.

Lia Marchi Werle and husband, **Rodrigo**, are the proud parents of a little girl, **Leila Annie Werle**, born April 13, 2014. Leila was 8 lbs., 6 oz., and 20.75 inches long. Lia is a Ph.D. student working under the supervision of **Drs. Tiffany Heng-Moss** and **Tom Hunt**.



Henry Fendrick



Olivia Teeters



Leila Werle

Faculty News

Dr. Jeff Bradshaw was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure during an April 29, 2014 ceremony at the International Quilt Study Center and Museum.

Dr. John Foster was recently recognized by the ESA with a 50 year member pin.

Dr. Douglas Jones, Insect Management Technology Development Rep with the Monsanto Company located in Lincoln, has been appointed as an adjunct associate professor in the Entomology Department. Dr. Jones also serves as an advisory board member for the Department of Entomology led *Teaching Corn Rootworm Resistance Management Strategies Through Interactive Mobile and Web-based Educational Modules* grant and is a program steward for this Monsanto-funded grant.

Dr. Shripat Kamble chaired the symposium, "Significance of Science and Entomology Literacy in Graduate Training" and presented the paper, "Mentoring – Mentor and Mentee" at the National Conference on Urban Entomology in San Antonio, TX, May 18–21, 2014. Dr. Kamble was also recognized for serving on a sponsorship committee at the conference with a plaque.

Faculty News con't.

Dr. Brett Ratcliffe has just returned from conducting research and collecting in Dominica, Martinique, and Grenada for his forthcoming volume on the dynastine scarab beetles of the West Indies.

Dr. Wyatt Hoback received the Nebraska Alumni Association's Alumni Achievement Award on May 8, 2014. Wyatt was recognized for his teaching and research, having published 95 peer reviewed publications and bringing in 2.5 million dollars in grant money to UNK. Wyatt received his Ph.D. from UNL in 1999.

Dr. Tom Weissling recently did a live, 2 minute lunch-time news forum on beneficial insects in the garden and recorded a segment about the construction and use of bee hotels to promote native pollinators, both for Channel 8 News. He also had a first appearance in May as a panelist on the Backyard Farmer telecast.

Grants**Lance Meinke**

Valent. \$5,000
"Diabrotica Biology, Ecology, and Management"

AMVAC \$4,000
"Diabrotica Biology, Ecology, and Management"

Robert Wright

Syngenta Crop Protection \$18,800
"Crop Insect Management Research"

Three teams of UNL entomologists, led by **Drs. Nick Miller, Blair Siegfried, and Doug Golick**, were awarded more than \$1.1 million in three-year grants from Monsanto for research and grower education on western corn rootworm management. **Drs. Lance Meinke, Bob Wright, Tom Hunt and Gary Hein** are also involved in the work, along with scientists from UNL's Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, and entomologists from Iowa State, the University of Missouri, and Kansas State University. These teams will conduct research on resistance to transgenic corn and chemical insecticides, and develop technology-enhanced educational tools to help growers make informed decisions about managing corn rootworms. The UNL press release is available at <http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/unltoday/article/new-grants-fund-rootworm-research-education/>

Publications

Felton G.W., Chung S.C., Estrada-Hernández M.G., **Louis J.**, Peiffer, M. and Tian, D. 2014. Herbivore oral secretions are the first line of protection against plant induced defenses. *Annual Plant Reviews*, 47:37-76.

Paulsen, M.J. 2014. A new species of stag beetle (Coleoptera: Lucanidae) from California. *Insecta Mundi* 0358: 1-3.

Ratcliffe, B.C., and R.D. Cave. 2014. Los escarabajos rinocerontes gigantes de El Salvador (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae). *Bioma* 16: 7-27.

Tiroesele, Bamphitlhi, Steven R. Skoda, Thomas E. Hunt, Donald J. Lee, Jaime Molina-Ochoa, and John E. Foster. 2014. Population structure, genetic variability, and gene flow of the bean leaf beetle, *Cerotoma trifurcata*, in the Midwestern United States. *Journal of Insect Science*, Vol. 14/Article 62. Available online: <http://insectscience.org/14XX>

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 bowditichi* (Orthoptera: Acrididae) collected from different host plants are indistinguishable genetically and in aedeagal morphology. <https://peerj.com/articles/418/>

Meet an Off-Campus Student

Amadeus DeKastle

One of the first times I remember ever really hearing about insects was as a young boy watching a show called, "The Nature Nut". It was hosted by John Acorn, who had a fascination with insects that immediately took hold of me. Ever since, I've taken a butterfly net with me almost everywhere I've gone. I've been fortunate enough to take entomology courses during my undergrad, to be an intern at the Smithsonian Institute in their Entomology department, and to live on 4 different continents.



I currently live and work in Kyrgyzstan, where the natural beauty of the country really is beyond compare. I currently have two jobs that both require lots of attention. I teach biology and ecology courses at a small school to secondary students as well as running a not-for-profit organization called Silk Road Permaculture that teaches appropriate agriculture and IPM strategies to anyone in Central Asia who will listen.

With two jobs and a graduate degree in the works, as well as learning two new languages, there isn't often much free time, but when I have some I spend it with my wife and daughter or out in the mountains getting my adrenaline pumping while climbing.

With the completion of this degree, not only will I have fulfilled a lifelong dream, but I'll also be able to implement this new knowledge into the courses I teach and into the projects I run. I'm also hoping to get involved in creating some field guides for this part of the world as there is currently very little information available to the public.

Student News

Bruner Club officers for 2014-2015 are: President—**Justin McMechan**, Vice-President—**Erlin Ingram**, Secretary—**Louise Lynch**, Treasurer—**Zach Rystrom**, GSA Reps—**Carolina Camargo Gil**, **Ashley Foster**, Student Representative to the Faculty—**Kyle Koch**. Insect Science Club officers for 2014-2015 are: President—**Elliot Knoell**, Vice-President—**Hillary Fischer**, Secretary—**Michael Craig**, and Treasurer—**Stephanie Endrulat**.

Melina Florez-Cuadros has received an Agricultural Research Division (ARD) Advisory Council Travel Fund award to attend the 58th Livestock Insect Workers Conference in San Diego, to be held June 22–25, 2014.

Kyle Koch has been awarded a Milton E. Mohr 2014-2015 Biotechnology Degree Program Fellowship in the amount of \$1,000.

Erica Heidenreich and **Hillary Fischer** have been awarded scholarships from both the Earl and Bertha Ramsey Memorial Fund and the Ephriam and Veallon Hixson Memorial Fund. **Stephanie Endrulat** and **Mary Foshee** were each awarded a scholarship from the Insect Science Scholarship Fund.

Ralph Narain and **Sanjay Basnet** participated in the National Conference on Urban Entomology (NCUE) held May 18–21, 2014 in San Antonio, TX. Ralph gave a presentation on part of his Ph.D. research entitled, "Differential gene expression analysis in bed bug (*Cimex lectularius*) fed with 0.08% blood alcohol concentration".

Liz Dahlgren, a Ph.D. graduate this past May is now a research scientist/study director—Terrestrial Ecotoxicology with SynTech Research located in Stilwell, KS.

Ken Miwa, who received his Ph.D. degree this past May has returned to Japan and will be working as a regulatory specialist for Dow Chemical Japan.

Crystal Ramm, who graduated with a Ph.D. this past May is the Manager and Regional Coordinator for the Central Community College Ord Learning Center.

Mitch Stamm, who graduated this May with a Ph.D. will be starting soon as an agriculture biologist in the seed treatment group with BASF in Research Triangle Park, NC.

An equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for diversity.