**Welcome**

Off-Campus M.S. Students: **Summer 2015**: Griffith Lizarraga, Homestead, FL; **Andrew Meeds**, Chesterfield, MO; **Fall 2015**: Kathryn Ciardo, Sun Prairie, WI.

**Westen Archibald** is a new masters student who will be working under the supervision of **Drs. Julie Peterson** and **Bob Wright**. Westen received his bachelor’s degree in biology from Brigham Young University this past April. He will spend this summer in North Platte at the West Central Research and Extension Center. His research focus is on integrated pest management, especially biological control of corn pests.

**Congratulations**

The Entomology Department was selected to receive the University-wide Departmental Teaching Award (UDTA) from the University of Nebraska. NU Interim President James Linder stated, “The Department of Entomology is a model for teaching excellence at the University of Nebraska. Its faculty are widely known for their student-focused approach, their innovative ideas and their commitment to sharing their knowledge in the community. Our students—and people across Nebraska—are the beneficiaries.” The UDTA originated in 1993 and is designed to recognize a department or unit within the University of Nebraska that has made unique and significant contributions to the university’s teaching efforts. The Entomology Department was awarded $25,000 to be used in a manner the department sees fit, such as for travel to a conference, instructional equipment, or improvements to a classroom or student resources. The Department was honored at a luncheon on March 30.

**Dr. Joe Louis** has been selected to receive the 2015 Eric E. Conn Young Investigator Award for his significant contributions to the field of plant insect interactions, as well as for his demonstrated excellence in outreach, public service, mentoring and teaching. This monetary award, first given by the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) in 2011, honors Eric E. Conn’s contributions in plant biology by recognizing young scientists who will be inspired to follow in his footsteps. It recognizes not only outstanding research but also demonstrated excellence in outreach, public service, mentoring, or teaching by plant scientists at the beginning of their careers. It also provides one year membership to the Society. Dr. Louis will receive the award at Plant Biology 2015, the annual meeting of the ASPB meeting to be held in Minneapolis, MN, July 26—30, 2015.
Karen Ferreira da Silva will receive her M.S. degree under the supervision of Dr. Blair Siegfried this August. Her thesis title is “Assessment of variation in susceptibility of the Fall Armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae). Karen will be a Ph.D. student in the Plant Pathology Department at UNL this fall.

Zachary Rystrom received his M.S. degree working under the supervision of Dr. Robert Wright. Zach’s thesis title was “Seasonal Activity and Sampling Methods for Dectes Stem Borer Dectes texanus Leconte in Nebraska Soybeans”. Zach will be working as an agricultural research assistant scientist for Diamond Ag Research in Larned, KS.

Jennifer Shaughney received her M.S. degree working under the supervision of Dr. Brett Ratcliffe. Jen’s thesis title was “Monographic Revision of the Genus Hoplopyga Thomson, 1880 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae: Gymnetini)”. Jen is in the process of finalizing a job opportunity.

The following insect science students graduated on May 9, 2015:

Alexandria Harris’ senior thesis was “A study of the continuing role of art in science and scientific communication”. Tia’s future plans include pursuing a masters degree in scientific illustration.

Elliot Knoell’s senior thesis was “Determining the Acquisition Period of Triticum Mosaic Virus by the Wheat Curl Mite Aceria tosichella Keifer and its Persistence Within the Wheat Curl Mite”. Elliot is in the process of applying to graduate school.

Nicole Mann’s senior thesis was "Selected Bibliography of Insect Pests of Two Crops Grown for Biomass". Nicole is returning to Papillion, NE while applying for employment in extension related positions.

Applied science graduates are Kris Bousquet, Noah Hubbard, Patrick Keefe, Jared Krueger, Adrienne Landry, and Blake McGee.

The following online masters degree students graduated May 8, 2015:

Mary Bauza-Lawver is stationed with the Air Force in Colorado. Her masters degree project was “Plague in Colorado Springs/USAFA Public Health Newcomer’s Briefing”. Mary is currently working as the Public Health Flight Commander at the Air Force Academy. Her future plans include working as a medical entomologist.

William Coello-Sanchez is in the U.S. Army and is stationed at Fort Belvoir, VA. His masters degree project was “Field comparison of three marketed mosquito surveillance traps in collecting mosquitoes of public health importance in a Northern Virginia natural wetland habitat”. Future plans include applying to be an medical entomologist in the U.S. Army.

John Eads’ masters degree project was “Clinicians Entomological Reference for Vector-borne Diseases”. John is stationed overseas in the U.S. Army and upon completion of his masters degree, he hopes to receive a commission in the U.S. Army as a member of their Entomology Team.

Clark Fryrear’s masters degree project was “A video guide to bed bugs in hotels”. Clark lives in San Diego, CA, and he plans on incorporating the knowledge that he’s gained into community outreach and education there in Southern California. Clark also was here in Lincoln recently with wife, Jamie, to run in the Lincoln Marathon.
Jill Heade is currently an agriculture specialist working for U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the San Francisco Port of Entry. Her masters degree project was “Colony Collapse Disorder”. Jill has no plans in the immediate future for a job change, but having her masters degree in entomology could springboard her in a different position at some time.

Tyler Lane’s masters degree project was “Integrated and Pest Management of the Wheat Stem Sawfly: Do spray applications of entomopathogens parasitize C. cinctus larva in winter wheat stubble?” Tyler, who lives in Great Falls, MT, plans to return to the agricultural and natural resource field with entomology as his area of expertise.

