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Department of Entomology
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

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Welcome

New Off-Campus M.S. Students: Fall 2014: Joseph Coffey, Burnsville, MN; James Miksanek, Rochester, MN; Spring 2015: Alexandria Reed, Belleville, IL; Joanna Tyszko, Chicago, IL.

Dr. Gerald Bermond is a new postdoc who will be here through March 2017, working with **Dr. Nick Miller**. Dr. Bermond, from Nice, France, obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Nice, his M.S. in ecology and ethology from the Jean Monnet University of Sciences, Saint-Étienne, France, and his B.S. in life sciences from the University of Nice. He did his graduate research on the population genetics of secondary-hybrid populations of corn rootworms in Europe. Dr. Bermond's work at UNL will focus on the genetics of western corn rootworm adaption to Bt corn.



Dr. Maria Luz Sison (Luz) is a Fulbright Scholar from the Institute of Plant Breeding at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) who will be working in the Insecticide Toxicology Laboratory for a six month training period to learn techniques involved with bioassay of Bt toxins. Dr. Sison received her Ph.D. in molecular entomology, her M.S. in host plant resistance and her B.S. in entomology from UPLB. Her current projects involve basic and applied research in resistance management of the eggplant fruit and shoot borer and improvement of mango fruit characteristics with disease and pest resistance.



Publications

Mustafa, Fatima, Muhammad Irfan Ullah, Kate M. Kneeland, Thomas A. Coudron, David W. Stanley, W. Wyatt Hoback, Steven R. Skoda, Jaime Molina-Ochoa, and John E. Foster. 2014. Genetic Variability of Spined Soldier Bugs (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) sampled from distinct field sites and laboratory colonies in the United States. *Florida Entomologist*. 97(4): 1631-1639.

Paulsen, M.J. 2014. Correction of the misidentifications and confusion surrounding *Ochodaeus grandiceps* Fairmaire, 1897 (Coleoptera: Ochodaeidae), and the description of a new species of ochodaeid from Cuba. *Insecta Mundi* 0369: 1–6.

Ratcliffe, B.C. 2014. The Scarab Collections at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Geneva, Switzerland. *Scarabs* 75: 12–15.

Ratcliffe, B.C. 2014. A Review of the Neotropical genera *Astroscara* Schürhoff, 1937, *Chiriquibia* Bates, 1889, *Hadrosticta* Kraatz, 1892, *Jansonia* Schürhoff, 1937, *Macrocranius* Schürhoff, 1935, and *Tiaocera* Burmeister, 1842 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae: Gymnetini). *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 68: 363–376.

Ratcliffe, B.C. 2014. Reversal of precedence for *Scarabaeus Monoceros* Nicolson, 1776, in favor of *Scarabaeus oblongus* Palisot de Beauvois, 1807 to stabilize the nomenclature of *Stragegus oblongus* (Palisot de Beauvois) from Hispaniola (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae). *Insecta Mundi* 0370: 1–3.

Ratcliffe, B.C. and R.D. Cave. 2014. Un Inventaire de la biodiversité des Dynastinae (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae) des Antilles: présentation du project. ACOREP-France, Coléoptères de Petites Antilles 2: 3–9.

Rodrigues, Jose C.V., D. Belay Kondidie, C. Esteves-Jensen, E.W. Kitajima, R. Huckaba, J.E. Foster. 2014. Infection in Soybeans and on Multiple Host Plants in Puerto Rico by an Isolate of Cowpea Mild Mottle Virus. *Virus Reviews and Research, Sociedade Brasileira de Virologia*, journal homepage: www.vrrjournal.org.br/ <http://157.86.113.86/index.php/vrrjournal/article/view/101/129>

Publications con't.

Spomer, Stephen M. 2014. The longhorn beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) of Nebraska, USA: new state records, a checklist of known species, and distribution maps. *Coleopterists' Bulletin* 68(2): 297-315.

Faculty News

Chancellor Harvey Perlman's annual State of the University Address and UNL's Employee Service Award recognition program was held on Oct. 2, 2014 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. The following employees were honored for years of service to the University: **Dr. Fred Baxendale**, 30 years; **Dr. Lance Meinke**, 30 years; **Dr. Thomas Hunt**, 15 years; **Dr. Tom Weissling**, 10 years, and **Dr. Haichuan (John) Wang**, 5 years.

Dr. Joe Louis has been selected to participate in the 2014-2015 Research Development Fellows Program, an initiative to help UNL's pre-tenure faculty to successfully pursue external grant funding. Dr. Louis also gave an invited seminar on "Plant defense and insect counter-defense" at the UNL Department of Biochemistry & Redox Biology Center Seminar Series on Sept. 9, 2014.

Dr. Bob Wright chaired the annual meeting of the North Central Extension Entomologists Working Group, Oct. 15-16 in Lincoln, NE. **Drs. Jeff Bradshaw, Julie Peterson, and Tom Hunt** along with NREC Extension Educator **Keith Jarvi** also participated in the meeting. Bob, representing the North Central Extension Entomologists Working Group, attended the North Central IPM Center Stakeholder committee meeting, Sept. 10-11, in Green Bay WI.

Dr. Mike Culy received the "John V. Osmun Alumni Professional Achievement Award in Entomology" from Purdue University on Sept. 26, 2014.

