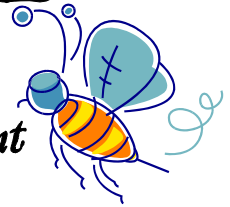


The Buzz

Entomology, Plant Pathology & Weed Science Department



For the 2004-2005 school year, the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science will be represented by Barbara Queener and Samantha Lish on the College of Agriculture and Home Economics Ambassador team. Congratulations ladies and we look forward to a great Fall semester.

We would like to remind everyone to update their contact information for the Fall semester. It is important that we have this information on file to keep you up-to-date on job postings, department activities, and the activities of the college. You can update this information by sending us an e-mail at nmsueppws@yahoo.com or by calling Cindy at 646-1145.

WELCOME!!

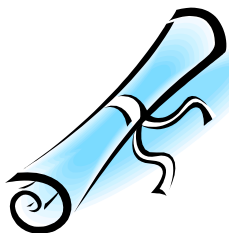
The EPPWS Office staff would like to welcome John Torres who will be joining our department as the Accounting Tech II, and assistant to Donna. John will be joining the office staff team on May 13, 2004. We are looking forward to him joining the department as a new face and new personality.

The Department would also like to welcome Rachel Pena as the new Reports Layout Typist II. Rachel joined the office staff in March and has been wonderful, we are really enjoying her.

We encourage everyone to stop in and introduce yourself.

Congratulations

The Department would like to congratulate the following students on their graduation.



Alana Jacobson—Spring 2004
Roman Jacquez—Spring 2004
Ricardo Ramirez—Spring 2004
David Johnson—Spring 2004
Cheryl Fiore—Summer 2004



Congratulations to our Spring and Summer 2004 Graduates.

Graduate Students of the Month

Howard Beuhler

As a graduate student working for Dr. Thompson, I am studying the insect communities of *Tamarix ramosissima* (saltcedar) compared to willow and other native vegetation. To date the data indicate that insect populations on saltcedar compare favorably to native vegetation. *Ramosissima* contains higher numbers of sap feeding insects such as scales and leafhoppers, and it sustains flower feeders for longer periods of time. This is probably due to the drought tolerance and persistent flowering of *ramosissima*. Willows have higher numbers of foliage feeders such as caterpillars, probably due to its more succulent leave. Certain beetles and true bugs are more numerous on willows as well. I hope to finish collecting data this summer and graduate the following spring.

I spend most of my spare time working on the house and yard. This year I hope to have a decent garden and am currently busy moving lots of clay, sand, and manure. My garden and yard tend to be on the wild side (some say weedy), but it attracts lots of lizards, birds, and insects. The insects are used as models in my other hobby, insect photography. I'm hoping that some of these pictures will be used as part of a database of economic importance (similar to work being done by Drs. Bundy, Ellington, and Richman). Other wildlife is kept at bay by our 3 dogs, but we get fox and plenty of skunks during the summer. It has taken our dogs two years to learn to distinguish skunks from cats, but tomato juice and vinegar do help reduce the odor.

Jacki Fuchs

Hi! Most of you already know me as I have been fortunate enough to be part of the EPPWS staff for over five years now working as a Research Specialist in Nematology under Dr. Steve Thomas. However, you may not know that I have also been working on a master's degree in Agricultural Biology, which I hope to complete sometime this summer! My master's research focuses on characterizing the beneficial relationship between the root-knot nematode and yellow and purple nutsedge.

I am originally from a small town in Michigan but have also called Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Fairbanks, Alaska and Manhattan, Kansas home at various times in my life. In 1994 I graduated with a Bachelor's degree from NMSU's Biology department with an emphasis in plant ecology. Immediately thereafter I took a Fulbright Scholarship to participate in environmental studies being conducted in southern Poland by the Polish Academy of Sciences' (no, that actually is not an oxymoron!) Institute of Botany. My research there was fascinating but made me realize just how little I knew. Driven to understand more about soil chemistry, soil microbiology and the plant – soil interface, I came back for one more year of studies here at State to fill as many of those gaps as I could. In 1996 I received another Bachelor's degree, this one in soil science, from the NMSU Agronomy department. I married and soon after started in on a Master's degree program at Kansas State University. Three kids and a few jobs later I will be finally wrapping that up.

I could tell you about all the hobbies I used to have, but for now most of my time outside of work is spent introducing and exploring the world anew with my kids. Occasionally, I squeeze in some dancing and hiking and I am actually reading for fun again!

Weed Science Society of America Outstanding Industry Award Winner

Phil Banks

Philip Banks is a native of Oklahoma and obtained his B.S. in Agronomy and M.S. in Weed Science in Oklahoma State University. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M University. In 1979, Dr. Banks was hired as an Assistant Professor of Weed Science at the University of Georgia where he conducted research on weed management in major crops of the state and also examined soil behavior of herbicides. He also taught Introductory Weed Science, Advanced Weed Science and Weed Ecology. In 1990, Dr. Banks moved to Las Cruces, NM and founded his company, MARATHON-Agricultural and Environmental Consulting, Inc. This company provides consulting and contract research services to a wide variety of clients located throughout the United States; it is a Sustaining Member of WSSA Photo Contest annually since 1998. Dr. Banks is an Adjunct Professor of Weed Science in the Entomology, plant Pathology, and Weed Science Department of New Mexico State University. He has served on numerous committees in WSSA, as an Associate Editor for *Weed Technology* and as a WSSA Board Member-at-Large. Dr. Banks has also served on the Board of Directors of SWSS and WSWS.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER!

