

DPH degree Awarded

Volume 4, Issue 2  
June 2015 Edition



*Congratulations Dr. Haley Oser!  
With Dr. Gary Hein (DPH Director) and Dr. Bill Baxendale*

**H**aley Heather Oser was awarded the Doctor of Plant Health (D.P.H.) degree from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln on Friday, May 8, 2015. The ceremony was held at Pinnacle Bank Arena, Lincoln, NE.

Haley Oser received her Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Biology/Botanical Sciences from Metropolitan State University of Denver in 2010. Haley was named a William Curtis Fellowship recipient upon entering the D.P.H. program in January, 2012. Haley gained professional experience through an internship with University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension working on a project developed with the Nebraska Corn Growers Association and the Nebraska Soybean Association. She attended seminars, participated in promotional leadership educational and outreach events and professional job shadowing experience with a representative from Pioneer. Haley said “the overall

diversity of this internship provided me with a better understanding of the business, policy, and culture of the agricultural industry...”

In 2014, Haley added experience with an internship at MillerCoors – Golden Malting, in Golden, CO. Haley learned about sustainability efforts in the barley production system through MillerCoors; the barley breeding program, and the business of barley. She learned how producers are contacted and engaged, and what quality assurance processes are applied to produce quality of grain, with desirable traits for the production of MillerCoors products.

Upon graduation Haley will begin a full-time position with Miller/Coors as a regional agronomist in the Golden, CO. and she will work to determine and establish sustainable malt barley production practices. Haley is excited about returning home to Colorado.

**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.

**Inside this issue:**

DPH Steering Committee DPH Club Program Staff	2
Student Internships	3
Internships, & DPH Graduate Updates	4
May 2015 Graduation & DPH Graduate Update	5
Earle S. Raun Fellowship information—support the DPH program	6

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Dr. Roger Elmore, Professor, Agronomy and Horticulture Department

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Dr. Chuck Francis, Professor, Agronomy and Horticulture Department

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Dr. John Lindquist, Professor, Agronomy and Horticulture Department

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Gregory Brittain, Jr., Treasurer

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*DPH Program Staff*

Dr. Gary L. Hein, DPH Director

Nancy Shoemaker, Administrative Associate

## DPH Student Internships 2015



**Joshua Miller** is working on a grant funded by DOW AgroSciences to start a new diagnostic and demonstration garden on campus to be run by graduate students. Josh is coordinating the effort and will be leading a team of graduate students from different departments to work together on the project. They are

planting tomatoes, zucchini and edamame and will attempt to simulate common insect, disease and other management problems that can occur in a backyard garden.

The goal of the project is two-fold: 1) To create a project that can be used as an outreach program to the public, and 2) create an environment where students from different disciplines can work together to broaden their knowledge in other fields of agricultural sciences and to help in their ability to communicate agricultural principles to both professionals and lay persons.



**Salvador Ramirez, II** continues his research for Drs. John Lindquist and Rhae Drijber on the CERES Trust Organic Research Initiative concerning diverse cover crop strategies for improved yield and weed suppression in organic cropping systems for the western corn belt. Sal hopes to present results at the 2015 ASA-CSSA-SSSA meeting.



**Jon "Derek" Pruitt** will be working at Monsanto's Gothenburg Water Utilization Learning Center in Gothenburg, NE. The goal of the Water Utilization Learning Center is helping farmers to achieve yield and productivity goals with an emphasis on water utilization.

This is accomplished through a three-pronged approach of utilizing traditional plant breeding methods to take advantage of native genes, using the additive impact of biotech traits and utilizing the benefits of different agronomic components to maximize yield and productivity.

The focus of the center is learning, and Derek will be involved in various components of the research as well as the educational components of the mission of the Learning Center.



**Kenneth "Kenny" Roché** will spend his 2015 summer internship working for Research Designed for Agriculture (RD4AG) a commercial research organization that executes third party research for clients exploring new agricultural products.

RD4AG test and analyzes new technologies that push our understanding of agricultural sciences. Kenny will work with a variety of crops to include; field peas, wheat, but primarily canola in Montana and cotton in Arizona.



UNL Extension—This summer **Anthony "Justin" McMechan** will be working with Dr. Roger Elmore, Professor and Extension Cropping Systems Agronomist at the University of Nebraska. Justin's primary responsibility will be to conduct field and greenhouse studies on early season hail in corn and it's interaction with Goss's wilt. In addition, Justin will be involved in research

on cover crops, green snap in corn, crop management diagnostics clinic and extension field days throughout the summer.



**Gregory "Greg" Brittain, Jr.** is working for California Agricultural Research, Inc. in Fresno, CA.

Greg will gain experience in applied field research for a variety of crops and the appropriate procedures for research development, planning, and execution and reporting results. Greg will become familiar with the crops grown in the Central Valley

region of CA and the agronomic practices practiced there. Greg plans to graduate in December 2015.



