

DPH degree Awarded to Dori Osantowski

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Dori Osantowski received her Doctor of Plant Health (D.P.H.) degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on Friday, December 6, 2013 at the new Pinnacle Bank Arena.

Dr. Osantowski is the second graduate from the Doctor of Plant Health program to receive her degree.

Dori's seminar and doctoral document was entitled "Pesticide Resistance Management and Soybean Response to Chloroacetamide Herbicides"

Dr. Osantowski has accepted a position with Syngenta in Seward, as a PPT Parent Characterization Scientist working with corn.



Dr. Dori Osantowski with Dr. Gary L. Hein

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.

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Student Recognitions



DPH Students Greg Brittain and Derek Pruitt were recognized at the CASNR/ARD Graduate Fellowship luncheon on October 31, 2013 at the East Campus Union.

Pictured (above) is Greg Brittain receiving recognition for the William J. Curtis Fellowship, presented by CASNR Dean Steven Waller



Derek Pruitt receiving his certificate of recognition for the William J. Curtis Fellowship, presented by CASNR Dean Steven Waller

DPH Graduates



In September 2013, Dr. Tara Wood began a position with the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M as the Program Coordinator for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Tara's responsibilities include serving as a liaison between the Regional Director for Sub-Saharan African programs and Project staff, as well as with Operations/Administrative Services staff.

Tara will be closely involved with project development and grant writing. Tara's knowledge and training in plant health will be utilized as the Institute works to expand their work in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Wood traveled to Rwanda on a project in December 2013.

Dr. Dori Osantowski recently accepted a position with Syngenta as a Production and Processing Technology (PPT) Parent Characterization Scientist, based in Seward, Nebraska.



Dori will manage early stage inbred corn characterization projects across multiple sites. Responsibilities will include experimental design, logistics management, consultation on project execution, workload assignments, data collection, and statistical analysis.

Dr. Osantowski will collaborate with PPT and Research and Development teams to design, prepare, plant, maintain, harvest, and analyze characterization trials.

BASF-FEAE Industry Fellowship Awarded

Awarded to DPH student Jon Derek Pruitt



Congratulations to Jon Derek Pruitt on receiving the BASF-FEAE Industry Fellowship . The FEAE in partnership with BASF will

provide support of \$30,000 towards Derek's DPH degree.

Jon "Derek" Pruitt received his B.S. in Biology and History from Southern Utah University and his M.S. in Entomology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Derek said "I have been involved to some extent in agriculture or horticulture all of my life. My grandfather was a farmer and we would work with him."

"I see the issues we will be facing as a country as it concerns food production in a short time and I want to be a part of the solution. We will be facing some major issues and I want to be an asset for good when dealing with those problems. "

Derek's career plans are to do crop consulting in the future. His M.S. in Entomology from UNL helped him see

that insects are a significant issue; when dealing with crops there is a lot more to it.

Derek sees the DPH program giving him a better understanding of the whole issue and all of the different interactions. The DPH program will provide a greater understanding of all of the factors at work in the crop ecosystem.

Derek said "I am interested in the DPH program because I see it as helping provide me with the knowledge and tools to effectively solve the problems that I will face as a crop consultant as well as the problems we will be facing in meeting the growing agricultural needs of our society."

The BASF-FEAE Industry Fellowship will help Derek carry out the mission of the Foundation for Environmental Agricultural Education (FEAE) to catalyze innovative education and training for current and future professional crop management practitioners.



MEET OUR STUDENTS

DPH Students share why they chose UNL and the DPH program



Salvador Ramirez II, D.P.H Student

• *B.S. in Environmental Toxicology, University of California – Riverside, Riverside, CA*

Why choose the DPH degree?

As an undergraduate and environmental toxicology major at the University of California Riverside, I noticed a disconnect not only between those practicing scientific methods and those developing them, but also between those developing those same scientific methods.

As I went from lecture to lecture, each presented what they believed to be a unique challenge or seemingly insurmountable obstacle that was supposed to be my generation's responsibility to overcome. Ironically, I noticed that these challenges and obstacles could be addressed using knowledge in other lectures, in classes seemingly unconnected.

