

Welcome

Off-Campus M.S. Students: Summer 2016: **Margaret Heumann**, Victor, ID; **Angela Myers**, Barnsdall, OK; **Patrick Natale III**, Mercerville, NJ; **Rodrigo Oliveira da Silva**, Riverside, CA; **Glynnys Pentecoste**, Bellevue, NE; Fall 2016: **Samantha Akers**, San Angelo, TX; **Emily Brazil**, Gurnee, IL.

Congratulations

The Department of Entomology graduated three doctoral students, one resident and seven online masters students, and one Master of Applied Science student (who was advised by faculty in the Entomology Department) on Friday, May 6, 2016. The Department also had four undergraduate insect science majors graduate on Saturday, May 7, 2016. Information on all the graduates is below:

Carolina Camargo Gil received her Ph.D. degree under the supervision of **Drs. Blair Siegfried** (for most of her program) and **Tom Hunt**. Her dissertation title was “Ecological Risks of the Conventional Insecticide/Fungicide Seed Treatment Mixture of Thiamethoxam and Mefenoxam in Soybean on Beneficial Insects.” Carolina has taken a post doctoral research position at the University of Florida working on determining potential pathway genes that confer resistance to RNAi technologies, under the supervision of **Dr. Blair Siegfried**.

Wayne Ohnesorg received his Ph.D. degree under the supervision of **Drs. Tom Hunt** and **Bob Wright**. His dissertation was entitled “Export of Insect Ecosystem Services from Hayed Native Prairie”. Wayne will continue with his position as an extension educator with Nebraska Extension based in Madison County.

David Wangila received his Ph.D. degree under the supervision of **Dr. Lance Meinke**. “Resistance Management of Western Corn Rootworm, *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* LeConte to Bt Corn Traits in Nebraska” was his dissertation title. David is currently seeking employment as a college faculty member or in research jobs in insect resistance management or integrated pest management.

Ashley Foster, a Master of Applied Science graduate, was advised by **Drs. Fred Baxendale** and **Ashley Hall**. Her thesis title was “Evaluation of the effects of radiation on the positioning of histones and other proteins”. Ashley has accepted a position as a forensic scientist with the Texas Department of Public Safety. She will be working at their headquarters laboratory in Austin, TX in the DNA Analysis section.

Christopher McCullough received his M.S. degree under the supervision of **Drs. Jeff Bradshaw** and **Gary Hein**. His defense title was “Dispersal and sampling of the wheat stem sawfly”. Chris plans to continue on for a Ph.D. degree SOMEWHERE.



L-R, Ohnesorg, Camargo Gil, Wangila



L-R, Camargo Gil, Dr. Gary Brewer



L-R, McCullough, Foster, Kelley

Congratulations cont.

The following graduates were in the online masters entomology degree program:

Gangadai Azore is an environmental specialist with the Florida Department of Agriculture. Some of her duties include monitoring plants and plant products that enter the state, and inspecting for prohibited products and foreign pests not known to exist here. She also writes export permits for companies that ship plants and plant products to other states as well as countries outside of the states. Gangadai will continue to work for the Florida Department of Agriculture, where she hopes to be with the Custom and Border Patrol as an agriculture specialist. Her masters degree project was entitled, "Insect Pest Introduction into Florida: Surveillance and Detection Efforts by Government Agencies".

Isa Hakima plans to continue to serve in the U.S. Army and utilize the knowledge and experience he has gained in the master's degree program to assist the U.S. Army Medical Department in vector control, surveillance, and research development. The title of his masters degree project was "The Military and Infectious Diseases: Rickettsial Diseases."

Patrick Kelley will continue in his role as vice-president of Insects Limited, Inc. in Westfield, IN. His company synthesizes the pheromones of food and museum pests, then takes those pheromones and produces dispensing lures and develop trapping systems specific to each pest. This is done with the philosophy that the future of pest management is without the use of toxic chemicals. As a result of this degree, Pat now gives lectures and training classes to pest managers, food processors and museum conservators. His masters degree project was entitled, "Investigation into the sex pheromone of the adult female odd beetle, *Thylocladius contractus*".