Plant Pathology—**Kevin Korus** will be Coordinating the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic this summer. Along with his regular duties as the coordinator of the clinic, Kevin will be processing beech tree samples from Michigan looking for a canker fungus called *Nectria*. Kevin will be using real-time PCR for the detection of the fungus and the work conducted will be utilized to complete his internship.

## DPH Student Internships 2015—continued

Gary Stone continues his work as a UNL Nebraska Extension Educator and will be working on his internship in these areas: Horticultural calls: Trees, turf, landscape and gardens; Agricultural calls: Area crops: winter wheat, corn, alfalfa, sugar beets, dry beans, sunflowers, millet, etc.; Invasive / noxious weed management calls: Canada thistle, bindweed, musk thistle, Scotch thistle, Russian olive, salt cedar, cheatgrass / downy brome; Working with the UNL PSEP Pesticide Training group



- Cheatgrass
  1. Part of a four-member Nebraska Extension cheatgrass management control challenge team. The challenge was issued by the University of Wyoming to see how the teams would manage and restore a plot of ground infested with cheatgrass and other weeds. This is a long-term project which will end mid-summer 2017. The objectives are to remove the cheatgrass and restore to a natural habitat. Each of the 11 different teams in the challenge will develop, record, and implement their management plans. Education (extension) is also a part of the challenge. It will be fun and a great learning experience to see what each team comes up with and how they work.
  2. Part of a Nebraska Extension working team to host a cheatgrass workshop and field tour on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the UNL PHREC in Scottsbluff. Chemical plots were established last fall in preparation for the tour. Speakers will be Mitch Stephenson, the new PHREC Range and Forage Specialist, Brian Mealor, UWYO Range Weed Specialist, and Cheryl Schwartzkopf, Converse County Weed and Pest Supervisor. The workshop will be held in the morning and the tour in the afternoon. A second plot tour will be held the following day near Alliance and Rushville, NE for those ranchers in that area of the Panhandle. If this is a success, more plots will be established for a second meeting in 2016.
- Invasive weed management

Gary is a member with several weed management groups in Wyoming. Will continue to work with the Goshen County Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) group on Russian olive and salt cedar management / removal on the North Platte River. A tree planting / restoration project is scheduled to take place May 21<sup>st</sup> on the Horse Creek tributary to the North Platte River. Will also continue to work with the Upper North Platte River Weed Management Area (UNPRWMA) partnership. This partnership encompasses the North Platte River drainage in Wyoming, nearly one quarter of the state.

## DPH Graduate Updates:



### Dr. Dori Porter—D.P.H. (2013)

Dori is employed by Sengenta as a PPT Parent Characterization Scientist.



### Dr. Laura Dotterer—D.P.H. (2014)

Laura is employed at DuPont Pioneer in Integrated Operations Education as an Emerging Leader.



### Dr. Jeremy John Wagnitz—D.P.H. (2014)

Jeremy is employed with BASF as a Ag Biologist II in Durham, NC.

*Did you know...  
The DPH program has a 100%  
employment rate upon graduation!*



### Dr. Tara Wood—D.P.H. (2013)

Tara continues her employment with the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M as the Program Coordinator for Sub-Saharan Africa. Tara currently works on a unique, Public-Private Sector Partnership between USAID, the Borlaug Institute, SC Johnson Co., The University of Rwanda, Rwanda's National Agricultural Exports Board and Radio Lifeline.

Faculty and DPH students showed up to celebrate the graduation of Dr. Haley Oser. Haley is the sixth DPH graduate since inception of the program in 2009.



## DPH Graduate Updates...



### Dr. Christopher Borman— D.P.H. (2014)

Chris received his DPH degree December 2014.

Chris gained professional experience by participating in internships with Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories in Charlotte, NC. And The Morton Arboretum in Chicago, IL. Chris now

employed as an Arborist with the New York City Urban Forest Service.

As a Forester working for New York City Parks and Recreation Department, Chris is responsible for caring for and protecting trees that fall under the city's jurisdiction. This includes all street trees and trees in parks. A large part of his job is working with contractors that need to do work on or around trees, and ensuring they follow all of Parks' Standards.

Other parts of Chris's job include performing tree risk assessments on trees in the parks, responding to citizen inquiries on trees, and performing inspections on trees that may have issues. This year, the Parks department will be conducting a tree census of the city, which hasn't been done in 10 years. Much of this will be carried out by trained citizen volunteers who will use a special app for smartphones. Chris will also be involved in some of the database management of the project.





# Doctor of Plant Health

*University of Nebraska–Lincoln*

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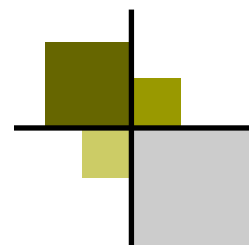
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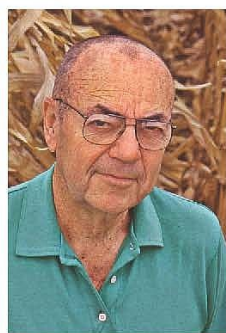
***[www.dph.unl.edu](http://www.dph.unl.edu)***



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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](http://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  
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