

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

New
Faculty and Staff

Convocation Fall Semester

September 8th, 2016



New Faculty and Staff

Agricultural Education and Studies

Scott Smalley, Assistant Professor

B.S. Michigan State University (2001), M.S. Iowa State University (2006),
Ph.D. Iowa State University (2011)

Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

Steven Bell, Lecturer

B.S., engineering; M.S., management,
Texas A&M University (1987)

Research Interests: Education theory and authentic leadership development

Accomplishment: Draws from more than 30 years of industry experience as an educator.

Fun Fact: Enjoys his horticulturist side, gardening and yardwork



Jeremy Brue, Assistant Scientist

B.S.E., Dordt College (2010); M.S., agricultural engineering (2012); Ph.D., agricultural engineering, Iowa State University (2016)

Research Interests: Biomass harvest supply chain logistics and cost analysis

Fun Fact: Loves any outdoor sport or activities.

Highlight of his summer: a week spent fishing in Canada



Benjamin Covington, Engineering Designer

B.S. (2012), M.S. (2013), Iowa State University

Research Interests: Advanced machinery design

Accomplishment: Traveled to 37 states for his job in the past year

Fun Fact: Participates in barbecue competitions



Brenton Culp, Research Associate

B.S., Iowa State University (2014)

Research Interests: Basic agronomy and agricultural systems

Fun Fact: Enjoys spending time outdoors

Dirk Maier, Professor

Ph.D., Michigan State University (1992)

Research Interests: Post-harvest engineering and feed technology

Extension Responsibilities: Member, Iowa Grain Quality Initiative team

Accomplishment: Connecting with ISU faculty with international development.

Fun Fact: Avid bicyclist, first year RAGBRAI rider

Melissa McEnany, Extension Program Specialist

B.S., agricultural education, Iowa State University (2009)

Extension Responsibilities: Manure applicator certification program

Todd Stevens, Extension Program Specialist

B.S., psychology, Ashford University
Extension Responsibilities: Assemblies at schools
Accomplishment: Won many awards at IMPA
Fun Fact: Enjoys writing and recording music



Julia Whitson, Communications Specialist

M.S., sustainable agriculture and community and regional planning, Iowa State University (2014)
Extension Responsibilities: Farmer outreach, youth education, content development, program evaluation
Accomplishment: Graduated with two master's degrees
Fun Fact: Enjoys gardening, tennis and frisbee



Yang Zhoa, Assistant Scientist

Ph.D., Wageningen University (2011)
Research Interests: Livestock and poultry environment management and behavior
Accomplishments: Two kids received from God; developed automated systems for animal environment and behavior; delivered scientific publication
Fun Fact: Enjoys family, nature, music, travel, food



Other ABE Faculty and Staff

Garrett Carlson, Engineering Designer
Benjamin Covington, Engineering Designer
John Odenweller, Accountant
Claudette Sandoval-Green, Assistant Scientist
Katherine Taylor, Program Coordinator
Zachary Vanderleest, Program Coordinator

Agronomy

Lakshmi Attigala, Assistant Scientist

Ph.D., Iowa State University (2015)
Research Interests: Bamboo and grass phylogenetics
Extension Responsibilities: Research in herbicide resistance
Accomplishment: Published all five dissertation chapters soon after graduation
Fun Fact: Dancing and playing with her daughter

Jennifer Hicks, Assistant Scientist

B.S., agriculture, plant pathology; M.S., crop science, University of Kentucky
Research Interests: Plant breeding, disease resistance/ screening, new technology, seed quality

Sekhar Kambakam, Assistant Scientist

Ph.D., plant molecular genetics

Research Interests: Plant pathogens and molecular interactions

Extension Responsibilities: Lab manager with Dr. Bhattacharyya

Accomplishment: Published research articles in peer-reviewed high-impact journals; presented research at national and international conferences

Fun Fact: Enjoys playing with his son

Keunsub Lee, Assistant Scientist

Ph.D., University of Minnesota (2010)

Research Interests: Noncoding RNA, genome editing, plant genomic transformation

Accomplishment: Identification of ncRNAs from agrobacterium

Fun Fact: Enjoys playing with his children; gardening



Nicole Lindsey, Assistant Scientist

B.A., biology and art, Augustana University (2011)

Research Interests: Sorghum breeding project

Fun Fact: She is a twin; enjoys boot camp classes and spending time outside with friends; reading



Iththiphonh Alexander Macvilay, Research Associate

B.S., Iowa State University (2015)

Extension Responsibilities: Research in herbicide resistance

Accomplishment: Having the chance to travel to other parts of the world, learning new languages and cultures

Fun Fact: Been ordained as a Buddhist monk multiple times throughout his life

Marshall McDaniel, Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University (2011)

Research Interests: Soil-plant interactions, soil fertility

Accomplishment: First family member to attend four-year university and continuing on to receive Ph.D.