Dewey Murray works for the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). He is the domestic program coordinator for Arizona. Among his responsibilities are implementing the rangeland grasshopper and Mormon cricket program and biological control programs in Arizona. The knowledge he has gained from UNL's graduate program will enhance his efforts to serve the stakeholders and land managers of Arizona. The title of Dewey's masters degree project was "The Biology, Ecology and Management of the Migratory Grasshopper, *Melanoplus sanguinipes* (Fab.)".

Cynthia Perkovich will begin classes at Kent State University where she has been accepted into their doctorate program in biology, concentrating in ecology. She will be working under Dr. David Ward who studies herbivory and plant response through chemical reactions. Cindy's masters degree project was entitled, "Biodiversity of Insect Populations in the Springfield Bog Metropark in Summit County Ohio".

Electra Ragan, from Oklahoma City, OK, has no immediate plans for her new degree but hopes to apply it towards a job in the Department of Forestry at some point in the future. Her masters degree project was entitled "Piophilidae Distribution in Consideration of Forensic Applications".

Ryan Rodriguez will continue working in an agronomist program for DuPont Pioneer in New Madrid, MO. His masters degree project was entitled, "Mosquito Borne Diseases in Mississippi".



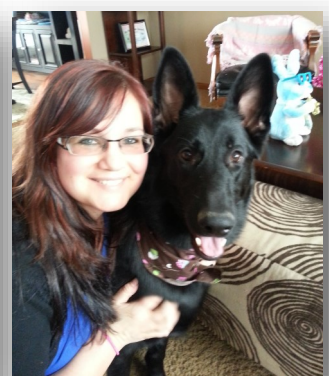
Azore



Hakima



Kelley



Perkovich

Congratulations cont. again

Tessa Blair, from Marathon, WI, received her B.S. degree in Insect Science. Tessa is in the process of applying to graduate school. Her senior thesis was entitled, "House fly (*Musca domestica* L.) and stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans* L.) larval interactions".

Hillary Fischer, from Beatrice, NE, received B.S. degrees in insect science and plant biology. Hillary's senior thesis was entitled, "Characterizing the Effects of Feeding by *Aphis glycines* Matsumura on Callose Deposition in Soybean Resistance". Hillary has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR, where she will be working under the supervision of Dr. Fiona Goggin on potato aphid in tomatoes and the genes associated with fatty acid desaturase on plant resistance.

Mary Foshee, from Bellevue, NE, received her B.S. degree in insect science and will be starting her M.S. degree at the University of Auburn in Auburn, AL. She will be working on nematodes and earthworms in Dr. Kathy Laurence's nematology lab with a dual project in the Entomology Department with Dr. David Held. Her senior thesis was entitled, "The Presence of Grape Phylloxera in Nebraska's Grape Vineyards".

Justine LaViolette, from Fenton, MO, received B.S. degrees in insect science and forensic science. Justine's senior thesis, "Questioned Documents and Crime Scene Diagrams" was through the forensic science program. Justine will be managing a campaign in St. Louis, MO for a state representative candidate.



Hillary, Mary, and Justine are all presented with the Entomology Department's parting gift at graduation - an insect pillowcase - presented by Dr. Gary Brewer.

Dr. Joan Christen was the recipient of a 2016 Alumni Achievement Award presented by the Nebraska Alumni Association at their annual Alumni Awards Banquet held May 5, at the Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center. Joan received her M.S. (2001) and Ph.D. (2008) degrees in entomology under the supervision of **Drs. John Foster and Steve Skoda**.

Publications

Fishilevich, Elaine, **Ana M. Vélez**, **Chitvan Khajuria**, Meghan L. F. Frey, Ronda L. Hamm, **Haichuan Wang**, Greg A. Schulenberg, Andrew J. Bowling, Heather E. Pence, Premchand Gandra, Kanika Arora, Nicholas P. Storer, Kenneth E. Narva, and **Blair D. Siegfried**. 2016. Use of chromatin remodeling ATPases as RNAi targets for parental control of western corn rootworm (*Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*) and Neotropical brown stink bug (*Euschistus heros*). *Insect Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*, 71: 58-71.

Paulsen, M. J. 2016. A new species of *Dinonigidius* de Lisle from Sri Lanka (Coleoptera: Lucanidae). *Insecta Mundi* 0484: 1-4.

Ratcliffe, B. C. 2016. The scarab collections at the University of Oslo, Norway (ZMUN) and the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Belgium (IRSNB). *Scarabs* 80: 6-11.

