HEXAPOD HERALD

April 30, 2021

Entomology and Vet School train future vets together

By Michele Hatcher

Bee health has been brought to the forefront of ecological concerns so UGA Entomology and the UGA Vet School joined forces to teach future vets how to do their part to keep bee populations safe and thriving.

Jennifer Berry, manager of the UGA Bee Lab, and Dr. Joerg Mayer, Associate Professor of Zoological Medicine at UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine, have teamed up to co-write the curriculum for an elective course for vet students which addresses critical bee health issues. This intensive 3-week course had its inaugural class this semester and was "very successful," Berry reported.

This all started when Mayer realized the need for the course after the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) amended the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) requiring



veterinarian prescriptions for antibiotic treatment of American and European Foulbrood, so he approached Berry and Keith Delaplane, entomology professor, about the idea of collaboratively developing a course.

Due to the regulatory changes, veterinarians and beekeepers found themselves in an interesting position. Beekeepers historically addressed this issue themselves by treating hives with antibiotics which now they could not access.

Veterinarians on the other hand, did not typically treat bees for, well, anything, or write prescriptions to treat insect diseases.

Beekeepers now need veterinarian medical knowledge, yet veterinarians must understand bees. The collaboration was essential.

"This bacterial disease – Foulbrood -- is highly contagious and can weaken an entire bee colony," Berry explained, so there was no time to waste for the state's beekeepers. Veterinarians needed to understand how to partner with beekeepers, large and small, to maintain healthy hives.

The hands-on course involved class work, beekeeping, tours and fieldwork.

"The students were extremely engaged and motivated to learn about bees and beekeeping since they may one day be asked to inspect a colony. Some of the students had beekeeping experience or their family members had kept bees at one point. And some were interested in becoming beekeepers themselves," Berry said, describing the initial class of 10.

The students will continue developing their skills through maintaining a beehive placed on the roof of the UGA Vet School on campus. Students will also have the opportunity to sit for the UGA Master Beekeeper certification exam and will be able to attend meetings with local beekeepers' associations.

Realizing the need to educate future vets concerning bee health and seeing the keen interest of the students, Berry and Mayer hope to see the class offered every semester soon. But for now, it will be taught at least once a year.

"We really enjoyed teaching this class! It was the first of its kind in the state of Georgia and is very important for the vet students to understand the critical role they may be asked to fill once they are a practicing veterinarian. I look forward to working with Dr. Mayer in the future and to further educating students about this amazing insect, the honey bee," Berry said.

From the desk of S. Kristine Braman ...

This unprecedented time has presented numerous challenges for our UGA Entomology Department Faculty Staff and Students. It has, however, been inspiring to see our faculty quickly pivot to online instruction, develop and implement hybrid models and devise creative methods to teach their labs and engage in active and service learning in a remote environment. Equally inspiring has been watching our students reach out and support each other during this stressful time. Silver-linings abound. We are becoming experts in webinars and virtual field days to remain in touch with our clientele.



Our student numbers are up and we are celebrating student awards and a number of successful student defenses this semes-

ter. Virtual SEB-ESA was a new experience for many. We appreciate all the effort that went in to making that event and our presentation options possible. We are very proud of one of our former students, **Gretchen Pettis**, as she delivered her outstanding keynote address. We also congratulate our graduate students, Tzu-Chin Liu, Subin Neupane and Kelly Tims for their success as first and second place winners in the student PhD ten-minute paper competition. We also appreciate the dedication of our

UGA Bug Dawgs competition team **Fawad Khan**, **Midhula Gireesh**, **Gurjit Singh**, **Kyle Slusher** and **Kelly Tims** and their coach extraordinaire **Dr. Nancy Hinkle** for their strong performance in a tough competition in the virtual Entomology Games. We are so proud of our faculty, staff and students that you will see highlighted in this issue. It is great to see your hard work recognized!

We welcome **Hannah Mosteller** to our department as an accountant in our main office. We also congratulate our faculty and staff who have retired this past year: **Dr. Karl Espelie**, **Jim Quick**, **Jenny Granberry**,

Inside this issue

Special points of interest	
Student Spotlights	.4-6
New Face	3
Publications	7-14
Snapshots	15
Calendar reminders	19
Student Awards	18

- IPM Awards, page 17
- New Twitter info, page 18
- Book Review, page 13

Debbie Rutland and **Nancy Jordan.** We celebrated years of service awards with **Dr. Dave Buntin-35 years**, **Dr. Keith Delaplane-30 years**

and Dr. Dan Suiter- 20 years.