Fun Fact: Enjoys traveling and playing guitar



Jody Smith, Clerk

Accomplishment: Received honors and awards for volunteer work with Girl Scouts; senior officer for Moose International Organization

Fun Fact: Enjoys being a parent and grandparent; leading two Girl Scout troops

Other Agronomy Faculty and Staff

Joshua Davis, Ag Specialist

Lee Keunsub, Assistant Scientist

Raymond Kruse, Ag Specialist

Rene Rosado-de-Jesus, Ag Specialist

Gedry Schoenbaum, Assistant Scientist

Animal Science

Jarrold Bumsted, Extension Program Specialist

M.S. South Dakota State University (2012)

Research Interest: Processed meat

Extension Responsibilities: Short courses on cured meats, sausages, processed meats

Fun Fact: Enjoys hiking, fishing and camping

Jessie Juarez, Lecturer

B.S., animal and dairy science (2010); M.S., animal science (2012);

DVM (2014), Iowa State University

Research Interests: Applied dairy research

Accomplishment: Completed EMT class this past summer

Fun Fact: Enjoys trapshooting and pheasant hunting

Kyla Kaetzel, Administrative Specialist

B.S., agricultural business, Northwest Missouri State University (2000)

Accomplishment: Graduate of ISU Emerging Leaders Academy

Fun Fact: She is a foster parent

Gregory Krahn, Lecturer

M.S., Iowa State University

Research Interests: Swine production

Accomplishment: Managing ISU Swine Teaching Farm during his masters program

Fun Fact: Grilling and spending time outdoors; attending livestock shows

Hugo Ramirez-Ramirez, Assistant Professor

B.S., animal science, University of Chapingo- Mexico;

M.S.; Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Research Interests: Applied dairy nutrition, forage quality

Extension Responsibilities: Provide assistance to dairy producers statewide

Accomplishment: Being a part of ISU, knowing that I'm doing what I love through Extension and Outreach helps others

Fun Fact: Enjoys hiking with two dogs, drove from central Mexico to Lincoln, Neb., so he could bring his dogs!



Stephan Schmitz-Esser, Associate Professor

Diploma, biology, Technische Universiteet Muenchen, Germany (2001); Ph.D., ecology, University of Vienna, Austria (2004)

Research Interests: Animal metagenomics, food safety, bacterial endosymbionts of insects and amoebae

Accomplishment: Awarded the Hygiene-Price of Austrian Society for Hygiene, Microbiology and Preventative Medicine, 2014

Fun Fact: Enjoys hiking with family (has always lived near mountains, so Iowa hiking is a new experience)



Dessie Schroeder, Administrative Specialist

BSBA and MBA, Colorado Technical University (2011)

Accomplishment: Completing MBA while working fulltime

Fun Fact: Creates jewelry and other crafts

Emily Usinger, Extension Program Specialist

B.S., animal science (2014); M.S., meat science (2016)

Iowa State University

Research Interests: Processed meats

Extension Responsibilities: Planning short courses, workshop and training sessions

Accomplishment: Recipient of Meat Industry Suppliers Alliance Foundation Scholarship, 2015

Fun Fact: Enjoys playing tennis



Other Animal Science Faculty and Staff

Crystal Brillhart, Lecturer

Elizabeth Kraayenbrink, Assistant Professor

Maria Ngor, Milker

Thayne Vinchattle, Animal Caretaker

Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology

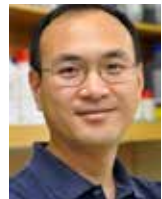
Baoyu (Stone) Chen, Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University (2008)

Research Interests: Regulation of the actin cytoskeleton, the “steel girder” of all eukaryotic cells