Ratcliffe, B. C. 2016. Lawrence W. Saylor, Coleopterist *Extraordinaire*. *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 70: 1-9.

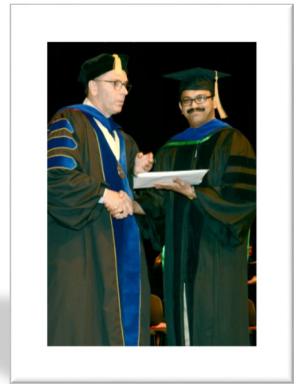
Smart, Matthew, Jeff Pettis, Nathan Rice, Zac Browning, and Marla Spivak. 2016. Linking measures of colony and individual honey bee health to survival among apiaries exposed to varying agricultural land use. *PLOS ONE* 11(3): e0152685.

Ullah, M. I., F. Mustafa, W. W. Hoback, M. L. Brust, K. M. Farnsworth-Hoback, and J. E. Foster. 2015. Short-horned grasshopper subfamilies feed at different rates on big bluestem and switchgrass cultivars. *Biologia* 70(12): 1631-1636.

Vélez, Ana María, Analiza P. Alves, Erin E. Blankenship, and Blair D. Siegfried. 2016. Effect of Cry1F maize on the behavior of susceptible and resistant *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Ostrinia nubilalis*. *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata*, Vol. 159(1): 37-45.

Faculty News

Dr. Joe Louis is a recipient of the Harold and Esther Edgerton Junior Faculty Award. Joe will receive an annual award of \$1,000 in 2016 and 2017, and a \$3,000 professional development fund will be established for his teaching and research needs, as well as educational or professional development activities. Chancellor Ronnie Green (pictured on the left) presented the award to Joe at All-University Honors Convocation held on April 24, 2016. Joe has also been appointed as the Associate Editor for the journal, *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*.



Grants

Ana Vélez

Monsanto..... \$6,460
"European Corn Borer Leaf Disc Assays"

Lance Meinke

Bayer CropScience \$4,500
"Diabrotica biology and ecology"

Robert Wright

Syngenta Crop Protection..... \$5,000
"Insect Management Research"

Student News

Kaitlin Chapman has received a travel support award from the Myron H. Swenk Fund to attend the NCB ESA Meeting in Cleveland, OH, June 5-8, 2016.

Melina Florez-Cuadros has received a travel support award from the Myron H. Swenk Fund to attend the Live-stock Insect Workers Conference in Oklahoma City, OK, June 26-29, 2016.

Louise Lynch has accepted an appointment as a Great Plains Graduate Fellow beginning in August, 2016. The Graduate Fellows Program of the Center for Great Plains Studies provides space for selected graduate students to work, meet, obtain support, learn from fellow students, engage with the Center faculty and staff, benefit from the Center's resources, and progress in the degree programs in their home departments.

Camila Oliveira Hofman has been awarded a Milton E. Mohr Fellowship for 2016-2017 from the Center for Biotechnology.

Justin McMechan has been selected as a recipient for the 2016 North Central Branch J. H. Comstock Award. This award is given to one graduate student from each of the Entomological Society of America's five Branches to promote interest in the science of entomology at the graduate level and to stimulate interest in attending the ESA Annual Meeting. The award includes an all-expense-paid trip to the national meeting, a \$1,000 cash prize, and a certificate that is presented during the ESA Annual Meeting.

Bruner Club officers for 2016-2017 are: President - **Jordy Reinders**, Vice-President - **Kait Chapman**, Secretary - **Westen Archibald**, Treasurer - **Suresh Varsani**, GSA Rep - **Sanjay Basnet**, Student Representative to the Faculty- **Darlane Souza**. Faculty representatives are **Drs. Ana Vélez** and **Bob Wright**.

Travel

Dr. Joe Louis attended the International Plant Resistance to Insects Symposium held at Stellenbosch, South Africa, March 5-8, 2016, where he gave an invited talk at the symposium, Functional Genomics of Plant-Insect interaction. The title of his talk was "Functional Genomics of maize defense to corn leaf aphids".

Dr. Matthew Smart traveled to Washington, DC in April to deliver an annual briefing on research activities to the USDA. His presentation was entitled, "Monitoring the effects of land use and USDA conservation program on pollinator health in the Northern Great Plains".