University of Georgia Regents' Professor Michael Strand became the university's eighth member of the National Academies with his election to the National Academy of Sciences.

‘Prestigious recognition’
UGA entomologist elected to National Academy of Sciences

University of Georgia Regents' Professor Michael R. Strand has received one of the highest honors a scientist can receive—election to the National Academy of Sciences. Strand, who holds an appointment in the entomology department of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and an affiliated appointment in the genetics department of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, is UGA's eighth member of the National Academies, which include the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Medicine.

"The University of Georgia commends Dr. Strand on this most prestigious recognition," said President Jere W. Morehead. "Dr. Strand's influential research is representative of the high caliber of faculty at UGA and the strength of our growing research enterprise.

It is an honor to have him represent this university in an organization of such tremendous national importance."

The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that was established under a congressional charter signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. It recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and—with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine—provides science, engineering and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.


http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/entomology.html
From the desk of S. Kristine Braman ...

This is an exciting time in the Department of Entomology at the University of Georgia! This summer we welcome two new faculty members to our Department. **Dr. Shimat Joseph** will assume his duties as an Assistant Professor on the Griffin Campus on August 1st where he will develop a research and extension program in turfgrass and ornamental IPM. Dr. Joseph received his B.S. in Agriculture from Kerala Agricultural University College in India, his M.S. and his Ph.D. from The University of Georgia. Following graduation, he held postdoctoral appointments at UGA from 2010-2011 and at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University from 2011-2012. He then accepted a position as IPM Entomology Advisor at the University of California where he has developed research and extension programs that address the pest problems of the central coast of California and has served in that capacity since December 2012.

**Dr. Kevin Vogel** will join faculty in Athens as an Assistant Professor with research and teaching responsibilities in insect-microbe interactions, an area of emphasis in our department. He will begin July 1 in this new role. Dr. Vogel received his B.S. degree from Michigan State and his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. He then held a postdoctoral appointment as an NIH Ruth Kirschstein National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Georgia. Please welcome Drs Joseph and Vogel to the faculty.

Dr. Joseph will join colleagues in Plant Breeding, Weed Science, Crop Physiology and Plant Pathology in the interdisciplinary **Turfgrass Complex** scheduled to open this month. This new building includes labs for each program with supporting headhouse facilities. The building will have space for graduate students, postdocs, and visiting scientists. It also includes a classroom for agent trainings, industry meetings, etc. and a conference room.

**H.O. Lund Week** was a highlight in our department in April. Many thanks to the Lund Club for their considerable effort in organization, our faculty who served as judges, our sponsors Suzan and Reuben Lasseter and our students who participated! Dr. Gene Kritsky gave an outstanding presentation as our Lund Week invited speaker at the annual banquet. Competitions included M.S. and Ph.D. oral, poster, three-minute thesis and photo competitions.

Since our inaugural issue of this newsletter, we are very pleased to recognize **Dr. Mike Strand** as a newly elected member of the National Academy of Sciences. **Dr. David Buntin** has received the 2017 Southern Region Friends of IPM Lifetime Achievement Award, while **Dr. Marianne Shockley** has been recognized as the CAES Outstanding Faculty Advisor. Our graduate students also continue to receive well-deserved recognition for their research and teaching efforts.

I hope you will take a minute to read of all the recent accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students and alumni that are featured in this issue.

http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/entomology.html
Emergence

of an adult Aedes aegypti, photo credit Jena Johnson

Inset: Ovary ecdysteroidogenic hormone receptor (green) on the surface of an Aedes aegypti follicle

Kevin J. Vogel, PhD
Assistant Professor
kjvogel@uga.edu

Research - Insect-Microbe Interactions: Integrating insect physiology, genomics, and evolution to understand how microbes influence insect biology, primarily in mosquitoes and other arthropod disease vectors.

Shimat V. Joseph, PhD
Assistant Professor
shimatbug@gmail.com

Research will address existing and emerging pest management issues in turfgrass and ornamentals along the principles of applied insect ecology. Research projects will be aimed at enhancing our understanding of biology of pest and beneficial species to develop and refine monitoring and management strategies. Major thrust will be given to develop management tactics that would reduce the impact on environment and non-targets.

Extension— program will promote the adoption of integrated pest management driven by lab and field data.
Above—New turf research and education complex in Griffin, Georgia taken 6/23/17 by Clay Bennett.

