

Former Staff Member Retires

Diana Ward will retire from her position as Administrative Assistant in the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (DASNR) on February 1. She began working for DASNR on March 24, 2008 after working in our department for nine years. Diana began her career at OSU as a Senior Unit Assistant in Residential Life on September 19, 1991 and was promoted to Office Manager for Married Student Housing in Residential Life on May 3, 1994. In 1998, she was a Program Technician in the Athletic Department prior to joining our department on April 26, 1999 as a Senior Financial Assistant and became our Administrative Assistant in September 2002 until moving over to DASNR. A retirement reception will be held for Diana on January 19 at 3:30 p.m. in the second-floor atrium of the Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center (FAPC).

January Birthdays

Emmily Hood	January 6
Chao Xiong	January 6
Alex Harman	January 9
Mason Taylor	January 9
Bob Hunger	January 14
John Damicone	January 21
Liam Krivanek	January 21
Conner Branco	January 22
Ken Jackson	January 22
Elizabeth Smith	January 22
Barbara Cook	January 23
Marietta Hoisington	January 29
Jack Milligan	January 29
Faith England	January 30

Sensilla

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Noble Research Center for Agricultural
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January Calendar of Events

Abstracts Due for Southern Division APS Meeting	Jan	7
Classes Begin	Jan	10
Biennial Extension Conference	Jan	11-13
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – University Holiday	Jan	17
Presenter Registration Deadline for Southern Division APS	Jan	18
Retirement Reception for Diana Ward , 3:30 p.m.	Jan	19
Paper and Poster Deadline for Southwestern Branch ESA	Jan	19

February Calendar of Events

Hotel Registration Due for Southern Division APS	Feb	7
Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting	Feb	9-10
Regular Registration Deadline for Southern Division APS	Feb	22

Congratulations!

Melissa Reed received the Outstanding Student Research Poster Award during the Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference and Research Symposium in December.

New Department Head

Dr. Justin Talley became the new Department Head for Entomology and Plant Pathology on January 1. Previously, he was a Professor of Entomology and Plant Pathology/ Extension Specialist for Livestock Entomology at OSU.

Justin received his B.S. degree in Agronomy with an emphasis in Integrated Pest Management and his M.S. degree in Plant, Soil, and Environmental Science under the direction of Drs. Greta Schuster and **Bill Clymer** (Ph.D. 1969, Entomology, OSU, under the direction of **Dr. D.E. Howell**, OSU Department Head of Entomology from 1952-1970; therefore academically, Justin is the “grandson” of a former department head!), both degrees from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas in May 2000 and December 2001, respectively, and his Ph.D. degree in Entomology from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas in 2008 under the direction of Drs. Alberto Broce and Ludek Zurek.

Dr. Talley began working at OSU as an Assistant Professor/Extension Livestock Entomologist on November 1, 2006, was promoted to Associate Professor on July 1, 2012, and Professor on July 1, 2017. His research interests have included stable fly biology, integrated control, insecticide efficacy, sampling strategies, development of economic thresholds, and parasite/host interactions. Dr. Talley’s extension programs have provided programming and educational materials to livestock producers, ranging from arthropods associated with beef to those affecting small scale producers who rely on goat production. His teaching responsibilities have included Livestock Entomology and Introduction to Forensic Entomology. He has served as the major advisor for seven graduate students and has been on an additional 17 graduate student committees.

Dr. Talley is an active member of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America, Society of Southwestern Entomologists, and the Entomological Society of America. He has published 27 peer-reviewed articles, two book chapters, 66 extension publications, 46 extension newsletters, and seven OSU Fact Sheets. He has given over 365 talks and presentations. His grant activities have totaled nearly \$3.5 million. Dr. Talley received the Outstanding State Extension Specialist Award from the

Oklahoma Association of Extension Agriculture Agents in 2016 and the Gerrit Cuperus Integrated Pest Management Professional Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service in 2020.

New Faces

Dr. Meriem Aoun began her Assistant Professor position as Small Grains Plant Pathologist on January 3. Her research interests are to use her experience in genetics and genomics to identify and characterize resistance genes to economically important diseases of wheat and small grains, plus develop molecular markers for use in marker-assisted selection. She would also like to implement remote sensing in many aspects of small grain pathology. For extension, she will develop educational programs in wheat disease diagnosis and management.

Dr. Aoun received her B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering from the Agronomic Institute of Chott Meriem, University of Sousse, Tunisia in 2009, her M.S. degree in Horticultural Genetics and Biotechnology from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Greece in 2012, and her Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology from North Dakota State University, Fargo in 2016. She was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Plant Sciences at North Dakota State University from January through December 2017, a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell University from December 2017 to June 2020, and a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the USDA-ARS Wheat Health, Genetics, and Quality Research Unit, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Washington State University from July 2020 until December 2021. She is a member of the American Phytopathological Society and Genetics Society of America. She received the Borlaug Early Career Women in Triticum Award in 2018.

Malea Parsons is beginning her M.S. degree with **Drs. Wyatt Hoback** and **Scott Armstrong**. Her research will focus on aphids and host plant resistance in barley and other small grains. Malea received her B.S. degree in Zoology and Biology from OSU in 2021.