

DPH Enrollment Continues to Grow

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2012



Fall 2011 Doctor of Plant Health Class at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln

THE MISSION OF THE DOCTOR OF PLANT HEALTH PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA—LINCOLN is to produce plant practitioners with broad expertise and experience across the various disciplines that impact plant health and plant management. These plant practitioners (plant doctors) will integrate from across this expertise to diagnose and solve plant health problems and to develop integrated plant and pest management systems that maximize the system’s economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

The 2011–2012 school year has started off great as the Doctor of Plant Health program added four new students to the roster.

Since January 2010, enrollment has grown from one student that first semester to ten students currently taking classes.

Another student is joining the program in January 2012.

One of the huge benefits now available for the graduate students was the completion of the DPH Graduate Student Center located in Plant Sciences Hall.

Originally a soils lab and remodeled in 2010, the new

student center is outfitted with individual personal workstations, computer lab, microscopes, reading room, and a conference room with Smart Board technology. It has often been used for student collaboration and teaching the Plant Health Colloquium.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the DPH office to see the center. Contact Nancy at 472-3365.

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEAE)

The Foundation for Environmental Agricultural Education (FEAE) was established in 1991 by the NAICC. As a 501 (c)(3) foundation, the FEAE conducts activities that go beyond the scope of NAICC.

The mission of FEAE is “to catalyze innovative education

and training for current and future professional crop management practitioners.” The FEAE understands the term “professional crop management practitioners” includes both researchers and crop consultants.

To carry out this mission the FEAE has supported the Doctor of Plant Health program at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

The FEAE in partnership with Syngenta and BASF provided support for two \$30,000 DPH graduate fellowships at UNL.

Inside this issue:

FEAE-Syngenta Fellowship Recipient—Kevin Korus	2
William J. Curtis Fellowship Recipient Profiles	2
USDA-NIFA National Needs Fellows Profiles	3
Becas Caldas Fellow—Carolina Camargo Gil	3

Students Present Posters at NPDN National Meeting

On November 6-9, 2011, UNL Doctor of Plant Health students Chris Borman, Laura Dotterer, Kevin Korus, and Tara Wood attended the Third National Meeting of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) in



Berkeley, CA. The meeting featured

symposia on the latest diagnostic technologies, nematology diagnostics, weeds and invasive species, new and emerging pests and diseases, and training the next generation of diagnosticians. In addition to the symposia and workshops, three of the students presented posters.

Kevin Korus presented "Evaluation of the GEN III OmniLog ID System for the detection of *Clavibacter michiganensis* subspecies." The GEN III OmniLog ID system uses carbon substrate utilization profiles to compare the metabolic requirements of bacterial isolates to those in an extensive database.

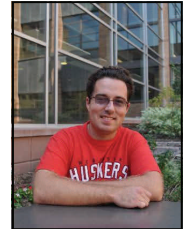
Tara Wood presented, "Identifying invasive potential of biofuel crops using weed risk assessments." Cellulosic biofuel has been identified as an integral part of the solution for national energy security and economic and environmental sustainability.

Laura Dotterer's poster presentation title was "Creating field scenarios to facilitate hands-on pest and disease diagnostic training for the Midwest agricultural community." Description: Crop Scene Investigation (CSI) has been providing a unique hands-on, in field diagnostic training program for the Midwest region since 2005. CSI is a part of the Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics offered through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension. These scenarios encourage discussion between the facilitator and the participants about the current issues in agriculture.

WILLIAM J. CURTIS FELLOWS

GREG BRITTAIN, received his B.S. in Zoology, summa cum laude from California Polytechnic University of Pomona.

With his undergraduate degree in Zoology, his original intention was to go into a career in wildlife management or wildlife biology, but his undergraduate research internship experience working for the Bureau of Land Management in Safford, AZ helped him decide the knowledge and experience of a DPH degree will help him achieve his goal of a career protecting our natural resources.



Greg Brittain

JEREMY WAGNITZ received his B.S. in Horticulture and M.S. in Entomology both from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Jeremy Wagnitz

Jeremy's career goal is to ultimately blend his interest in insect pollinators with his love for plants; which he says could lead him to a position as an extension educator at a University or in private industry.

"This is why the DPH program is a good match for me." - Jeremy Wagnitz

CHRISTOPHER BORMAN received his B.S. in Horticulture from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with an emphasis in production. His professional goal is to work in extension and consulting in horticulture.



Chris Borman

Currently Chris works with Earl May Nursery and Garden Center in Lincoln, NE to further his goal of a career as a problem solver and educator in the horticultural community.

With the changing seasons Chris says he gets a lot of experience over many different horticultural areas.

Kevin Korus, Syngenta-FAAE Industry Fellowship Recipient

Kevin Korus, Syngenta-FAAE Industry Recipient.

Kevin received his B.S. in Horticulture and M.S. in Agronomy (Plant Pathology)



Kevin Korus

both from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In addition to developing an exceptional background in all areas of plant science, Kevin

received several honors and awards while at UNL, participated in Extension activities, and is a member of the American Phytopathological Society and the National Horticultural Honor Society, Pi Alpha Xi.

Kevin is passionate about plant science, and his career goals include working "with industry professionals, growers and the general public through consulting and extension".

Kevin interned 2011 with University of Nebraska-Lincoln Professors Roch Gaussoin and Zac Reicher to gather pesticide information and compile a companion guide to the award winning Extension handbook "Integrated Turf Grass Management for the Northern Great Plains".



