

CONNECTIONS

Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology Newsletter



Greetings from your Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology

Greetings from your colleagues and friends in ENPL. I was reminded recently of the network that links those of us who have trained and worked in plant pathology and entomology. Retired department head, Dr. Sung Lim, was a featured guest on a podcast called "I See Dead Plants" <https://sites.libsyn.com/416264> (our own Dr. Travis Faske has also been a guest on previous episodes in this series). The 3-part series with Dr. Lim focused on the epidemic of Southern Corn Leaf Blight that occurred in the early 1970s. This held special interest for me because my Ph.D. dissertation research focused on the molecular characterization of the gene/protein in maize that leads to SCLB disease susceptibility. I already knew about Dr. Lim's role in identifying the key genetic basis at the root of the epidemic. But hearing the history of events, from pathologists that I have come to know and respect over years, really drove home for me just how connected we are with others in our fields.

When I started down the road of 'scientist' as an undergraduate researcher, I had no idea about the professional connections and friendships that come along as one of the best parts of working in our discipline. This was a strong reminder to me that the work we do and colleagues we meet can span across the globe and across generations. I'm sure many of you have similar experiences and would agree that you can't predict when one of these connections will emerge. And for our students, I hope you will remember this no matter what professional track you take.

I hope you enjoy this update on some things happening in the unit. As alumni, former members, and friends of the department we appreciate your input and support. Please reach out any time to share information or discuss what is going on in the department.

Best wishes,

Ken Korth
Department Head
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SCAN ME



Ken Korth

Support our mission here: bit.ly/UAEntomology

Recent Events

Southern Division APS Meeting

The Southern Division APS meeting was held February 27-29th in Columbia, SC. Ken Korth attended and had the pleasure of catching up with alumna Samantha Roberson. Sam earned her MS in Plant Pathology under Dr. Korth's direction, and worked for a short time in the Plant Health Clinic.

She is currently Plant Pathologist in the Agricultural Sciences group at EPCOT in Orlando, FL, working for the Walt Disney Company. If you have visited EPCOT in recent years, you would have seen some of Samantha's excellent work in the "Living with the Land" exhibit and elsewhere in the park as she keeps their many plants and displays healthy.



Left to Right: Sam Roberson and Dr. Ken Korth

Departmental Visitors

We were honored to host departmental former members Dr. Sung Lim and Dr. Braham Dhillon, who both visited to attend the M.S. exit seminar of Hannah Zima on April 30th. Dr. Lim is retired and living in Fayetteville, after serving as Department Head of Plant Pathology for many years. Dr. Dhillon is an Assistant Professor at the University of Florida, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center.



Dr. Braham Dhillon

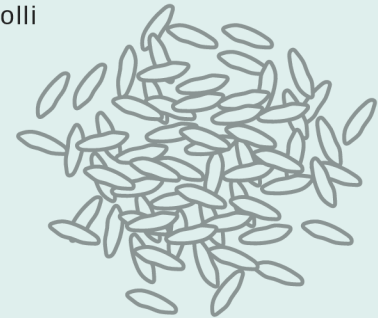
Recent Events cont.

Rice Disease Workshop

Dr. Camila Nicolli organized and hosted a Rice Disease Training event at Stuttgart on July 9th. More than 40 growers, consultants and other agriculture industry professionals received in-depth training. Dr. Terry Spurlock also presented at the event, as did guests Rodrigo Pedrozo, USDA plant pathologist at the Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center; and Felipe Dalla Lana da Silva, Louisiana State University state rice pathologist. For a complete story see: [Rice disease training bolsters identification and control techniques for growers, consultants \(uada.edu\)](#).



Dr. Camila Nicolli



Dr. Terry Spurlock

Recent Events cont.

Fayetteville Public Library Booth

On June 1st, the Fayetteville Public Library had a summer reading kickoff event. Carolyn Lewis brought her live insect zoo that people of all ages were able to enjoy. We had some community volunteers including Lily Goggin. There were said to be about 3500 participants!