Joseph Palmer’s masters degree project was “The Natural History and Captive Husbandry of the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle, Ellipsoptera nevadica lincolniana”. Joseph plans to try to apply for any insect related jobs that are available in Southern Arizona. While looking for employment he will continue to photograph insects, educate small groups about the importance of insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates.

Ashley Stephens’ masters degree project was “The importance of early insect education in shaping a child’s perception of insects”. Ashley has worked as a substitute teacher and loves teaching children, especially about science. Entomology knowledge would give her the tools to squash the irrational fears of her students and impart a love for insects and the world around them.

Dustin Stockman’s masters degree project was “Entomology Electronic Portfolio Project”. His plan for earning a masters degree in entomology was to enlist as an entomologist officer in the U.S. Army. That has not happened yet, but with his current job as a high school science teacher, he has incorporated insects more into his students lives, and he says it has been great.

Mary Bauza-Lawver, Clark Fryrear, Jill Heade, Joseph Palmer, Dustin Stockman

Bruner Club officers for 2015-2016 are: President—Kyle Koch, Vice-President—Leslie Rault, Secretary—Camila Oliveira Hofman, Treasurer—Patrick Wagner, GSA Rep—Adriano Pereira, Student Representative to the Faculty—Justin McMechan. Faculty representatives are Dr. Gary Brewer and Dr. Bob Wright.

Insect Science Club officers for 2015-2016 are: President—Hillary Fischer, Vice-President—Carter Westerhold/Erin Jefferson, Secretary—Lisa Keys, and Treasurer—Dana McIntyre.

Suresh Varsani has received a Travel Award from the North Central Branch-ESA to attend the branch meetings to be held May 31—June 3, 2015, in Manhattan, KS.

Justin McMechan and Adriano Pereira have each received a travel award from the Swenk Fund to attend the North Central Branch-ESA Meeting. Erin Ingram has received a travel award from the Swenk Fund to attend the Invertebrates in Education and Conservation Conference to be held July 21—25, 2015 in Rio Rico, AZ.

Hillary Fischer has been awarded a Milton E. Mohr 2015-2016 scholarship for $1,000 from the Center for Biotechnology.
Abigail Loudon

I always had an interest in insects as a child. Catching them, putting them in jars, and examining every bit of their behavior. As I grew older (pre-teens & teenage years), I was the typical female who was disgusted with most insects.

When I decided on an environmental science major as an undergrad at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, entomology was one of the many courses I needed to take. I was very nervous for this course as my fear of insects continued through my college years. My first day of collecting insects was a game-changer. I enjoyed observing the different anatomy and behaviors of each insect. Their life history simply fascinated me.

It also helped that my professor had such a passion for insects when teaching this course. I knew right away that this is something I wanted to continue to pursue.

Upon graduating from Simpson College in May of 2012, I moved to Omaha, Nebraska where I interned at the Henry Doorly Zoo in the insect and butterfly pavilion. I helped care for the many exotic insects at this facility (I also got to feed penguins every day; I can’t complain about that). In six short weeks, my internship was over and I had to move back to Des Moines, Iowa.

In the fall of 2012, I landed my first job at Syngenta Seeds, Inc. in Slater, Iowa. I am a research associate and work with the genotyping lab to ensure crop protection. Syngenta does have an entomology department, of course, and I would love to continue my career in this department once I gain more knowledge in my graduate courses. My future professional goals are limitless at this point. I love learning new things about these fascinating creatures. I know, no matter my occupation at the time, insect observation and research will never leave my side.

Right now, I currently live in Des Moines, Iowa. I enjoy many outdoor activities, such as gardening and biking. As you can see in my picture, I am enjoying the beauty of Colorado’s Rocky Mountains. I am always happy when I can enjoy a nice hike and the gift of such beauty from Mother Nature.
First Ever Alumni Dinner

The first ever UNL Entomology Alumni Dinner was held on April 10th, 2015 at the Wick Alumni Center on UNL’s City Campus with approximately 115 people in attendance. The night included addresses from Department Head, Dr. Gary Brewer, Bruner Club President, Justin McMechan, Alumni Dinner Committee Chair (round of applause here) Travis Prochaska, and Associate Vice Chancellor-IANR Ron Yoder. The achievements and growth of the Entomology Department were highlighted, including the recently received University-Wide Departmental Teaching Award. An iMovie full of pictures from the past and present played throughout the evening along with profiles of students introducing themselves by sharing their research thesis title, previous degrees earned, and their plans for the future. The night wrapped up with a couple rounds of Linnaean games between the student team and the alumni/faculty team. The alumni/faculty team, with ALL THOSE YEARS of experience, ended up taking home the victory. We hope that this event will become a tradition in the department. The Alumni Dinner Committee would like to thank everyone for their support and participation, especially Dupont-Pioneer and Monsanto for their financial contributions to make this dinner possible.

Faculty News

Drs. Bob Wright, Gary Hein, Julie Peterson and Blair Siegfried participated in the 8th International IPM Symposium held in Salt Lake City UT, March 24-26, 2015, by presenting invited talks, posters and organizing sessions at the symposium.

Dr. Julie Peterson (pictured on the right) discusses her corn insect research program with new NU President Hank Bounds during his tour of Nebraska.

What a great crowd for the first ever alumni dinner!

Travis Prochaska presents a door prize to Dr. Marion Ellis.

Registration with Kait Chapman and Hillary Fischer

Alumni team - Pruess, Putney, Spomer, Wright

Student team - McCullough, Koch, Sikora, Ribeiro