Welcome

Jennifer Albrecht is a new master’s student who will be working under the supervision of Dr. Judy Wu-Smart. Jennifer received her bachelor’s degree in Park Management and Conservation from Kansas State University in 2013 and was a zookeeper at the Sunset Zoological Park in Manhattan, KS. Jennifer’s research will focus on helping to develop an integrated pesticide management program for beekeepers. This includes improved pesticide incidence monitoring as well as finding ways to reduce pesticide residue accumulation in the hives. Jennifer is from Salina, KS.

Courtney Brummel has joined the UNL Bee Lab to assist in the overwhelming demands for outreach and extension efforts. Courtney will help coordinate K-12 educational events, develop curriculum, and update the Bee Lab website. She is also helping us coordinate wild bee surveys across the state in collaboration with our partner organizations and private landowners. Courtney graduated from UNL with a bachelor’s degree in Fisheries and Wildlife this past spring. Courtney is from Gretna, NE.

Molly Darlington, a new masters student working under the supervision of Dr. Ana Velez, will also be supporting departmental teaching. Molly received her bachelor’s degree in biology from UNL this past fall. Her research will focus on the mode of action of RNAi in the western corn rootworm. Molly is from Lincoln, NE.

Nicole Luhr is a new master’s student working under the supervision of Dr. Tom Hunt. Nikki joined Tom at the UNL Haskell Agricultural Laboratory near Concord, NE, as his research technologist early in 2017, and she will continue in that position. She received her bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Business from South Dakota State University in 2012. Her research will involve some area of applied insect ecology. Nikki lives near Wakefield, NE.

William Noundou is a new master’s student working under the supervision of Dr. Troy Anderson. William received his bachelor’s degree in biomedical engineering from Florida International University in 2016. He had been in the United States Air Force Reserve in Homestead, FL since 2013 as a full time air transportation specialist. He is here on a scholarship from the United States Armed Forces. William’s research will focus on how water management practices influence the pathogen distribution of vector mosquitoes. William is originally from Cameroon, Africa, and he has lived in Florida the past 10 years.

Emily Reinders is a new master’s student working under the supervision of Dr. Ana Velez. Emily graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology from Northwestern University in Orange City, IA in 2016. She worked as a lab technician for Dr. Lance Meinke the past year and a half. Emily will be on a Hatch multistate grant aiming to characterize stressors affecting monarch larval survival. She is from Forest Hill, MD.
Congratulations

Kyle Koch received his Ph.D. degree on December 15, 2017. Kyle worked under the supervision of Drs. Jeff Bradshaw and Tiffany Heng-Moss. His dissertation title was “Analysis of cereal aphid feeding behavior and transcriptional responses underlying switchgrass-aphid interactions”. Kyle is now a post-doctoral research associate at Texas A&M’s AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Weslaco, TX. Kyle is from Scottsbluff, NE.

Jordan Reinders was awarded his M.S. degree on December 15, 2017. Jordy worked under the supervision of Dr. Lance Meinke. His thesis title was “Spatial Variation in Western Corn Rootworm (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) Susceptibility to Bacillus thuringiensis Corn Events in Nebraska”. Jordy is now pursuing his Ph.D. degree here in the Department with Dr. Meinke. His research will focus on western corn rootworm ecology and plant incorporated trait resistance management.

Alex Lehmann received his B.S. degree on December 16, 2017. Alex’s capstone project was “The Community of Carrion Beetles in Conventional and No-Till Agroecosystems of Western Nebraska”. He is working in Dr. Lance Meinke’s lab this semester and summer while applying for a master’s program. Alex is from La Plata, MD.

The following students, who also graduated December 15, were in the online masters degree program:

Jennifer Albrecht works for a company that primarily does contract work (e.g. R&D, manufacturing, compendial testing) for animal/human health companies. They also have a USDA-licensed facility, where vaccines are produced for niche markets. Jen plans to continue overseeing the Quality Control departments in the licensed and unlicensed facilities for the foreseeable future. Her master’s degree project was “Characterization of Arthropod Assemblages Attracted to Canine Feces Using Pitfall Traps and Rearing Experiments”. Jen lives in Waverly and did attend our department graduate reception where she received one of our coveted insect pillowcases.

Tiffini Bailey plans to continue teaching Clinical Microbiology in the Medical Laboratory Technology program at Southeast Community College. One component of medical microbiology is parasitology and since there are a number of insect vectors of infectious diseases including bacterial, viral, and parasitic diseases, Tiffini plans on incorporating her knowledge of entomology into her courses. Her master’s degree project was developing an online introduction to an entomology course for college freshmen and sophomores interested in another biological science elective they could complete at SCC. The course she designed touched on aspects of insect anatomy, physiology, medical, forensic and veterinary entomology as
well as entomophagy, insects in art, and cultural entomology. Tiffini said it's been a journey working on a masters degree at 47 years old while teaching full time, but she is so glad she completed the degree, as she has always had an interest in insect diversity, infectious diseases and environmental conservation as far back as she can remember. Tiffani would like to thank her professors at the University for being such incredible mentors.