Spectators enjoying the insect zoo

J-M Mushroom Farm Visit



ENPL Group at J-M Mushroom Farm



ENPL Group at J-M Mushroom Farm

On June 7th, Jim Correll led a large group to tour J-M Mushroom Farm in Miami, Oklahoma. As in years past, our hosts at J-M provided a wealth of information and made the whole experience fun and educational. We are especially grateful to McKinzie Koons, who organized the tour, and her colleagues Mark and Lauren at J-M Farms. Students saw all stages of this operation, which produces around 25 million pounds of mushrooms per year.

The sights included the building of grow boxes, compost production and sterilization, inoculation, growth, and packaging. Most of our group included summer undergraduate researchers funded by Adair and Bollenbacher fellowships, summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) students funded by Dr. Kariyat's USDA grant, and graduate students enrolled in our Diseases of Economic Crops course.

Awards and Recognition

Provost's Departmental Award



Ken Korth, Head of the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department, left, and Fiona Goggin, Professor of Entomology, accept the 2024 Provost Award for Departmental Excellence. The award, which comes with an \$8,000 prize, was presented by Anna Zajicek, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, and Terry Martin, far right, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Arkansas. Goggin conducts research through the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and teaches courses through the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences. (U of A System photo)

Faculty Recognized for Mentorship

Fiona Goggin, Professor of Entomology, and Kristen Gibson, Professor of Food Safety and Microbiology, received Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards on April 10 at the Provost's Faculty Recognition Reception during Faculty Appreciation Week.



Awards and Recognition cont.

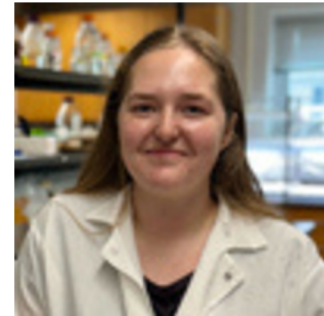
Postdoc Wins Award

Chandan Maurya, a postdoctoral fellow from the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at the U of A, won first place in the postdoctoral poster competition at the Arkansas Bioinformatics Consortium (AR-BIC) 2024 conference. The project was on "Globodera pallida RHA1B Protein" and was held at the Wyndham Riverfront in Little Rock on February 26-27, 2024.



Student Awarded NSF Fellowship

Congratulations to Rachel Taylor for being awarded a highly competitive graduate research fellowship from the National Science Foundation. Rachel is studying infection processes and potential control strategies for the rice blast pathogen, under direction of Martin Egan.



Bumpers Student Awards

Congratulations to our students that were recognized with awards from the Bumpers College in April. Baylie Day was recognized for her completion of a Bumpers College undergraduate Honors Thesis. Baylie worked under the direction of mentors Austin Jones and Ashley Dowling. Her thesis title is "Thematic Mapping of Apidae Holdings within the University of Arkansas Arthropod Museum". We have many hard working and successful graduate students. This year, two were recognized at the Bumpers Awards ceremony. Jessica Ayala received the departmental Outstanding M.S. student award. Jessica works under the direction of Rupesh Kariyat. The Outstanding Ph.D. student was Andrea Mejia Sierra. Andrea is a Ph.D. candidate guided by Yannis Tzanetakis.



Awards and Recognition cont.

ENPL Faculty Featured in Podcast

In late Spring of 2024, two cicada broods emerged together for the first time since 1803.

To listen to or read the podcast, please see [here](#).



Recently, instructor and entomologist Austin Jones delved into the fascinating world of periodical cicadas in a podcast discussion on Short Talks from the Hill, shedding light on their biology, ecology, and the intricate dynamics of their co-emergences. In the realm of entomology, few phenomena captivate researchers and enthusiasts alike as much as the emergence of periodical cicadas. These enigmatic insects, with their synchronized life cycles spanning either 13 or 17 years, emerge in massive numbers, transforming landscapes and captivating observers with their deafening choruses.

ENPL Faculty Featured in News



Lone Star Tick

Emily McDermott, Assistant Professor of medical and veterinary entomology, was featured in a 40/29 segment regarding how to prepare for tick season in Arkansas. McDermott suggests wearing clothing treated with a chemical repellent called Permethrin. Over-the-counter products like DEET have been shown to be equally effective at warding off ticks.

For the full article, see [here](#).

Awards and Recognition cont.