Meet an Off-Campus Student**Dennis Stelzer**

I feel like a kid who woke up early Christmas morning and found a bunch of tantalizing presents under the tree, just waiting to be unwrapped. I'm fortunate to have a wonderful family and a stable career, currently as a principal scientist in analytical chemistry at Pfizer in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Two of my three boys are out of college and now my wife (Patty) and I are transitioning into the 'empty nester' stage of life. Instead of working to perfect a golf swing or catalog an array of secret fishing holes, I spend my free time working towards a masters degree in entomology, volunteering with the Kalamazoo Nature Center, local land conservancies, the Watershed Council, and the DNR. I've had to explain my choice to friends and contemporaries who hold the general sentiment that I should be enjoying a little more of what's known as "me time". Three years ago, I took one class in entomology just for that "me time", but the experience woke something deep inside. Johann Wolfgang von Goeth's words capture the essence of my feelings: "*Nature's secrets are of unfathomable depth, but it is granted to us ... to look into them more and more; and the very fact that she remains unfathomable at least perpetually charms us to approach her again and again...*"



After a little research and talking with Dr. Weissling, I decided that UNL's M.S. distance program was a good fit. I can honestly say that it's changed the direction of my future. I've spent the majority of my life working in the sciences, always appreciated nature and casually understood the importance of conservation. Entomology has brought all this together and now instead of just having an appreciation for it, I'm immersed in it. I want to work to help preserve the natural communities of the Great Lakes region for future generations. A big part of that is helping people realize their connection with the natural world. Entomology is the window through which I can show people their dependence and their connection. I've never been more energized. I'm hoping to retire early (in a few years??) and devote more time to entomology, conservation, and simply enjoying the outdoors. I've become involved with biomonitoring projects to measure water quality in streams and inland lakes by assessing macroinvertebrate assemblages. I'm working with a state initiative to expand the monitoring through citizen science efforts. I love to identify macroinvertebrates and hope to fit this into a second career. Through entomology, I get to open and share nature's presents - it's like Christmas all the time.

Grants and Other Funding

Shripat Kamble

Syngenta.....	\$9,000
"Housefly Bait Study"	
Syngenta.....	\$20,500
"Termiticide Degradation Research"	

Blair Siegfried

Agricultural Biotechnology Stewardship	\$108,000
"European corn borer"	

Robert Wright

FMC Corporation	\$15,000
"Crop Insect Management Research"	

Bruner Club News

The Lawrence Bruner Entomology Club presented Dr. Robert K. D. Peterson with their Distinguished Alumnus Award on Oct. 3 for his career achievements, professionalism, contributions and dedication to science. Dr. Peterson received his masters and doctoral degrees from UNL and was nominated by Drs. Steve Danielson and Bob Wright. Dr. Peterson was an active member of the Bruner Club, serving as president and representative to the faculty. He is a professor at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT. His research focuses on risk assessment, plant stress eco-physiology, and integrated pest management. He is also co-editor of ESA's *American Entomologist*. Bruner Club President, Justin McMechan, along with Melina Florez-Cuadros, Education Committee Chair, presented Dr. Peterson with the plaque commemorating the award, and his name will be added to the Bruner Distinguished Alumni Recognition plaque.



L-R, Dr. Gary Brewer, Dept. Head, McMechan, Peterson, Florez-Cuadros

Student News

Kyle Koch and Travis Prochaska were each awarded a Milton E. Mohr Fellowship in Agriculture in the amount of \$3,000. Kyle and Travis were officially recognized as recipients of the fellowship at a luncheon held on Oct. 17 in the Nebraska East Campus Union.

Johan Pretorius presented a seminar dealing with insect diversity and biology to the Audubon Society in Scottsbluff, NE on Oct. 18, 2014.

Jennifer Shaughney has been awarded \$500 from the David H. & Anne E. Lerrick Memorial Travel Fund to attend the ESA Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, Nov. 16-19, 2014.

David Wangila is a new Board Certified Entomologist-intern as announced by the ESA.

Carolina Camargo Gil, Karen da Silva, Kyle Koch, Chris McCullough, Camilla Oliveira Hofman, Travis Prochaska, Matheus Ribeiro, Zach Rystrom, and Jennifer Shaughney each received a travel support award from the Swenk Fund to attend the National ESA Meetings in Portland, OR, Nov. 16-19, 2014. Louise Lynch received a travel support award to attend the 2015 Citizen Science Association/American Association for the Advancement of Science Conference in San Jose, CA, Febr. 11-16, 2015.

Travel

Dr. Joe Louis gave an invited talk on "Molecular basis of plant defense against phloem-feeding insects" at UNL's Plant Science Retreat held at Nebraska City, NE , Oct. 17-18, 2014.

Dr. Bob Wright attended the National IPM Coordinating Committee Meeting, Washington, DC, Sept. 23-24, representing NCERA 222, the USDA multistate committee on IPM.

BUGFEST Success

Almost 300 people joined us on Sunday, October 5th for the Entomology Department's annual open house, BugFest. In addition to our usual insect displays and activities, this year we had a scientific illustration demonstration, "Talk to an Entomologist", a demonstration of how crickets develop, and a representative from the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha talking about their salt creek tiger beetle conservation program. A good time was had by all!



The teaching lab with the insect aquariums of walking sticks, assorted beetles, hissing cockroaches, tarantulas, and mantis is always crowded!



Dr. Bug, **Hillary Fischer**, along with assistants, **Kaylee Baxendale, Melina Florez-Cuadros, Suresh Varsani, Dawn Sikora, Jacob Duncan, and Tessa Blair.**



Dr. Ralph Narain loves to show off his termite colonies.



Ashley Foster teaches all a little forensic entomology.



Lana Johnson helps a budding scientific illustrator.



Beautiful butterfly collections abound in the Entomology Dept.

INSECT SCIENCE CLUB HONEY SALE

The Insect Science Club Annual Honey Sale will be November 12th and 13th (Wednesday and Thursday)
from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union.
There will be honey bears, jugs, molded candles, and beeswax lotion bars.
Pre-sales will start on November 3. Pre-sale forms can be found in Entomology Hall, Room 103.