Accomplishment: Running his research lab

Fun Fact: Enjoys gardening, especially the harvesting



Economics

Amanda Blair, Program Coordinator

B.S., public service and administration/agricultural business, Iowa State University (2013); M.A., human resources, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota (2016)

Accomplishment: Purchasing a home in Ames; obtaining a Global Career Development Facilitator Certification

Fun Fact: Enjoys traveling and spending time on the water



Gabriel Lade, Assistant Professor

Ph.D., agricultural and resource economics, University of California, Davis (2015)

Research Interests: Environmental, energy and agricultural economics

Fun Fact: Enjoys hiking, playing guitar, and training his dog, Hilde

Wendong Zhang, Assistant Professor

Ph.D., agricultural, environmental and developmental economics, Ohio State University (2015)

Research Interests: Land use, management and values and ownership in agro-ecosystem; interplay between agriculture and environment

Extension Responsibilities: Iowa Land Value Survey, Iowa Farmland Ownership and Tenure Survey, ISU Soil Management and Land Valuation Conference

Accomplishment: Leading development of extension web portal for Iowa land values

Fun Fact: Enjoys playing hide-and-seek with daughter, Lucy



Entomology

Benjamin Brenizer, Research Associate

AAS, criminal Justice, Indian Hills Community College (2011); B.S., animal ecology, Iowa State University (2014)

Research Interests: Western corn rootworm bioassays

Accomplishment: Receiving black belt in tae kwon do

Fun Fact: Enjoys camping and playing board games with friends

Ryan Smith, Assistant Professor

Ph.D., University of California, Riverside (2007)

Research Interests: Mosquito-borne pathogens, mosquito immunity

Fun Fact: Avid Civil War buff



Other Entomology Faculty and Staff

Nathan Booher, System Analyst
Elizabeth Butin, Lecturer
Angela McMahon, System Analyst

Food Science and Human Nutrition

Kevin Keener, Professor, Director of Center for Crops Utilization Research and BioCentury Research Farm

Ph.D., food process engineering, Purdue University (1996)
Research Interests: Production efficiencies, enhance quality and reduce waste to promote economically sustainable practices
Accomplishment: Distinguished Fulbright professor in 2014, taught at two Russian universities
Fun Fact: Enjoys cutting wood ... in the woods!

Maureen Moroney, Research Associate

B.S., biology, Iowa State University (2007)
Research Interests: Enology, sensory analysis, microbiology
Extension Responsibilities: Industry outreach through Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute
Accomplishment: Teaching and training students and interns to conduct wine analysis
Fun Fact: Enjoys reading, yoga and experimental baking



Erin Norton, Education and Outreach Coordinator

B.Sc., chemistry, University of Waterloo (2005); M.Sc., chemistry, University of Windsor (2008)
Research Interests: Enhancing wine quality in the Midwest and educating industry members
Accomplishment: Helping set up a registered apprenticeship program for the Iowa wine industry with the Iowa Wine Grower's Association
Fun Fact: Enjoys cooking and exploring Ames and Iowa with family

Other FSHN Faculty and Staff

Melha Mallata, Assistant Professor
Andrew Horton, Field Specialist

Genetics, Development and Cell Biology

Derek Loneman, Research Associate

Horticulture

Kevin Duerfeldt, Lecturer

Ph.D., Iowa State University (2014)

Research Interests: Scholarship of teaching and learning

Accomplishment: Purchasing his first house

Fun Fact: Enjoys working in his garden



Natural Resource Ecology and Management

Adam Janke, Assistant Professor, Extension Wildlife Specialist

B.S., Purdue University (2009); M.S., Ohio State University (2011); Ph.D., South Dakota State University (2016)

Research Interests: Wildlife conservation, habitat relationships, game bird physiology and demography

Extension Responsibilities: Wildlife extension specialist

Fun Fact: Enjoys hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities



Kevin Roe, Associate Professor

B.S. (1988); M.S. (1994), University of Georgia; Ph.D., University of Alabama (1999)

Research Interests: Conservation genetics

Fun Fact: Enjoys fly fishing

Other NREM Faculty and Staff

Miles Gratz, System Supervisor Specialist

Plant Pathology and Microbiology

Nancy Boury, Assistant Professor

M.S., medical microbiology and immunology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (1993); Ph.D., Iowa State University (1997)

Research Interests: Methods to improve teaching and learning in biological sciences

Extension Responsibilities: Outreach to high school students

Accomplishment: Awarded NSF grant to finish two concept inventories in microbiology

Fun Fact: Avid knitter and fluent in American Sign Language

Nicholas Peters, Assistant Professor

B.A. (2001); M.S. (2003); Ph.D. (2009)

Research Interests: Scholarship of teaching and learning in microbiology and plant pathology.