H. O. Lund Honorary Seminar
Friday, April 14, 2017
Terrace Room
State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Above—Dr. S. Kristine Braman, at Garden Club of Georgia Terrace Room, introducing the H. O. Lund Honorary Seminar speaker. Photo by Nancy Hinkle

Free to Bee: Inmates Learn Apiary Care through Georgia Master Beekeeper Program

There’s one overarching rule when working with bees: Stay calm. Beekeeping is not an easy skill to master when you are housed in one of the state’s correctional facilities. However, for the past two years, offenders at four of Georgia’s state prisons have been learning to work with bees through the University of Georgia’s Georgia Master Beekeeper Program, which is associated with the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences entomology department and UGA Cooperative Extension.

“At first I thought, ‘Are you kidding me? Inmates, smokers, hive tools; this is a horrible idea,’” said Jennifer Berry, Georgia Master Beekeeper instructor and UGA Honey Bee Lab research coordinator. “But after meeting and talking with the inmates, it was obvious that having something to take care of was such a privilege for these guys. You could see how protective they were of the bees, and how they wanted to learn anything they could to help keep them alive.”

While beekeeping may seem like a niche industry to some, it’s becoming big business in Georgia. The production of honey, bee removal, queen and bee production, pollination services and apiary supplies are valued at $367 million across the state. UGA supports Georgia’s bee industry through groundbreaking research into honeybee health and by providing continuing education to Georgia’s beekeepers. Since the beginning of the Georgia Master Beekeeper Program, more than 450 people have been certified.

June 2017—Jennifer Berry reports progress continues moving forward by adding more certified beekeepers to the ranks. The UGA Bee Lab plans to test another group of students this summer at Dooley, Smith and Al Burruss.

Picture above is Dooley State Prison class with UGA Bee Lab crew, Nathan Beach, Jennifer Berry, Instructor Rick Moore, Chaplain Sapp, and Volunteers Bear Kelley and Broadus Williams.

Excerpt re-printed from Southscapes, Noteworthy section, Fall 2016. For full article go to: http://caes2.caes.uga.edu/southscapes/southscapes/fall16/free-to-bee.html

http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/entomology.html
Degrees Conferred—Spring 2017

Pablo Chialvo, PHD, Knoxville, TN
Kerri L. Coon, PHD, Athens
Ian A. Knight, PHD, Atlanta

William W. Portier, MS, Ocilla
Tony L. Barnes, MPPPM, Brooks
Joshua L. Dawson, MPPPM, Valdosta
Brian E. Hayes, MPPPM, Cairo
Justin S. Shealey, MPPPM, Statenville
Kenneth R. Smith, MPPPM, Ashburn
Phillip T. Torrance, MPPPM, Swainsboro
Brock A. Ward, MPPPM, Adel

Summa Cum Laude
Sherilyn J. Harper, BSES, Grovetown, PA

Magna Cum Laude
Brandon T. Cochran, BSES
Johnathan M. Mayfield, BSES, Rome
Garrison W. West, BSES, Covington

Cum Laude
Shelby L. Ford, BSES, Kennesaw
Lucas J. Kim, BSES, Duluth

Allison F. Johnson, BSES, Carrollton
Nicholas B. Karimi, BSES, Roswell
Jaclyn P. McCollum, BSES, Kennesaw
Robert E. Scott, BSES, Atlanta

Spring 2017 Commencement

Pictured with Graduates are Dr. Sam Pardue, CAES Dean & Director (right) and Dr. Joe West, Assistant Dean Tifton & Dr. Kristine Braman, Department Head (left)

http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/entomology.html
Jennifer Berry, Lab Manager

For the past 17 years, Jennifer Berry has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. Her research objectives have focused on improving honey bee health, the sub-lethal effects of pesticides on beneficial insects and IPM techniques for varroa and small hive beetle control.

Before launching her career in apiculture, Jennifer lived in Los Angeles as a starving comedian and actress. After realizing that her “Hollywood Dream” was not happening, she decided to return to school and study entomology (it made sense at the time). After taking a beekeeping course with Dr. Keith Delaplane at the University of Georgia, her career path took another sharp turn. This time she ended up working with bees for a living. How cool is that!

