

Sensilla

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MAY NEWS

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May 2021

OSU

Entomology and Plant Pathology



Noble Research Center for Agricultural
and Renewable Natural Resources

May Calendar of Events

Finals Week	May	3-7
Graduate Commencement	May	7
Undergraduate Commencement	May	8
Paper and Poster Submissions Due for SWB ESA	May	14
Faculty Meeting	May	21
Memorial Day – University Holiday	May	31

June Calendar of Events

Southwestern Branch ESA Virtual Meeting	Jun	28-29
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Special Notice

Dr. Larry J. Littlefield, retired Professor and Head of the Department of Plant Pathology at OSU, died on April 19 in Seattle, Washington. A full necrology will appear in the June issue of Sensilla.

On the Move

Jace Colvin left her position as a Laboratory Technician with **Dr. Astri Wayadande** on April 16 because the project funding ended. Jace has been assisting with a Department of Defense DARPA project, providing colony care, and working with predator/insect vector interactions. She is sending out applications for graduate school.

May Graduates

Camille Carey has titled her M.S. thesis, “Sugarcane Aphid-Forage Sorghum Interactions and Effects of Abiotic and Biotic Conditions.” Her advisor has been **Dr. Wyatt Hoback**. Camille will continue to work with Drs. Hoback and **Scott Armstrong** as a Student Lab Assistant at the USDA until fall when she begins her Ph.D. candidacy through a fellowship in the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries at Texas A&M University. She will work with Drs. Doug Tolleson, Morgan Treadwell, and Bill Fox with Texas Agrilife Extension and her research will focus on arthropods in rangeland under livestock pressure and prescribed fire. Camille received her B.S. degree in Horticulture from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas in 2019.

Alexis Coles is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She is applying for medical school.

Taylor Coles is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She is applying for graduate school.

Katelynn Montgomery Eddy is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She is searching for employment in the area of entomology.

Alex Harman has titled his M.S. thesis, “Updated Distributions of Oklahoma Grasshoppers (Orthoptera: Acrididae) and Notes on *Melanopus macchungi*.” **Dr. Wyatt Hoback** has been his advisor. Alex will begin his Ph.D. candidacy with Dr. Hoback on May 8 and his research will focus on Oklahoma grasshoppers. Alex will also be our Insect Diagnostician and Museum Curator for the department. Alex received his B.S. degree in Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 2019.

Brandon Henriquez is completing his B.S. degree in Entomology. He plans to work for the rest of this year and then apply for graduate school or find a permanent position.

Elise Howard is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She is looking for a job or an apprenticeship with a funeral home.

Breana Jordan is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She will be taking a short break from school and then begin working for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rayne Key is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She will be starting an internship with APHIS PPQ where she will conduct trapping for gypsy moths and a couple other invasive species. Rayne is also looking for a permanent position.

Kristin McKay is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She will work with the USDA Wildlife Services this summer on a project to prevent the spread of plague in prairie dogs. She has been accepted for the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine master’s program in Comparative Biomedical Sciences with a focus in infectious disease and parasitology.

Morgan Partin-Topper is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She is moving to Norman, Oklahoma and will work for Resonant Cultivation, an organic cannabis producing company, in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.

Blaine Patton is completing his B.S. degree in Entomology. He is applying for graduate school in Texas.

Bailee Posey is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She will join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after graduation.

Carrie Pratt has titled her M.S. thesis, “Bacterial Communities in Carrion and Burying Beetle (Silphidae) Secretions.” Her advisor has been **Dr. Wyatt Hoback**. Carrie will begin her Ph.D. candidacy this fall at OSU with Dr. Noha Youssef in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. Her research will focus on herbivore anaerobic gut fungi mycobiomes. Carrie received her B.S. degree in Biology from the University of North Dakota in 2018.

Katelyn Rodriguez is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She is applying for graduate school.

T.K. Wallace is completing his B.S. degree in Entomology. He will join the U.S. Navy after graduation.

Brady Welch is completing his B.S. degree in Entomology. He is considering graduate school or finding employment.

Congratulations!

Dr. Jack Dillwith, Professor Emeritus, received the Alumnus of the Year Award from the Cimarron Council of the Boy Scouts of America on April 22. This award recognizes alumni of the BSA who, over a sustained period of time, have used the skills and values they learned through their association with Scouting to make significant and long-lasting contributions to our nation through their careers, avocations, and community service at a council level.

Dr. Haobo Jiang received a 2020 Regents Distinguished Research Award from OSU. The winners must demonstrate a distinguished record of past and continuing excellence in research and be recognized nationally and internationally. Dr. Jiang's research focuses on insect biochemistry and molecular biology. His work identifies and characterizes proteins and factors that regulate the innate immune response in insects. He has maintained an impressive record of obtaining external grant funding for his research program with nearly \$5 million in continuous NIH funding.

Kristin McCay placed second for her undergraduate oral research presentation at the OSU Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center Virtual Research Symposium on April 6. Kristin also received a 2020-2021 Wentz Research Scholar Award with **Dr. Bruce Noden** as her faculty mentor.

Melissa Reed placed second for her graduate oral research presentation at the OSU Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center Virtual Research Symposium on April 6.

Zach Royko was in the top five Outstanding Student of the Year nominees.

Ethan Shaw received a 2021-2022 Wentz Research Scholar Award with **Dr. Wyatt Hoback** as his faculty mentor.

Dr. Andrine Shufran, OSU Insect Adventure Coordinator, and Dr. Lou Anella, Director of The Botanic Garden at OSU, received a Women for OSU Partnering to Impact grant for their "Partnering to Impact Nature Trail."

Salome Suarez was a recipient of a Women's Faculty Council Ph.D. Student Research Award.

Autumn Sutton received a 2020-2021 Wentz Research Scholar Award with Dr. Punidan Jeyasingh as her faculty mentor.

Alumni News

Grace Levy (M.S. 2020) began working as an Extension Technician for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Dallas, Texas on April 1. She is working with Janet Hurley on a project to create a program to provide homeowners with education about implementing IPM in and around their private residences. She will also assist with their school IPM education classes. Grace received her B.S. degree in Biology from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa in 2018 and her M.S. degree in Entomology from OSU in 2020 under the direction of **Dr. Ali Zarrabi**.

Dr. Stephanie Rogers (Ph.D. 2011) has been selected to receive the Ferguson College of Agricultural Alumni Society Early Career Achievement Award which will be presented on September 2 during the Ferguson College of Agriculture New Student Scholarship Reception. As of April 2021, Dr. Rogers is the Acting Principal Director of Biotechnology and Director of Biotechnology Initiatives with the United States Department of Defense and was previously their Senior Science and Technology Advisor for Biotechnology since July 2020. Prior to that, she worked for 8½ years in various positions at In-Q-Tel in Arlington, Virginia. Stephanie received her B.S. degree in Biochemistry from OSU in 2007 and her Ph.D. in Entomology and Plant Pathology from OSU in 2011 under the direction of **Dr. Jacques Fletcher**.

May Birthdays

James Webster	May 1
Carrie Meeks	May 13
Bethany Mitchell	May 15
Dan White Eagle	May 16
Natalie Harrison	May 19
Hassan Melouk	May 19
John Foster	May 22
Stephen Marek	May 23
Devin Medrano	May 31