

Retirement

Jerry Goodson, Extension Assistant at the OSU Southwest Research and Extension Center in Altus, retired on March 1, 2022. He started working as a Technician for the OSU Extension Service in 1986 and was a Cotton Scout for the Oklahoma Cotton Improvement Association from 1986 to 1989. He became an Extension Assistant at the Southwest Research and Extension Center on December 1, 1992. His work focused on cotton insect monitoring, management, and yield assessment. Jerry received his B.S. degree in Business Management from OSU in 1982 and his B.S. in Agriculture with a minor in Chemistry from Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma in 1992.

Alumni News

Dr. David Kerns (M.S. 1987), Associate Department Head, Extension Specialist, and Statewide IPM Coordinator in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University, received the Award for Excellence in Integrated Pest Management during the Southwestern Branch Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Fort Worth, Texas on April 20. He is currently responsible for supervising and managing departmental Extension personnel including Extension Specialist faculty and IPM agents. During his career, he developed the first data-driven and comprehensive economic threshold for cotton aphids, conducted IPM research to determine which cotton aphid insecticides were least likely to disrupt natural enemies of aphids, identified a new thrips species and determined treatment options and pest impact, and was among the first to identify the sugarcane aphid, a new and devastating invasive pest of grain sorghum. Dr. Kerns received his B.S. degree in Entomology from Texas A&M University in 1985, his M.S. degree in Entomology from OSU in 1987 under the direction of **Dr. Don Peters**, and his Ph.D. degree in Entomology from Auburn University in 1992.

May Birthdays

James Webster	May 1
Matthew Coniglion	May 13
Carrie Meeks	May 13
Bethany Mitchell	May 15
Dan White Eagle	May 16
Meriem Aoun	May 18
Natalie Harrison	May 19
Hassan Melouk	May 19
John Foster	May 22
Stephen Marek	May 23
Devin Medrano	May 31

Sensilla

Editor: Edmond Bonjour

MAY NEWS

Vol. 34 No. 5
May 2022

OSU

Entomology and Plant Pathology



Noble Research Center for Agricultural
and Renewable Natural Resources

May Calendar of Events

Finals Week	May	2-6
Faculty Meeting – 2:00 p.m.	May	3
Graduation Celebration – 3:00 p.m.	May	6
Graduate Commencement	May	6
Undergraduate Commencement	May	7
Memorial Day – University Holiday	May	30

June Calendar of Events

Juneteenth – University Holiday	Jun	20
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Special Notice

Sincere sympathy is expressed to **Dr. Astri Wayadande** whose mother, Frances Wayadande, passed away in January.

Congratulations!

Ethan Shaw was recently named a Wentz Research Scholar for 2022-2023.

May Graduates

Ivan Bravo is completing his B.S. degree in Entomology. He will work at a local behavioral health clinic.

Connor Cavett is completing his B.S. degree in Entomology. He will begin working for **Dr. Justin Talley** and apply for graduate school.

Joel DuBois is completing his B.S. degree in Entomology. He will begin his M.S. program in the Department of Entomology at Louisiana State University this fall. His research will focus on revisionary systematics of Buprestidae under the direction of Dr. Nathan Lord.

Jon Harris is completing his B.S. degree in Entomology. He is searching for employment.

Natalie Harrison is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She has accepted a position as an Entomology Laboratory Research and Demonstration Technician for Trécé, Inc. in Adair, Oklahoma.

Gabriel Jones is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She will begin her M.S. program in the Department of Natural Resources and Ecology Management at OSU this fall. Her research will focus on the effects of fishless ponds on aquatic macroinvertebrate communities under the direction of **Dr. Wyatt Hoback** and Dr. Jim Long.

Midajah Lovejoy is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She is taking 1½ years leave from education to gain some experience and raise her boys until they are old enough for daycare. She then plans to apply to the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine and hopefully begin in Fall 2023.

Hayley Lunsford is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She is taking one year off and then will apply to OSU-OKC for their veterinarian technician program.

Carrie Meeks titled her M.S. thesis, “Evaluation of the Effect of Electrode Configuration and Power Pulse Regime on the Inactivation Efficiency of *Salmonella enterica* by Atmospheric Cold Plasma. **Dr. Li Ma** has been her advisor. She will be pursuing her Ph.D. degree in Immunology at Iowa State under the direction of Dr. Christopher Tuggle. Her research will focus on the

comprehensive mining of the blood cell transcriptome for improved phenomics in swine, with the intention of applying the findings to medical research trials for humans. Carrie received her B.S. degree in Animal and Food Sciences from OSU in 2020.

Robert Pille is completing his B.S. degree in Entomology. He plans to attend graduate school in American Studies.

Sandra Rigsby titled her M.S. thesis, “Response of Silphidae to Burned Carcasses and Use for Breeding by Burying Beetles and Flies.” **Dr. Wyatt Hoback** has been her advisor. Sandra received her B.S. degree in Microbiology and Plant Biology from OSU in 2020. She will work for the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation where she will conduct research on aging.

Callista Vandegriff is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She will begin her MS. Research Assistantship in the Department of Entomology at the University of Kentucky this fall. Her research will focus on RNA interference and ticks under the direction of Dr. Subba Reddy Palli.

Rachael Visina is completing her B.S. degree in Entomology. She will be moving to Amarillo, Texas to work for an arborist.

Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America

The Annual Meeting of the SWB of the ESA was held on April 18-20 in Fort Worth, Texas. Several people won awards:

Joel DuBois – Percival Scientific Undergraduate Entomology Student Activity Award

Ethan Shaw – 3rd Place Undergraduate Poster

Malea Parsons – 2nd Place Masters Poster

Greg Middleton – 1st Place Masters Poster

Nina Rudin – 3rd Place Masters Oral Presentation

Alex Harman – 1st Place Ph.D. Oral Presentation

Dr. Tom Royer – 2022 Friends of IPM, IPM Hall of Fame Award