We are so looking for-ward to a gradual resumption of our full face to face activities. While we have been resilient and



mastered many new distance learning skills, we are all ready to leave the zoom room. I hope we all enjoy a safe and productive summer season.

In other news

Several entomology students have been awarded scholarships in the last few months. The department is very proud of their achievements. The scholarships and the students selected are as follows:

The Herbert H. Ross Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Joshua Washington, Pin-Chu Lai, Jean Liu and Fawad Khan.

The Horace Odin Lund Entomology Scholarships were awarded to Alejandra Monterrosa and Gabriela Cardona-Rivera.

The R. Barclay McGhee Scholarship in Parasitology was awarded to Sophie Racey.

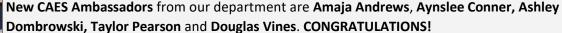
The Sparks Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research was awarded to Joseph Taylor and Kelsey Coffman. The Sparks Award for Outstanding Achievement in Outreach was awarded to Nia Myers and Daniel O'Connell.

Amy Janvier was selected for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award by the University of Georgia.

The Pest Management Foundation recently awarded five \$2000 scholarships to university

students nationwide who are pursuing advanced degrees in entomolo-

gy. UGA Entomology Ph.D. student **Allison Johnson** was selected as one of this year's recipients. The scholarship has been awarded to students interested in urban entomology since 2018. Allison is working under the direction of Dr. Brian Forschler, principle investigator for the Household and Structural Entomology Research Program at UGA.





Allison Johnson

NEW FACE IN THE DEPARTMENT



Hannah Mosteller recently joined the Athens office staff as an accountant for the department. Although originally from a small town near Charlotte, North Carolina, she comes to us from Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Hannah spent five years in Tuscaloosa and while there worked in Procurement Services at the University of Alabama for three and a half years before coming to UGA. She received her education from Liberty University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies (2016), a Juris Master's in International Legal Studies (2017), a Master of Business Administration (2020) and a Graduate Certificate in Management and Leadership (2021).

In her free time, Hannah enjoys playing with her two dogs, Rosie and Sasha. She also enjoys attending college sporting events, especially football and baseball and is especially look-

ing forward to attending a UGA football game this year! Go Dawgs! Welcome, Hannah! We hope you feel right at home in UGA Entomology!

Undergraduate Student Spotlight

Sarah Yount

I am currently a fourth year Entomology major living and working in Washington, DC for my last semester as an undergraduate. I transferred to the University of Georgia in the Spring of 2019 and began coursework to pursue a career in physical therapy. Not long after my transfer, I reconnected with Dr. Marianne Shockley, who I had known since the fifth grade when I attended the University of Georgia bug camp. She re-kindled my passion for learning about insects and I knew I wanted to change my major to Entomology. I immediately began gaining work experience at various UGA locations. For the summer of 2019, I was scheduled to participate in my first study abroad, the entomology trip to the Galapagos Islands. This plan fell through, and I interned in Dr. Kenneth Ross's Fire Ant lab doing research on fire ant queens through the Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO). For the fall of 2019 I worked in Dr. Joseph McHugh's Coleoptera lab and the Georgia Museum of Natural History learning curatorial skills. In the spring of 2020 I was a participant of the Washington Semester Program (WSP) through UGA and moved to Washington, DC. For the duration of my time in DC, I in-





terned for the Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit and the Smithsonian Institution: National Museum of Natural History. I learned about how to digitize specimens, make risk-characterization maps, and curate and identify Hymenoptera specimens. It was during this experience that I decided I was most interested in studying insects and how they relate medically to humans. I wanted to combine my love for studying insects and my desire to help improve the human condition. After I was sent home due to COVID-19, I continued both internships through the summer and proceeded to fail my first class, organic chemistry. I think it is important to include this fact to encour-

age younger students that it is not the end of the world to fail a class. For the end of the fall of 2020 semester, I worked in Dr. Donald Champagne's lab extracting the salivary glands from mosquitos. During the month of December, I decided to move back to DC to participate in the WSP for a second time for the spring 2021 semester. This time, I interned solely for

the Smithsonian Institution: NMNH and began aggressively networking and looking for positions for after graduation. My current plans for the future are to fully move to DC to work for the National Institute of Health for a year, after which I hope to attend Cornell University to earn a PhD in Medical Entomology. The main lessons I have learned in this field are first, to never stop making connections, second, never burn bridges, and third, remember GPA is not everything. I had so



much help along the way but I would especially like to thank Dr. Kenneth Ross, Dr. Joseph McHugh, Dr. Donald Champagne, Devin Duggan, Takao Sasaki, and Don DeMaria for their support.

