

DPH degrees Award

Volume 3, Issue 2
May 2014 Edition

Congratulations Drs. Laura Dotterer and Jeremy Wagnitz!



Drs. Laura Dotterer and Jeremy Wagnitz, with Dr. Gary Hein (DPH Director).

Laura Dotter and Jeremy Wagnitz received their Doctor of Plant Health (D.P.H.) degrees from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln on Friday, May 9, 2013 at the Pinnacle Bank Arena.

Laura Jo Dotter received her Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Agriculture from The Ohio State University in 2009. Laura was named an USDA-NIFA National Needs Fellowship recipient upon entering the D.P.H. program in August, 2010.

Laura’s seminar and doctoral document was entitled “*Optimizing Water Use through Management of Spatiotemporal Variation Using Site Specific Technologies*”.

Laura gained professional experience with DuPont

Pioneer as an Agronomy Research Intern as well as participating in an internship with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension with the Nebraska On-Farm Research Program.

Laura has accepted a full-time position with DuPont Pioneer as a regional agronomist in the Emerging Leader Program in Dysart, IA.

Jeremy Wagnitz’s seminar and doctoral document was entitled “*Biopesticide use in IPM for Low Desert Vegetable Production*”.

Jeremy John Wagnitz received his Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Horticulture (2007) and Master’s (M.S.) in Entomology (2009), both from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He was awarded the Holling Family

Award for Teaching Excellence and a member of American Association of Professional Apiculturists, Entomological Society of America, and Gamma Sigma Delta.

Jeremy gained professional experience with Research Designed for Agriculture (RD4AG) as a Research Biologist Intern; and with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension working on a Soybean Translational On-Farm Research Project.

Jeremy’s career goal is to ultimately blend his interest in insect pollinators with his love for plants. Jeremy has accepted a full-time position with BASF as a Ag Biologist II in Durham, NC.

Best of luck Laura and Jeremy!

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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Recognition, Awards and Fellowships



Earle S. Raun 1924 - 2009

Earle S. Raun Fellowship

At the April 30, 2014 Doctor of Plant Health Graduate reception, DPH students Christopher Borman and Haley Oser were awarded 2014 Earle S. Raun Fellowships.

Earle's wife, Georgia, and daughter Nancy Raun, were on hand to help present the fellowships.

Chris will be serving an internship with The Morton Arboretum in Chicago, IL. and plans to use his fellowship to assist with travel expenses associated with his internship.

Haley plans to use the funds to assist in attending the 2014 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting in Long Beach, CA.



APS Browning Plant Medicine & Health Travel Award



CASNR Dean Steven Waller and DPH Director Gary L. Hein with Haley Oser— Fellowship Recipient

For the third year in a row, a Doctor of Plant Health student was awarded the APS Artie Browning Travel Award.

This year's recipient is Haley Oser. Haley plans to use the \$500 award to attend the 2014 IPM Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.



BASF-FEAE Industry Fellowship

Awarded to DPH student Jon Derek Pruitt

Jon Derek Pruitt, BASF-FEAE NAICC Industry Fellowship recipient, graduated with a B.S. in History/Biology (2007) from Southern Utah University and M.S. in Entomology (2013) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

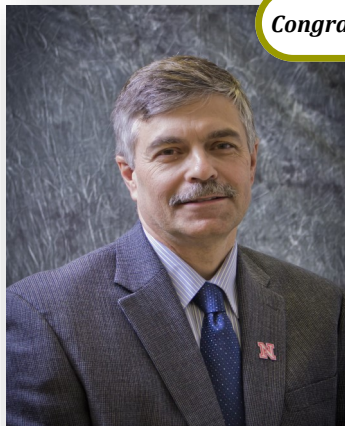


Before coming to UNL Derek worked with a local extension office to survey and use that information to develop an effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to help alfalfa producers control weevil populations.

Derek is fluent in Spanish and lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 2001-2003. He has personal experience in horticultural areas such as fruit and berry cultivation; and agricultural experience working with the planting, care, and harvesting of agronomic crops.

Derek is married to Emily and has two children, Oscar and Edgar.

Congratulations to Dr. Gary L. Hein, DPH Director



Dr. Gary Hein has been selected to receive the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teaching Award of Merit Certificate. Dr. Hein was recognized for this distinction at the CASNR Week Recognition Banquet held at the Nebraska East Union on April 13, 2014. **Congratulations to DPH Director, Dr. Gary Hein!!!**

DPH Student Updates

D.P.H. students are employed during the summer to fulfill their internship requirements for the Doctor of Plant Health degree. Here are descriptions of who, where and what internship eligible students will be doing this summer!