More recently, Jennifer has undertaken several ambitious campaigns to educate people from all walks of life. She volunteers in Central and South America and the Bahamas to teach women and young teens beekeeping in order to enhance their opportunities for better employment or to start a business.

Jennifer has also been instrumental in launching the Georgia Beekeeping Prison Program by certifying inmates through the University of Georgia Master Beekeeper Program. In little over a year, 5 prisons have been added to the fold and are now teaching beekeeping behind bars. Plus, the prison program is striving to become as self-sustaining as possible, with each prison responsible for supplying something to the mix: queens, bees and/or woodenware. And finally she has been dutifully educating the public about the importance of pollinators and other beneficial insects and how to encourage their populations.

Jennifer is a regular columnist for Bee Culture magazine and occasionally for other publications across the pond. She travels extensively to speak to local, state, national and international students, groups and beekeeping associations. On weekends and evenings, Jennifer operates Honey Pond Farm, a honey bee venture which strives on rearing healthy bees and selecting queens for varroa tolerance, brood production, gentleness, and longevity. Several times a year she teaches how to rear superior queens at her farm in Georgia. It’s a great thing she stumbled upon that beekeeping course over 20 years ago.

Student Spotlight

Having had the opportunity to live on both coasts in the US has exposed me to the diversity of habitats and organisms residing on our multifarious continent. I have always enjoyed the mystery and majesty of nature and have chosen to commit my life to exploring its subtle intricacies.

While working toward my Bachelor’s degree in biology I was able to take part in a wide range of research including phylogenetic reconstruction of pit viper biogeographic expansion, sea turtle nutritional ecology, and community dynamics of ant communities under invasion by exotic species. Studying ant communities gave me a new perspective on how science could be done. It need not be carried out in some far away, exotic location on rare and cryptic species, but could be done year round in one’s own back yard. I have found over 20 species of ants around my home in Athens, Ga!

The intersection of scientific exploration and accessibility is what has driven my interest in the field of urban entomology. Bugs are always surrounding us! My research at UGA is an extension of that sentiment. I am currently studying the effects of the exotic tawny crazy ant on the ant community at the Port of Savannah Georgia. Ports have always played a critical role in the introduction of new invasive species and their importance will only grow in our increasingly globalized society.

In my free time, I enjoy hiking the Georgia hills with my two dogs, playing music, and brewing mead (a wine made with honey). I am incredibly grateful for all of the opportunities that attending UGA has afforded me. From interacting with some of the best scientists in the field of entomology to forging lifelong friendships in the crucible that is a graduate program, I will always reflect fondly on the experiences I have had and will continue to have here.

http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/entomology.html
Pi Chi Omega Awards Scholarship

Recognizing the need for college-educated professionals in the field of urban and industrial pest management, Pi Chi Omega, the national industry fraternity, makes available scholarships each year to students majoring in urban and industrial pest management or some closely related plan of study. This year, four scholarships were awarded.

Annie Rich, the only master’s degree student receiving a scholarship this year, received the second $2,000 Pi Chi Omega scholarship. Rich is majoring in medical and veterinary entomology at the University of Georgia under Dr. Nancy Hinkle, where her research focuses on the interface of urban pest suppression and medical entomology, specifically on bloodsucking pests and disease vectors. Her research is oriented toward solving problems affecting human health and comfort. She also has a passion for extension education.

The award is based on: the student being in good academic standing (3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale); and on character, personality, school activities, and professional activities. Applicants must submit a completed application form; resume or curriculum vitae; an official transcript from the school currently attending; a one page essay describing how their studies, research, and/or work experience will contribute to the urban and industrial pest management industry; two letters of recommendation; and a letter of support from a Pi Chi Omega member.

Article originally published in Pest Management Professional website, April 14, 2017. To view complete article go to: http://www.mypmp.net/2017/04/14/pi-chi-omega-awards-4-scholarships/

“Coming together is the beginning. Keeping it together is progress. Working together ... is success.” - Henry Ford

New President GES

At the April 2017 Georgia Entomological Society meeting in Jekyll Island, GA, Dr. Dan Sui-ter, the current program director received the President’s gavel from outgoing President, Dr. Michael Toews. Thank you Dr. Toews for serving and we wish Dr. Sui-ter a successful year! Photo by Nancy Hinkle.

http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/entomology.html
The following awards were presented at the 81st GES Annual Meeting:

Founder Honoree: Jim Hanula
Founder’s Lecture: Scott Horn
GES MS Scholarship: Courtney Brissey (pictured bottom left, with Will Hudson)

T.L. Bissell Award (MS and BS oral presentations):
1st Place: Thomas Sheehan
2nd Place: Charles Braman
3rd Place: Allison Johnson (pictured at top with Ted Cottrell)

C.M. Beckham Award (PhD oral presentations):
1st Place: Yi-An (Angela) Chen (pictured at bottom right with Ted Cottrell)

O.I. Snapp Award (Non-student oral presentation)
Winner: Stacey Vigil

U.E. Brady Award (Student poster presentation):
1st Place: Carson Bowers
2nd Place: Emily Knight
3rd Place: Courtney Brissey

Photo Salon Winners
Biology Category:
1st Place: Brett Blaauw
2nd Place: Lisa Ames
3rd Place: Annie Rich

Microscope Category:
1st Place: Nancy Hinkle
2nd Place: Yi-An Chen

Portrait Category:
1st Place: Shereen Xavier
2nd Place: Lisa Ames
3rd Place: Brett Blaauw

Sequence Category: 1st Place: Dan Hagan

Sturgis McKeever Award Best of Show Winner: Brett Blaauw

Peoples’ Choice Award: Brett Blaauw

https://blog.caes.uga.edu/ges/
Jayce W. Brandt

I am a doctoral candidate in the lab of Dr. Michael Strand. I started here in the summer of 2012 immediately after graduating from Kansas State University with a BS in Agronomy Plant Science and Biotechnology. I am currently working on the pea aphid facultative symbiont *Hamiltonella defensa* and its bacteriophage APSE that protect their aphid host from a parasitoid wasp, *Aphidius ervi*. My project aims to better understand the interactions of *H. defensa* and APSE and the mechanism by which they protect the aphid from parasitism.

This past fall I was selected as the Broadus Brown outstanding PhD student representative for the department and was also awarded as an outstanding TA by the graduate school for my role in teaching the general entomology lab.

When I am not in the lab you can often find me spending time with my boxer Mira or at the Rook and Pawn playing board games.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places You’ll Go.” – Dr. Seuss

CAES Graduate Students Honored

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) is home to more than 500 graduate students.

Faculty and staff gathered on April 26 to celebrate the hard work that graduate students put into making the college one of the best agricultural teaching and research institutions in the country.

CAES Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Josef Broder presented students with Outstanding Teaching Awards, which recognize graduate teaching assistants who go above and beyond to spark the curiosity of undergraduate students and help them understand difficult concepts.

This year’s 3 out of the 6 Outstanding Teaching Award went to Entomology grad students. They are: Jayce Brandt, Pablo Chialvo and Ashley Duxbury.

A Path through the Forest
By Jule-Lynne Macie, UGA Cooperative Extension, NW District ANR Program Development Coordinator (MPPPM, 1986)

People always ask if I always wanted to study insects. And the answer is no. Although in 1969, I did discover that if you are on your bike and you run over an eastern tent caterpillar at just the right angle, its head pops off in an oddly fascinating fashion (grin). From being in Girl Scouts, I knew sitting behind a desk for the rest of my life was NOT what I wanted. My high school aptitude tests indicated I should be a forest ranger or a home economics teacher, so I became a county extension agent.

After graduating from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse with a degree in Forest Entomology, a visit with UGA Entomology Department Dr. Preston Hunter brought me to Georgia. After lunch at The Georgia Center and yes, strawberry pie, I was hooked. I began my MPPPM degree in 1984 under Dr. John All with Dr. Paul Guillebeau as an office mate.

When I accepted a position with UGA Cooperative Extension in Rockdale County as the Agriculture and Natural Resources / 4H Agent, I learned to be a jill-of-all trades, but I stuck to my roots and incorporated as much entomology as I could into the local programming. One of the first people to come and see me was the former county agent. He plopped a branch down that looked to be filled with galls. “I know this!” I thought but looking closer noticed something wasn’t quite right. He said this bush was by the front door of a bank in town and he couldn’t figure out what was wrong. I cut open the ‘gall’ to find no insect inside. I looked at him and said, “Sir, this is bubble gum, I think people are spitting their gum out in the bush before they go into the bank.” Thus began my 30 year (and counting) career as ‘The Buglady’.