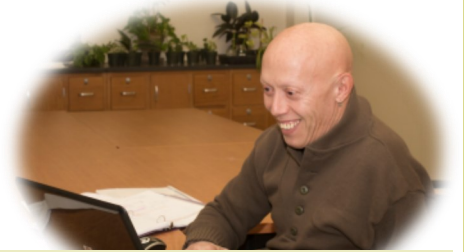
I became intrigued by the potential of working together in an interdisciplinary manner (if you know what the Doctor of Plant Health Program is you know where I am going with this) so I was very pleased when I read what this program stood for and the philosophy behind its ethos. I chose the Doctor of Plant Health program because I am excited by the idea of having a graduate level understanding

of the various facets of agriculture and food production, and by the idea that solutions to tomorrow's problems will increasingly become, interdisciplinary.

Why did you come to UNL?

When I arrived, and introduced myself as a proud Californian, many people would ask me in disbelief, "Why did you come to Nebraska?" Well, what really won me over was the support of Nancy Shoemaker and Dr. Gary Hein in my visit during spring break. I was happy with the environment I observed on my visit; an environment that fostered scientific growth through a structured curriculum of classes, but an environment that fostered individuality regarding how to apply that knowledge once acquired, something Dr. Hein is very passionate about when we meet.

So far I am more than happy with my decision to attend the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, except for the fact of how much red-colored clothing I have had to buy. As a Californian, I have never seen snow, so we'll see how that goes this winter.



Kenneth J. Roché D.P.H Student

• *B.S. in Biology—Metropolitan State University of Denver, CO.*

Why choose the DPH degree?

I chose the DPH program because of the interdisciplinary non-specialization approach that the program offers. My particular interests are focused on designing and demonstrating sustainable small-scale food production in urban/peri-urban settings (e.g. aquaponics, hoop-houses and year-around food production) that will bring wholesome, nutritious food to those that need it most and not just those that can afford it. This leads me to look at food production in an ecological light, agroecology if you will, and the DPH program suits my needs toward that end.

Why did you come to UNL?

There are only two universities in the states that offer programs like DPH. I feel that with the diminishing of rural communities and the increase of "food deserts" occurring in the Midwest, I could make a greater contribution and demonstrate alternatives in food production systems in a world plagued by industrialized agriculture.



Justin McMechan, D.P.H Student & Entomology Ph.D. candidate

- *Associate's Degree in Crop Production & Agriculture – Manitoba, Canada*
- *B.S. in Agronomy – University of Minnesota, Crookston, MN*
- *M.S. in Entomology – University of Nebraska–Lincoln.*

Why choose the DPH degree?

I chose the Doctor of Plant Health degree because it provides a foundation for effective dissemination of complex biological information across a wide range of disciplines. My interest in a DPH degree began long before I knew that the program existed. As an undergrad, I wanted a program that would allow me to approach field problems with a broad diagnostic perspective. In addition, I wanted the biological information necessary not only to diagnose the problem, but provide long-term sustainable management options. The DPH degree offers all of this by taking a multi-disciplinary approach to diagnostics and test verification techniques. The core courses within the program require a comprehensive biological understanding and a consideration for interactions between agricultural disciplines to develop sustainable management techniques. I am confident that the DPH degree will provide me with the tools necessary to confront today's broad agricultural issues.

Why did you come to UNL?

I came to UNL in 2009 for a Master of Science in Entomology. For me, the attraction to UNL was the quiet and relaxing atmosphere of east campus. It was clear, even during my first visit to UNL that faculty, staff and students were very approachable. Beyond the university, the city of Lincoln provides all the essentials, all the while offering a small town atmosphere.



Doctor of Plant Health

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

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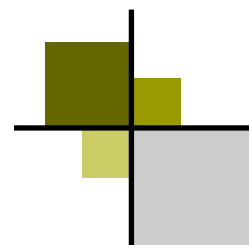
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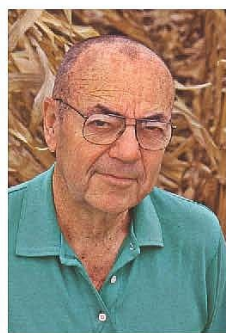
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Help us grow the Earle Raun Plant Health Fund



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.

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