Christopher (Chris) Borman is serving his internship with The Morton Arboretum in Chicago, IL.

Chris' learning objectives are to improve his understanding of the ecology of the urban and suburban environments.

Chris' duties include meeting with municipal arborists and foresters and other green industry professionals for sample collection and plant health troubleshooting. He will assist with weekly insect and disease scouting, diagnostics, developing management plans and reporting. Chris said *"I plan to use this knowledge so I become a stronger plant health practitioner"*.



This summer **Gregory (Greg) Brittain, Jr.** is working for Dr. Robert Cating at the Extension Plant Pathology Lab for Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon.

His duties include: monitoring and ordering supplies; preparing media and soil samples for use or analysis; designing and running PCR's for diagnosis as well as using traditional tests and keying out pathogens based on morphology; and handling samples, collecting field history as well as relaying results to growers. Greg will be given the opportunity to diagnose, write up and make recommendations for several "unknown" cases.

Greg will participate in field work, field days and Master Gardening sessions. In August, he will present a seminar about his internship experience, including interesting cases and a summary of what experiences he gained.



Anthony Justin McMechan is pursuing joint D.P.H. and Ph.D. degrees. His Ph.D. research is focused on field-based studies covering difference aspects of the overwintering ecology of wheat curl mite.



Joshua (Josh) Miller will be busy working on two separate projects:

Justin's internship with UNL Extension consists of a series of educational projects. These experiences include applied research, face-to-face programming and development of electronic media.

The first is his internship that is being funded by the Nebraska Soybean Board. The objective

of the project is to facilitate the access of farmers to results of research being conducted by professors at the university. There is a lot of great research being done in Nebraska, but it needs to be disseminated to growers so they can make better informed management decisions. This project will be ongoing through 2015.

Secondly, Josh will be coordinating with other UNL researchers the implementation of the Soybean Management Field Days. His roles and responsibilities will be focused on a large study looking at variables including row spacing, seed treatments, fungicides, insecticides and nutrients. He will be using crop sensors to measure the vegetative indexes of the plots to add another layer of data to the analyses.



Haley Oser's summer internship is with MillerCoors Brewing Company as a graduate intern. She will work with one of their agronomist in their barley program to learn about barley

production and how they implement sustainability within their practices. Haley will also work in the quality assurance lab and malting facility. This opportunity will allow Haley to work at the interface of production and processing. Having this experience will enable her to better understand what happens with agricultural products once they leave the field and reinforce the importance of the quality of the products.



This summer **Jon "Derek" Pruitt** is working at Midwest Research in York, NE doing contract research.

Derek's responsibilities will primarily be

involved in trait trials that are conducted with Monsanto. Most of the trait trials will be dealing with transgenic corn. In addition, Derek will be involved in research on corn and soybeans as well as vegetables.



Kenneth (Kenny) Roché is serving an internship with USDA-APHIS PPQ in Pierre, SD.

Kenny will assist PPQ in the trapping efforts for emerald

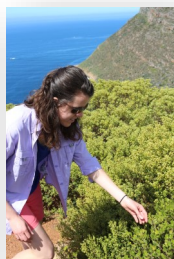
ash borer, pests unique to the grape commodity survey, and Japanese beetle. Kenny will work with DNA for gypsy moth trapping and assist in nursery inspections. He will also assist in the data preparation. Kenny anticipates being involved in surveys for grasshopper, noxious weed biological control and barberry.



Salvador Ramierz, It is conducting 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. By extracting fatty acid methyl esters (FAMEs) from soils samples collected from diverse cover crop systems, Sal will attempt to gain insight into factors that promote AMF communities and hopes to present the results at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA meeting in November 2014.

International trips...



DPH graduate student, Laura Dotterer presented "Optimizing nitrogen and Water Use through Management of Spatiotemporal Variation using Site Specific Technologies" at the University of Cape Town, South Africa — at University of Cape Town, South Africa. March 19 to April 2, 2014.



GARY STONE IS AN EXTENSION EDUCATOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PANHANDLE RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER AND A DPH STUDENT. Here is what he is doing this summer...

"Early spring I have done commercial and private pesticide applicator training, chemigation applicator training and have

conducted Master Gardener training. This summer I will be answering extension calls relating to turf, trees, landscapes and gardens as well as soil water management issues and education for producers.

I will be assisting Dr. Jeff Bradshaw and his staff with research on the wheat stem sawfly and the spotted wing fruit fly [Drosophila suzukii (Matsumura)].

I will also be assisting Dr. Gary Hergert and Dr. Murali Darapuneni with research using "spent lime" from the area sugar beet factories on crop production fields in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska.