Graduate Student Spotlight



Alejandra Monterrosa

As far back as I can remember science has always been my strongest and most favorite subject in school. So naturally, going into college it was an easy choice to make my major general biology at Gordon State College. At that point in my life I knew that biology was definitely the way to go, although I was not sure what direction to take with it. I had contemplated going into marine biology or maybe even psychology, but it wasn't until I was about to graduate that I had my first experience with entomology. One of my professors asked me if I would be interested in a seasonal position at the UGA Griffin campus in Dr. Shimat Joseph's entomology lab. I had absolutely no idea of what science field to go into, but I figured lab experience would be a must when I did decide the field! I went in for an interview and the next thing I knew I'm helping feed and measure fall army worms and working with eriophyid mites and rose rosette disease. As I worked with all the different insects and people in the lab, I found myself really enjoying the field. I graduated with my bachelors just to find myself right back in school going for a masters in entomology.

Soon after beginning my coursework I started studying ambrosia beetles and their phenology across Georgia as well as across different commodities. My research goals are to help refine monitoring and management practices to help keep these pests from infesting nurseries and orchards.

The whole experience in this field has been amazing when it comes to the things that I've learned and especially all of the people I've gotten to meet along the way. These courses and this field introduced me to an area in science that I never considered to try until the opportunity presented itself. One thing I especially love about this field is that it gave me a new hobby, thanks to Dr. McHugh's insect taxonomy class teaching me how to pin and display insects! I will forever cherish all of the memories and experiences I've gotten in this field with all of the people I've gotten to meet. As graduation gets closer, I've considered several options for what comes next, but I have finally decided that I plan on taking a break from continuing school for the moment. It has always been a dream of mine to leave home and go and travel, so after graduation I intend to buy a van and converting it into a home on wheels so that I can live out that dream and see where it takes me! Although I have to admit, my interest in marine biology came back abruptly when I just recently learned that we aren't sure how eels reproduce (which I find to be crazy), so maybe I'll travel and go pursue that field next. Anything is possible!



Fawad Khan

As a growing child in Pakistan, I never imagined working with insects in my life. However, I have some childhood memories of encountering insects,



like ants, butterflies, honey bees, and lady beetles. As a subject, I developed an interest in Entomology during the second year of college when I took introductory entomology

courses. After taking Entomology as a major, I enjoyed the next couple of years as an undergraduate student. In the last semester of my undergraduate degree, I joined the Institute for Agriculture & Biology for a mandatory internship. I worked in Dr. NA Saeed's Lab, where my work focused on rearing Spodoptera litura and Helicoverpa armigera, comparing Myzus persicae infestation on different tomato varieties, observing the mass production of *Trichogramma* sp. and Chrysoperla carnea. After this training, I graduated with the highest distinction from Entomology Dept., College of Agriculture, Multan Pakistan. Soon after my undergraduate degree, in 2011, I got a master's scholarship to study at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan. During master's, I worked in a stored product entomology lab with Dr. M Sagheer & Dr. MU Hasan, and my research focused on using botanical extracts to manage Tribolium castaneum infestations in stored products. I successfully published research papers and extension publications associated with the stored grain pests.