**Lena Corbisier** is a Senior Instructional Designer in the private sector and hopes to build a portfolio for freelance work aimed at developing dynamic E-Learning resources for college level entomology courses. With her new master's degree, she is planning on creating more flipped-classroom or blended lesson plans for K-12 science teachers that use insects to teach larger concepts like biodiversity, conservation, ecosystem health, etc. Lena’s Masters Degree Project was titled "Interdependent Relationships and Biodiversity" which can now be found on her website [www.CorbisierCreative.com](http://www.CorbisierCreative.com) under the K-12 tab. Lena lives in Silverado, CA.

**Cassandra Skinner** is a high school biology teacher at Mentor High School in Mentor, OH, and uses insects in experiments often to convey all of the characteristics of life as well as enzyme function, cellular energetics and environmental conservation. She use Vernier Sensors to measure gas emitted by cellular energetics which she says is state of the art and very cool fun. Her master’s degree project was titled “Lyme Disease Seminar” and was a community based hour program that she continues to use, collecting data on, in, and around the community as well as educating all students in their health classes when they study disease. Cassandra hopes to further educate the public on tick borne disease. She is thinking of using her degree to expand into a Lyme or tick borne disease diagnostics lab or perhaps teach a college level class on the evolution of insects.

**Faculty News**

**Dr. Justin McMechan** received the Innovative New Employee Award from Nebraska Extension at the Nebraska Extension Fall Conference held November 28 - 29 in Kearney, NE.

**Drs. Lance Meinke, Tom Hunt, Julie Peterson, Justin McMechan, and Bob Wright** participated in the annual meeting of NC 246, the USDA-NIFA Multistate Committee on Corn Insect Ecology and Management held January 23-25, 2018, at Williamsburg, VA.

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**Gamma Sigma Delta Awards**

**Dr. Tom Weissling** received the Outstanding Teaching Award from the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the honorary society of agriculture, at their annual awards and new member initiation reception on January 28.

**Dr. Troy Anderson** was initiated as a new member of Gamma Sigma Delta at the reception.

**Kait Chapman** was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Award and was also initiated as a new member.
Publications


Blast from the Past

Stephanie (Brown) Darnell (M.S. 1997) is a Pollinator Safety scientist, responsible for forage habitat initiatives of the North American Bee Team with Crop Science, a division of Bayer. She is also the Pollinator Safety science communicator, serving as a liaison between company scientists and others in the bee community to share important technical information. “Forage and nutrition are key factors affecting bee health,” Stephanie said. “The better we understand the needs of honey bees and other pollinators, and the ways that agriculture and apiculture can work together for mutual benefit, the better equipped we will be to meet the challenges of a growing world.”

After graduate school, she was the assistant programming director at Monarch Watch. She joined Crop Science in 1999 as a research biologist. In 2006, Stephanie moved to Raleigh, NC, and became a product development manager for consumer and professional ornamental insecticides. She moved to her current role in 2014.

( Courtesy of Bee Health.bayer.us)
Publications con’t.


Baxendale Retirement Reception

Dr. Fred Baxendale retired from the University of Nebraska’s Entomology Department on February 1, 2018, after 33 years of service to the University. Professional highlights included serving as president of the North Central Branch (NCB) of the Entomological Society of America, (ESA) from 2011–2012 and receiving the CV Riley Award from the NCB of the ESA in 2014. Academic involvement included serving as Interim Department Head from 2005-2006, and directing the Forensic Science Program from 2013-2014. Fred was also a “Backyard Farmer” panelist from 1985 - 2016.

Above, Fred with his worm cake. Top right - Fred receives his retirement certificate and UNL pin from Department Chair, Dr. Gary Brewer. Bottom right - Fred receives a plaque of appreciation for exemplary service from Dr. Dave Varner, Assoc. Dean/Assoc. Director for Nebraska Extension.

Intro Beekeeping Classes, Year 1 in February, Year 2 in March

**Year 1— February 24.** This is an introductory-level course that focuses on everything you need to start beekeeping, including topics on beekeeping equipment, protective gear, honey bee biology, stressors, and management basics. Part I of the course includes lectures as well as hands-on activities. Part II of the course is a field day that gets you in the hives and takes the lessons from Part I into practice.

**Year 2— March 24.** This course builds upon the basic management practices covered in Year 1 and focuses on how to maintain healthy honey bee colonies. Meant for beekeepers with at least one year of experience. Topics include swarm management, splitting colonies, reversals, pest and pathogen management, honey production, and value-added products.

To register, send your name, address, phone number, email, and registration fee of $70 (plus $35 for each additional family member) to Jeri Cunningham, Entomology Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583-0816. Registration deadlines are February 16 for Year 1, and March 16 for Year 2. Checks should be payable to the University of Nebraska. Please let us know if you need a meatless option for the lunch. More information is at www.entomology.unl.edu