I will be attending several meetings and tours related to rangeland / pasture cheatgrass management and Russian olive and salt cedar management on the North Platte River in Wyoming."

As time permits, Gary takes "new" and "old" international graduate students located at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center on one-day tours of the Panhandle and eastern Wyoming, giving them some background and history of the area. Nearly all enjoy seeing the "wide open spaces" of the west, the scenery, wildlife and people. Gary will participate at county fair for a week, the first part of August. He will also be writing articles and submitting photos for the UNL CropWatch and the UNL DPH web page / Facebook page.

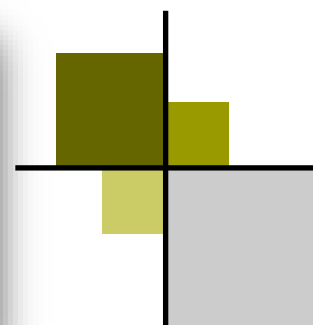
Travel & Awards

Jon Derek Pruitt and Jeremy Wagnitz attended the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC) conference in January in New Orleans, LA. They attended seminars, presentations and networked with potential employers from across the United States.



Congratulations to Justin McMechan for receiving 1st Place for his Ph.D. paper presentation, "Establishing risk for alternative over-summering hosts for wheat curl mites and associated viruses" co-authored with Dr. Gary Hein at the Entomological Society of America (ESA) North Central Branch meeting, March 9-12, 2014 in Des Moines, IA

DPH Graduate Update...



Dr. Tara Wood (May 2013 UNL DPH graduate) works with Texas A & M at the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture.

Among other activities, Tara is working on the USAID and SC Johnson funded Rwanda Pyrethrum Program (RPP), which has the overall objective of enhancing the livelihoods of pyrethrum farmers. The pyrethrum flower is a chrysanthemum cultivated for the extraction of naturally produced pyrethrins, which are refined and used in insect pest control products (e.g., RAID). Tara focuses on designing and implementing research aimed at identifying high performing pyrethrum flower varieties, as well as cultural practices that increase yield and pyrethrum quality.

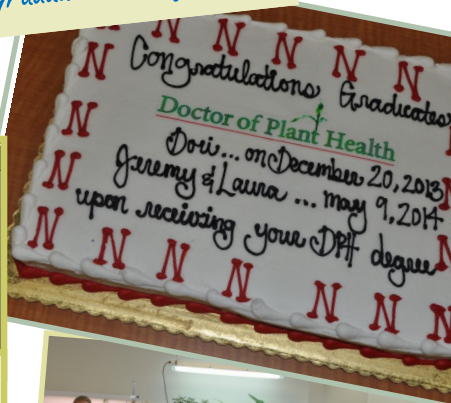
CELEBRATING THE D.P.H. PROGRAM

The DPH "Black Bag" is awarded when a student is halfway through their DPH degree requirements
Here are a few photos of this year's recipients

2013-2014 D.P.H. Graduates Recognized



2013-14 Graduates—Jeremy Wagnitz, Dori Osantowski & Laura Dotterer



D.P.H. Black Bag Ceremony



2014 Black Bag Recipients



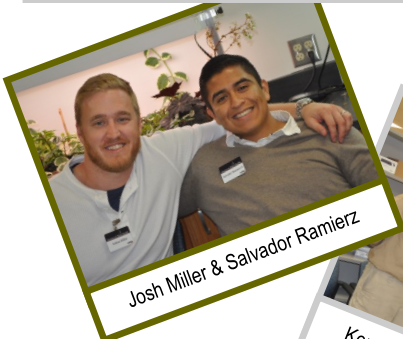
CASNR Dean Steve Waller, Nancy and Georgia Raun and DPH Director Gary Hein



Kenny Roché receives Black Bag



Josh Miller receives Black Bag



Josh Miller & Salvador Ramierz



Derek Pruitt receives Black Bag



Kenny Roché, Chris Borman, Justin McMechan, Greg Brittain & Kevin



Fellowship with CASNR Dean Steve Waller



Haley Oser receives Black Bag



2013 Raun Fellowship recipient, Kenny Roché visits with Earle's daughter and wife,



Doctor of Plant Health

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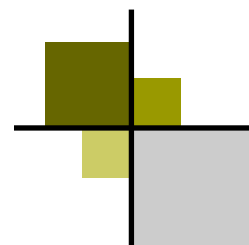
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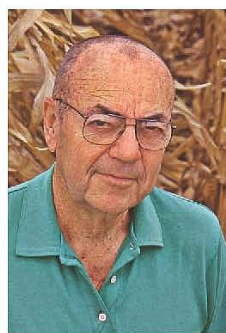
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Help us grow the Earle Raun Plant Health Fund



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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