In 2013, I got an opportunity to work as a visiting lecturer at a newborn Entomology Dept. in Layyah, Pakistan. My responsibilities included teaching and Entomology lab development. In 2015, I joined Dr. S Saeed's Lab as a Research Assistant and worked on fruit flies. Later, in 2016, I was appointed as a nontenured faculty at the University of Agriculture, Multan, Pakistan. It was also a newly established institute with great challenges and opportunities. In the fourth year of my professional career, I realized the need for better academic and research training. This passion led me to apply for multiple scholarships. In 2018, I won the Fulbright scholarship to study in the US. It was tough to resign near my tenure and leave my family, but I took this leap for better training! I am currently working in Dr. SV Joseph's Lab, and my work involves estimating predation using different techniques, including clay models. See my recently published article at: https://

onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/eea.13000

Also, I am working to understand the effects of abiotic stresses on Spodoptera frugiperda and Orius insidiosus. My research is a mix of lab and fieldwork. I enjoyed working in the sod farms and the residential lawns for my research. After my Ph.D., I would return to my home country, Pakistan, and serve as a university faculty.

Entomology has a role in my family life too. My better half, Tahira, is also an Entomologist and a university faculty in Pakistan. We have two amazing daughters: Hairum, 6-years, and Zainab, 3-years old – both like

bugs. I enjoy virtually connecting with family, mentoring scholarship aspirants, and volunteering during my free time. **UGA Entomol**ogy Department offered me a great learning envi-



ronment. I found wonderful friends and great mentors during this period. The journey is beautiful so far, and it continues!

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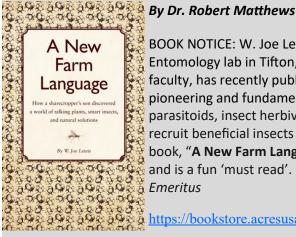
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Book Review



BOOK NOTICE: W. Joe Lewis, a retired research entomologist formerly at the USDA Entomology lab in Tifton, GA, where he regularly interacted with UGA students and faculty, has recently published a book that will be of interest to all entomologists. His pioneering and fundamental discoveries of behavioral and chemical interactions of parasitoids, insect herbivores, and plants – essentially how plants use "SOS" signals to recruit beneficial insects to their defense - have been recognized world-wide. His new book, "A New Farm Language" recounts many of these stories in an engaging style and is a fun 'must read'. - Bob Matthews, UGA Josiah Meigs Professor of Entomology, **Emeritus**

https://bookstore.acresusa.com/collections/new-titles/products/a-new-farm-language

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ANOTHER WINTER TURNS TO SPRING.

FRIENDS OF IPM AWARDS



The Southern IPM Center's Friends of IPM program recognizes extraordinary achievement in research, Extension, and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the Southern Region of the United States. This year, three UGA Entomology faculty members were honored.

Dr. Nancy Hinkle received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for her extraordinary achievements in research and Extension over a career in Veterinary Entomology. Because most veterinary pests are considered urban pests (fleas, ticks, flies, etc.), not only is Dr. Hinkle considered an expert in animal pests, but she likewise is viewed as an authority on household pests and their suppression. Throughout her career, Dr. Hinkle's research and Extension outreach have improved IPM by developing IPM programs that are conveyed to Extension audiences, including livestock and poultry producers, Extension agents, and pest management professionals.

Because so few veterinary entomologists are employed in academia, her program has spanned the range of veterinary pests, focusing mostly on those af-

fecting livestock, poultry, and companion animals. Not only does she emphasize that animal agriculture needs integrated pest suppression options, but she acquaints her pre-med students with IPM approaches as critical in the One Health concept, encompassing human, animal and environmental health.

Dr. Alton "Stormy" Sparks was awarded the **IPM Implementer Friends of IPM award** which recognizes "on the ground" implementation of IPM, specifically to IPM practitioners. Dr. Sparks 30+ year career has primarily emphasized applied research and extension activities addressing management of pests in agricultural commodities. Stormy has served with UGA Extension as the Extension Entomologist with primary responsibilities for insect pest management in commercial vegetable production. His activities have emphasized proper integration of insecticides into pest management programs in commercial vegetable production, while also addressing pest biology, judicial use of pesticides, and production systems impacts on pest problems. His research and Extension programs have remained flexible to allow adjusting emphasis with emerging problems, and is known as an outstanding applied entomologist who works directly with farmers to help them implement IPM programs.





The Pulling Together Friends of IPM Award was presented to the Sustainable Spotted Wing Drosophila Management Team led by Dr. Ashfaq Sial of UGA Entomology. This award is given to a group who has been successful in any aspect of developing, teaching about, and implementing IPM, and is based on management of a high-priority pest. The Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) group came together in 2008 shortly after the pest was detected for the first time in California. The group is made up of leading researchers from 16 land-grant universities and USDA-ARS and represents a sustained, over a decade-long, adaptive collaboration of entomologists, geneticists, economists, social scientists, and growers joined together to respond to the devastating impact of SWD on the affected crops throughout the United States.