Accomplishment: Registered therapy dog handler

Fun Fact: Enjoys gardening



Gennady Pogorelko, Assistant Scientist

Ph.D., Russian Academy of Sciences (2008)

Research Interests: Plant-pathogen interactions, innate immunity, transgenic plants, functional genetics, plant cell wall

Accomplishment: Best Presentation Award at Plant Genomic European Meeting

Fun Fact: Enjoys being a handyman, constantly improving or building something new

Sociology

Giorgi Chighladze, Data Manager and Analyst

Ph.D., agricultural engineering, Iowa State University (2011)

Accomplishment: Built an outdoor wood fire pizza oven

Fun Fact: Enjoys growing his own veggies and turning his backyard into a “mini-farm”



College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Administration

Laurie Wissler, Research Analyst

B.S., biological sciences, Wright State University (2011);
M.A., international relations & environmental policy, Boston
University (2015)

Research Interest: Tracking Iowa's progress in reducing nutrient loss
and meeting goals of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Accomplishment: Learning to make compost and utilize food waste

Fun Fact: Birdwatching, getting outside and exploring Iowa

Tasha Barton, Program Coordinator

Brenton Center

Dena Fife, Instructional Development Coordinator

M.A., University of Colorado (2009)

Research Interests: Online learning, web accessibility,
universal design for learning

Accomplishment: My children

Fun Fact: Enjoy traveling with family; yoga

Development Office

Bobbi Burkhart, Assistant Director of Development

Mike Clancy, Director of Development

Global Agriculture Program

Visalakshi Arumigan, Program Assistant

Research and Demonstration Farms

Karl Nicolaus, Ag Specialist

B.S., agronomy, Iowa State University (2015)

Extension Responsibilities: On-farm program

Fun Fact: Enjoys hobby farming



Seed Science Center

Dileepkumar Guntuku, Global Program Leader

Ph.D., information and communication technology,
DAIICT (2010)

Research Interests: Human computer interaction,
Big Data in agriculture, learning and knowledge
systems, Information and communication technology
for development

Accomplishment: Developing Seed Education and
Enterprise Development Massive Open Online
Course

Fun Fact: Enjoys playing chess and traveling



Center for Bioplastics and Biocomposites

Yijing Ding, Program Coordinator

Accomplishment: Skydiving

Fun Fact: Enjoys hiking

Center for Crops Utilization Research

David Freeman, Program Coordinator

B.A., Iowa State University (2008)

Research Interests: Milling, waste to energy, Biorenewable fuels and
products

Extension Responsibilities: Promotion of economic development
through the food and bioprocessing cluster in Cedar Rapids

Accomplishment: Receiving a patent for finding sustainable solution
for odor control additive; earning his Eagle Scout

Fun Fact: Enjoys the outdoors with wife and family, including hiking,
camping, tennis, volleyball and jet skiing

Center for Agriculture and Rural Development

Yongjie Ji, Assistant Scientist

Ph.D. Iowa State University (2013)

Research Interests: Non-market valuation, land use modeling

Accomplishment: A family with two lovely kids

Fun Fact: Running and playing e-games

Other center faculty and staff

Iowa Soybean Research Center

Jill Cornelis, Program Coordinator

Leopold Center

Kim Vo, Administrative Specialist

Emeritus Professors 2015-2016

Ralph Ackerman, ecology, evolution and organismal biology,
Emeritus Professor

Edward Braun, plant pathology and microbiology, Emeritus
Professor

Terry Besser, sociology, Emeritus Professor

John Hill, plant pathology and microbiology, Emeritus Professor

Frederick Lorenz, statistics, Emeritus University Professor

Thomas Polito, agricultural education and studies, Emeritus
Assistant Professor

John Robyt, biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology,
Emeritus Professor