Students, we would like to let you know that scholarship forms for the 2004-2005 school year have been e-mailed out to each of you. If you have not received the e-mail it is because we do not have a current e-mail address for you. If you have not received one, please feel free to stop by the main office (Skeen Hall room N141) and pick one up.

We would also like to remind you that you must submit a scholarship application for each school year. The scholarship application for the EPPWS Department is different from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics Scholarship form. If you have any questions regarding scholarships, please contact Cindy at 646-1145.



NMSU Entomology Team Places Second

By: Diana M. Alba

An entomology team at New Mexico State University had bugs on the brain Wednesday, February 25, 2004, when they won second place in a quiz bowl competition at a regional meeting of entomologists.

The NMSU Linnaean 'A' team lost to Oklahoma State University, 65-60, missing the last question of the championship round at the contest in Lubbock, Texas. Although the 'A' team did not win first place, by finishing second, they did earn the chance to represent the Southwest region in November at the national competition in Salt Lake City. Four other regions will send two teams each.

Paul Smith, member of the NMS Linnaean 'A' Team, said NMSU has competed nationally for the past two years, and the 2002 team won third place. He said part of the reason the team has been so successful is because it receives much support from the entomology department.

Two Linnaean teams, consisting of four members each, compete by attempting to be the first to correctly answer questions posed by a moderator. "They're all entomological-based questions," Smith said. "Anything from general biology about insects to economic entomology to history-based questions about famous entomologists."

Dave Thompson, associate professor of entomology, said undergraduates, master's degree and doctoral degree candidates are eligible to compete, but most competitors are at the master's degree level of study.

Smith, a master's degree candidate, said the winning OSU team was made up of four doctoral degree candidates.

Other members of the NMSU 'A' team are Ricardo Ramirez and Howard Beuhler, who are also seeking master's degrees, and Alana Jacobson, a senior.

The NMSU 'B' team, consisting of junior Beth Petersen, freshman Sean O'Donnell, sophomore Stephanie Redman and master's degree candidate Ande Hudson, also competed in the quiz bowl but lost to West Texas A&M University in the first round on Tuesday.

Seven teams competed in the Linnaean games as part of the annual meeting of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Thompson said Redman and Jacobson placed first and third, respectively, in a graduate-level poster contest at the meeting. About 20 students from different schools competed by presenting posters related to their research.

Scientific meetings are important because they allow entomologists to learn about current research being conducted by colleagues, instead of having to wait for it to appear in a journal, Thompson said.

Smith said that any interested NMSU student—not only entomology majors—

Let's SPRING into SUMMER

S H Z U D G L F R I E N D S L Y U H V N
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|------------------|-------------------|
| Allergies | Money |
| Banquets | Parties |
| Bathing Suits | Passover |
| Beach | Picnics |
| Boats | Rain |
| Books | Rainbow |
| Butterflies | School |
| Camping | Shorts |
| Cookouts | Spring |
| Daylight Savings | Spring Break |
| Time | Sprinklers |
| Easter | St. Patrick's Day |
| Easter Bunny | Summer |
| Eggs | Sun |
| Finals | Sunscreen |
| Flowers | Sunshine |
| Friends | Swimming |
| Fun | Swimming Pools |
| Home | Tank-tops |
| Homework | Tan Lines |
| Jobs | Tans |
| Lake | Tests |
| Lifeguards | Vacation |
| | Wind |
| | Work |



Dates to Keep in Mind

Summer Session I

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| May 24 | Summer Session I Classes Begin |
| May 26 | Deadline to Add or Drop SSI Course |
| May 31 | Memorial Day Holiday (No Classes) |
| June 10 | Last Day to Withdraw from a Class |
| June 21 | Last Day to Withdraw from University |
| June 28 | Last Day of Classes |

Summer Session II

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|-----------|--|
| July 7 | Classes Begin |
| July 9 | Last Day to File Degree Application, Add or Drop a Course. |
| July 23 | Last Day to Withdraw from a Course |
| August 3 | Last Day to Withdraw from the University |
| August 10 | Last Day of Classes. |

Fall 2004

| | |
|----------------|--|
| August 24 | Classes Begin |
| September 1 | Last Day to Add or Drop a Course |
| September 1 | Deadline for Filing Degree Application |
| September 6 | Labor Day Holiday (No Classes) |
| October 15 | Last Day to Withdraw from a Class |
| November 15 | Last Day to Withdraw from the University |
| November 24-26 | Thanksgiving Holiday (For Students) |
| December 6-10 | Finals Week |
| December 11 | Commencement |

If there are any changes that need to be made to the newsletter, such as birthday changes, please contact Alexia in Skeen Hall Room N141 or at 646-7620