ENPL Attends SEB-ESA Meeting



ENPL was well represented at the Southeastern Branch ESA meeting held in Augusta, Georgia from March 17-20. Multiple students and faculty presented their work in oral and poster sessions. It was especially exciting that Rupesh Kariyat was presented with the Southeastern Branch 2024 Award for Distinguished Achievement in Teaching.



Cassie Steele and Joshua Chavana



Dr. Rupesh Kariyat receiving award



Cassie Steele, Joshua Chavana,
and Blythe Lawson

Recent Graduates

Spring Graduates

Spring Graduates:

- Audra Rogers, Ph.D. PLPA
- Juanita Gil Bedoya, Ph.D. PLPA
- Paige Cummins, M.S. ENTO
- Rachael Wolf, M.S. PLPA



Paige Cummins with Department Head Dr. Ken Korth



Dr. Juanita Gil Bedoya and her advisor Dr. Alejandro Rojas



Rachael Wolf



Left to Right: Dr. Alejandro Rojas, Dr. Ken Korth, Dr. Juanita Gil Bedoya, Dr. Audra Rogers, Paige Cummins



2024

Upcoming Events



Insect Festival 2024

On November 5th 2024, we will host one of our most popular events, the Insect Festival! The Insect Festival educates and entertains Arkansans of all ages about the beauty, value, and interest of insects and other arthropods. The first Insect Festival was held in 1993. The one-day event typically draws more than a thousand people. It takes most people about 1-2 hours to travel through the festival grounds and all the activities. There are many educational exhibits with expert entomologists and plant pathologists to answer your questions.



~SAVE THE DATE~
INSECT FESTIVAL 2024
The Insect Festival is happening
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH 2024
9:00AM-4:00PM
 Washington County Fairgrounds, Thompson Hall
 2537 N. McConnell Ave.
 Fayetteville, AR 72704 United States

Some activities will include:

- *Live insects and arthropods*
- *Interactive insect exhibits and displays*
- *Bug crafts*
- *Live performers*
- *"ENTO-ROADSHOW" traveling classroom*
- *Scavenger hunt*
- *And more!*

To volunteer: <https://bit.ly/ifestvolunteer>
 More details to follow
 email enpl@uark.edu for questions

To sign up to volunteer:
<https://bit.ly/ifestvolunteer>



SCAN ME

Here are some photos from the Insect Festival of 2022





HELP US METAMORPHOSIZE!



Bugly...

Insectsey!

In the spring of 2022 a STEAM-dream started to become reality as design and construction of Arkansas's first-ever travelling entomology classroom began. Now, more than two years later, the ENTO-ROADSHOW is almost ready to roll!

Initial funding was enough to purchase the custom-built trailer and outfit it with the equipment, technology, and exhibits needed to share the "bug life" with Arkansans of all ages in all corners of the state. However, to put a "wrap" on this project the ENTO-ROADSHOW needs you!

Our goal is to raise \$5500 via a 30-day FundRAZOR crowdfunding campaign to wrap three sides of the ENTO-ROADSHOW with vinyl graphics that will boldly go where no bug show has gone before. Your support will be crucial to putting smiles behind the miles while visiting all 75 counties of Arkansas.

To find out more about the ENTO-ROADSHOW follow this link, bit.ly/ENTO-ROADSHOW, or use the QR code provided above. Please consider supporting our efforts with a contribution to the campaign before August 26th.

Thank you for your time and consideration and we truly hope to see you at an upcoming ENTO-ROADSHOW event near you!

WHAT WE STAND FOR



The Department is a global leader in entomology and plant pathology; promoting human, animal, and plant health, environmental sustainability and food security.

Our Mission:

The Department serves science and society through discovery, translation and dissemination of knowledge and resources to promote human, animal, and plant health, environmental sustainability and food security.

Authored and adopted by the faculty, March 2021

If you would like to contribute to the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, please visit us at: bit.ly/UAEntomology or scan the QR code to the right.



SCAN ME

CONNECT WITH US

Alumni, we would love to hear from you! Reach out to us with updates or let us know how you are using that ENPL degree at enpl@uark.edu. We would love to feature you in our department newsletter.

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