The companion guide compiled by Kevin will supplement the information found in the Extension handbook and provide growers and the general public with chemical control options for the common turf diseases found throughout the Midwest.

"My duties included helping customers diagnose problems in their home landscapes, suggesting a solution, and informing them of why it happened and how they may prevent it from happening again next year" - Chris Borman, DPH Student

USDA-NIFA National Needs Fellowship Recipients

TARA WOOD, USDA-NIFA NATIONAL NEEDS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



Tara Wood

Tara received her B.S. in Environmental Science and M.S. in Entomology from the University of Arkansas. She also worked at the University of Arkansas in outreach and extension addressing biofuels.

Tara's professional goals include being active in agricultural solutions and progress toward sustainable food, energy, and environmental issues.

Tara completed her first DPH curriculum required internship at Agrimanagement, a private crop consultant company in Washington's Yakima Valley, where over 40 commercial crops are grown every year.

Tara's duties at Agrimanagement included scouting and monitoring crops for insects and pathogens, and collecting soil and tissue samples for analysis. She was also responsible for taking note of the overall health of the crops, and discussing unusual observations with her supervisors to ensure appropriate diagnosis and recommendations. Tara was introduced to a great diversity of high valued crops, and truly enjoyed learning about the unique production and management systems associated with these crops.

LAURA DOTTERER—USDA-NIFA NATIONAL NEEDS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



Laura Dotterer

Laura is an Agriculture (Plant Health Management) B.S. graduate from Ohio State. Her career aspirations are to contribute to the agricultural industry by developing new strategies for crop

management and to help farmers overcome the challenges that they face.

Laura interned at the UNL Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC). There she was involved in two programs through the Southeast Research and Extension Center working with Mr. Keith Glewen. The programs included Soybean Management Field Days (SMFD) and Crop Scene Investigation (CSI) through the Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics. Laura gained experience doing plot treatments for various faculty, plot maintenance, scouting for pest problems, and collection of data. She was responsible for keeping accurate records and took photos of work performed at each field site.

At CSI, Laura's duties were to brainstorm and implement crop production problems as a result of the environment, genetic, pest, and crop nutrient interactions. These problems were conducted in plots for clinic participants to diagnose the problem.

DORI OSANTOWSKI, USDA-NIFA NATIONAL NEEDS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



Dori Osantowski

Dori received her B.S. in Insect Science and M.S. in Entomology both from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Her professional goal is to be an educator of agricultural and biological sciences in extension or within a small college, or to work in agricultural public relations.

Dori worked as an agronomy intern for Central Valley Ag in Columbus, NE and Monroe, NE. where she gained first-hand field experience and worked with growers. Throughout the summer she was exposed to taking stand counts of corn and soybean, identifying weeds and insects, examining fields for green snap, and working on a couple of herbicide issues.

Dori expressed gratitude that as part of the internship, she was able to work with different people and gain experience. As part of her internship Dori also wrote several intern newsletters on various weed and insect pests.

Over the summer Dori was also the coordinator and designer of an online teaching module project funded by the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC). She presented a progress report at the national Entomological Society of America meeting in November 2011.

Carolina Camargo Gil, Becas Caldas Fellow

Carolina Camargo Gil, is a Becas Caldas fellow, sponsored by COLCIENCIAS in collaboration with LASPAU: Academic and Professional Program for the Americas.



Carolina Camargo

Carolina is pursuing her M.S. degree in Entomology as well as her Doctor of Plant Health degree here at UNL.

Carolina joins us with a B.S. in Biology from

"Pontificia Javeriana" University, Bogota, Colombia. She gained experience at the Colombian Corporation of Agricultural Research, where she worked in pest management and plant insect interactions. She received an honorable mention by the University and the Entomological Society of Colombia for her undergraduate research.

At the end of the program, she plans to return to Colombia to support sustainable agricultural practices and pesticides regulation for specialty crops



Laura Dotterer gives instruction at SMFD.



Doctor of Plant Health

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

279E Plant Sciences Hall
PO Box 830933
Lincoln, NE 68583-0933

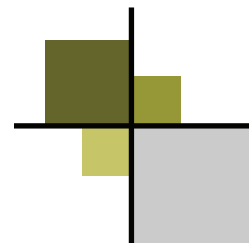
Phone: 402-472-3365
Fax: 402-472-3300
E-mail: dph@unl.edu

For additional information visit our website at:

www.dph.unl.edu



www.facebook.com/planthealthdoctors



Help us grow the Earl Raun Plant Health Fund



Dr. Earle S. Raun

The Earle S. Raun Doctor of Plant Health Fellowship Fund was created to honor Earle Raun's efforts in establishing UNL's Plant Health Program and his professional contributions to crop consulting and agricultural education.

In addition to his work at UNL, Dr. Raun created Pest Management Company– the first independent crop consulting firm in the Midwest specializing in research and advice on pest management and crop production, and was instrumental in founding the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC) and its Nebraska affiliate, Nebraska Independent Crop Consultant Association (NICCA).

Contributions to this fund will enable UNL to offer fellowships for Doctor of Plant Health students. To give, go to nufoundation.org/fundsearch and enter Earle S. Raun into the search window.

For more information, contact Ann Bruntz at 402-458-1176 or Gary Hein at 402-472-3345.

CAMPAIGN for
NEBRASKA
UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA FOUNDATION