

## Departmental Seminars

**NEW DAY and TIME – Friday at 2:00 p.m.**

Seminars are held at 2:00 p.m. in Room 216-218 NRC.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Title</u>
Aug. 26	<b>Dr. Justin Talley</b>	State of the Department

## On the Move

**Zainab Alhashimy** left her position as Laboratory Technologist for **Dr. George Opit** on July 29. She began this working in this position on July 25, 2021. Zainab received her B.S. degree in Chemistry from the University of Mosul in Iraq and her B.S. degree in University Studies from OSU in 2021.

**Cora Vandaveer** left her position as Research Specialist at the Tick Rearing Facility in June, a position she has held since March 2017, to go work on a ranch in southern Oklahoma. She began working full-time as a Laboratory Technologist at the Tick Rearing Facility on October 3, 2014, and had also worked there as a part-time Laboratory Technician beginning in May 2013. Cora received her B.S. degree in Animal Science from OSU in 2014.

## August Birthdays

<b>Norman Elliott</b>	August 1
<b>John Sauer</b>	August 1
<b>Easton Fraser</b>	August 15
<b>Kevin Shelton</b>	August 19
<b>Richard Berberet</b>	August 21
<b>Kolbe Blackford</b>	August 22
<b>Kitty Cardwell</b>	August 23
<b>Don Arnold</b>	August 30
<b>Bill Barnes</b>	August 30
<b>Kay Scheets</b>	August 30
<b>Jeff Hope</b>	August 31

# Sensilla

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## **AUGUST NEWS**

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## August Calendar of Events

APS Annual Meeting	Aug 6-10
Classes Begin	Aug 22
Seminar – <b>Dr. Talley</b>	Aug 26
Virtual Submissions Due for ESA Annual Meeting	Aug 31

## September Calendar of Events

Labor Day – University Holiday	Sep 5
Early Bird Registration Deadline for ESA Annual Meeting	Sep 19

## Summer Graduate

**Zelong Miao** titled his Ph.D. dissertation, “The Innate Immune Response Pathways and Digestion in the Larva of *Manduca sexta*.” His advisor has been **Dr. Haobo Jiang**. Zelong has accepted a Postdoctoral Fellow position at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, and will be leaving OSU on August 3. He received his B.S. degree in Biology and his M.S. degree in Physiology, both from the Henan Normal University in China, in 2016 and 2018, respectively.

## Retirement

**Dr. Ali Zarrabi** will retire as a Research Professor on August 5. Ali was born in Iran and came to the U.S.A. in 1975. He received his B.S. degree in Agriculture from Hamadan Agriculture College in 1975, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agronomy (Crop Science) from OSU in 1976 and 1982, respectively, under the direction of Dr. Lewis Edwards.

His working career at OSU began as a Temporary Professional in the Department of Agronomy for the Soybean Breeding Project with Dr. Lewis Edwards from August 1, 1982 to December 9, 1983. Beginning on December 13, 1983, he joined the Department of Entomology as a Senior Agriculturist and Project Supervisor of the Legume Insect Project working on projects with alfalfa and the blue alfalfa aphid plus other major alfalfa aphids important to Oklahoma until June 30, 2001 and then served as a Research Analyst and Project Coordinator for the Insect-Plant-Interaction Laboratory from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2008, both with **Dr. Richard Berberet**. He then became a Research Analyst and Laboratory Director for the Medical Veterinary Entomology Laboratory where his research focused on the effects of plant species on mosquito larval growth and survival with **Dr. Michael Reiskind** from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2012. From July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2013, he was a Research Analyst and Laboratory Director of the Canola-Wheat IPM Project with **Dr. Kris Giles**, where he screened canola for resistance to turnip aphids and evaluated the efficacy of insecticides for control of canola aphids. He became an Assistant Research Professional on July 1, 2013 and joined the Wheat Improvement Team to evaluate resistance to bird-cherry-oat aphid, and progressed up the ranks as a Research Associate Professor on January 1, 2018, and a Research Professor on July 1, 2022. His final focus included research on sugarcane aphid management strategies. Other areas of research have included standard insect bioassays of plant varieties for host plant resistance and insecticide efficacy trials on corn, sorghum, soybean, and Bermudagrass pasture.

He served as the advisor of one master's graduate student who investigated and conducted evaluations of resistance to bird-cherry-oat aphid in wheat germplasm. Ali also served on other graduate student committees and mentored several undergraduates conducting research projects. He has received nearly \$1 million in grants and research funds for his projects since 2014.

Dr. Zarrabi has been active in the Entomological Society of America on the Branch and National level by serving as a judge for student competitions, co-chair of local arrangements for branch meetings, and served on various ESA committees. He has also served as a reviewer for journal articles.

His recognitions include "Aphid Whisper" from Oklahoma Genetics, Inc. in 2019, Friends of IPM "Pulling Together" Award in 2016 from the Southern IPM Center, and Gamma Sigma Delta Staff Award of Merit in 2009.

Community-wise, Ali has served as the Faculty Advisor for the Circle K International Club at OSU from 1999-2005 for which they received the Most Outstanding New Chapter Award for Service and Commitment to CKI in 2000, and he has been a Mobile Meals volunteer driver in the Stillwater area.

His plans for retirement include spending more time with his grandchildren and traveling with his wife, **Diana Ward**.

## Alumni News

**Dr. Pat Bolin Ratliff**, former Assistant Extension Specialist and Interim IPM Coordinator from April 2000 to May 2006, retired as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton on June 30. After leaving OSU, she was an Adjunct Instructor of Biology for the non-science major both on campus and on-line at Dallas College Brookhaven Campus in Farmers Branch, Texas, from January through December 2007, and was an Adjunct Instructor of Anatomy and Physiology at the Southeast Campus of Tarrant County College in Arlington, Texas. Starting in January 2008, Dr. Bolin was a full-time Professor at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton where she taught Human Physiology, Zoology, Environmental Science, Biology, and Entomology. She became the Vice President of Academic Affairs at EOSC in July 2020. Pat received her B.S. degree in Registered Nursing from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1981, her B.S. degree in Zoology/Animal Biology from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1990, and her Ph.D. degree in Entomology from the University of Minnesota in 1998.

**Dr. Stephanie Rogers** (Ph.D. 2011) is beginning medical school at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation, in Tahlequah. From December 2011 to July 2020, she worked at In-Q-Tel in Arlington, Virginia, as a Program Manager, then Vice President and Deputy Director for B.Next, and finally as Vice President of IQT Labs Operations and Bioinformatics. In July 2020, Stephanie became the Senior Science and Technology Advisor for Biotechnology at the United States Department of Defense and in April 2021 was promoted to Acting Principal Director of Biotechnology and Director of Biotechnology Initiatives. She 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. Jacque Fletcher**.