Lampyridae intern project showcases Museum collections, importance to research



By Joe McHugh

The COVID pandemic presented problems for the UGA Collection of Arthropods, many related to the Museum Building being closed to non-staff. As a result, the UGCA accepted only one undergraduate intern this spring, Kerstin Thulé, a senior majoring in Ecology with a minor in Entomology. Originally, she was expected to work in the Biological Sciences Building preparing specimens off-site but as the spring term progressed, another option arose. Since the classroom at the museum was vacant during the shutdown, Kerstin would be able to work there in isolation without raising any personal health risks.

For her primary internship project, Kerstin curated the holdings of Lampyridae ("fireflies" or "Lightning bugs"). Her work involved incorporating a large number of recently acquired specimens into the collection and reorganizing all the lampyrid material to fit the current classification of subfamilies, genera and species. The final steps of her project were to re-label all the specimen trays and drawers, and update the publicly available database of specimen holdings.

Curating our 5,181 specimens of lampyrid beetles was a high-priority project because the group attracts a great deal of research interest. In fact, the UGCA has been visited recently by multiple lampyrid specialists who came to study our material. In addition, there are active research programs on these beetles at UGA and institutions in neighboring states. A collaboration of Drs. Kathrin Stanger-Hall (UGA Plant Sciences Dept.), Joe McHugh (UGA Entomology Dept. & UGCA Curator), and Luiz Silveira (Western Carolina State University) resulted in an NSF grant proposal submission this

spring to support research on neotropical lampyrids. If the project is funded, the UGCA specimens would be used extensively for research and training of students.

During his first visit to the UGCA, Dr. Silveira, a taxonomic expert of Lampyridae who has worked in museums around the world, remarked that he was "quite surprised by the size and geographical coverage of the collection." Silveira emphasized that it was especially noteworthy that the UGCA "has a large representation of western Amazon (eastern Ecuador and northwestern Brazil) lampyrids, something that I've never seen before. Also, it houses the largest series of Central American species I've seen so far."

Sadly, some of this valuable neotropical lampyrid material was collected

from habitats that have since been severely degraded or destroyed. Although upsetting, loss of habitat is one reason natural history museum collections are so important; they provide an historical record of which species occurred in specific locations at particular times in the past.

Even though the pandemic caused many obstacles for the operation of the museum, Kirsten Thulé's spring project has been a great success and will facilitate research on a fascinating group of insects for the foreseeable future.



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Michele Hatcher Editor

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Dr. Nancy Hinkle talks with Zac Summers from CBS46 News Atlanta about the impending emergence of the Brood X Cicadas in North Georgia. Hinkle described the insects emergence after 17 years and their deafening love song as "phenomenal and beneficial." As the red-eyed black insects work their way up out of the ground, they release sequestered nutrients which can then be accessed by organisms in the environment. After arriving topside, they mate, lay eggs and soon the newly hatched insects work their way back into the ground to begin the 17-year cycle again.

Students name quilt in entomological contest

UGA Entomology graduate students are a creative bunch!



In March an Atlanta quilter contacted the Department, asking that the entomology students help name her quilt, so we made it a contest. A call went out to all the graduate students, with a picture of the quilt, asking for their suggestions. Eight very appropriate responses were received and submitted to the quilter who selected, "The Painted Ladies," proposed by Emily Shelby.

Because the quilter considered all the entries

excellent, she sent tokens of her appreciation (and admiration) to be presented to all eight students. The awards ceremony was held on March 4th, with Entomology Department Head Dr. Kris Braman making the presentations. The quilter had handmade reversible UGA masks for each participant. Ms. Kilmark wanted to emphasize that she was crazy about all the titles and regretted that she could choose only one. "Painted Ladies" will be entered in competition at the annual Mountain Quiltfest in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, May 2021.



Calendar Reminders

May 13-15 — UGA Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony; Sanford Stadium — 7:30 pm

May 13 — CAES Spring Convocation (Virtual)

May 31 — Memorial Day Holiday

July 5 — UGA Holiday

August 18— Fall Semester Classes begin



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