One of my most successful endeavors was an Insect Day Camp that ran for 15 years. Elementary aged youth spent a week making scientifically correct insect collections and doing fun insects things like insect crafts and games and handling live insects. The week ended with eating a few insects like chocolate covered crickets. Each year students returned until they aged out. At which point they returned as teen leaders helping teach new students. A former student is now owns a Pest Control company in town.

My most memorable success occurred when a two year old girl was brought to the Insectival by her father because she was afraid of insects. This program, replicated after the State Botanical Gardens program, involved everything from making antennae headbands and insect balloon art to cricket spitting contests and handling live insects. By the time this little girl left, she was wearing an insect headband and had “petted” the hissing cockroaches. She proudly carried her caterpillar balloon art out the door to her smiling Father.

I can honestly say that I couldn’t envision a better career. Once I discovered the wonderful world of insects, I was ‘pinned’. I may not like all insects, but I do think they are all interesting to learn about and study. Thankfully, I’ve made a career of being able to help people. When I retire in a few years one of my thoughts is to buy a house at the beach and open an insect museum continuing to educate people about insects in unique ways.

http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/entomology.html
Lund Week Awards 2017

Parasitoid Games:
1st place—Horace Zeng

Oral Competition M.S.
1st Thomas Sheehan
2nd Charlie Braman

Oral Competition PhD
1st Kelsey Coffman
2nd Ruby Harrison

3 Minute Thesis Competition
1st Conor Fair
2nd Kip Lacy

Poster Competition
1st Tzu-Chin Liu
2nd Courtney Brissey

Photo Competitions
(1st place only):
General Arthropod
“Autumn Katydid”
Kelly Murray

Macrophotography
“African Stink Ant”
Joanie King

Microphotography
“Chestnut timberworm”
Thomas Sheehan

Best in Show
“Armored Cricket”
Ruby Harrison

Triplehorn Challenge
1st Clesson Higashi
2nd Tom Sheehan
3rd Courtney Brissey

Submitted by:
Joe McHugh

Above, Kip Lacy; above right, Horace Zeng; Center is Courtney Brissey; bottom left is Kelsey Coffman

Bottom right is Kelly Murray and Dr. Joe McHugh. Thank you Dr. McHugh for presenting the awards.

Photos on these pages by Dr. Nancy Hinkle
Thank you to Dr. Joe McHugh for presenting all the awards. And for allowing us to crop him out of some of these pictures so we could present the award winners.

Pictured on this page—Top left is Thomas Sheehan. Top right is Charlie Braman. Bottom left is Ruby Harrison. Bottom right is Conor Fair and Dr. Joe McHugh. Thank you Dr. McHugh for supporting the Lund Club.
Hexapod Herald
Subscriptions
The Hexapod Herald will be issued in March, July and November of each year. We ask that you share this issue with friends and neighbors, and anyone who is interested in UGA Entomology. Due to printing & mailing costs, a limited number of hard copies will be produced & mailed. Electronic subscription is preferred. To subscribe to the Hexapod Herald, contact us
Write to Hexapod Herald, 413 Biological Sciences Bldg, UGA Campus, Athens, GA 30602 or
send e-mail to entodept@uga.edu
Or Call 706-542-2816.

Annie Snags Another!
Congratulations! Annie Rich in being selected as a recipient of the Steve Prchal Scholarship for the 2017 Invertebrates in Education and Conservation Conference (IECC)!
To learn more about this scholarship sponsor: http://www.titag.org/prchal/

Faculty Notes
Michael Toews has been promoted to Professor as of July 1, 2017.

Glen Rains - On sabbatical to Kyushu University, Japan from August until December. Developed a course and taught "International Development" to International Students majoring in agriculture and forestry. Also traveled to Vietnam as part of project with Nong Lam University in Ho Chi Minh City. Research was centered on UAV and sensor technologies in detecting plant stress.

Marianne Shockley is receiving the 2017 Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. This award is in recognition of her outstanding contributions in advising students in the Entomology department.

Zyzzyva, is now the newest last word you will find in the Oxford English Dictionary. It’s a noun, pronounced “zih-zih-vah” and defined as “a genus of tropical weevils (family Curculionidae) native to South America and typically found on or near palm trees.”. Read more in Washington Post: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/Submitted by Paul Guillebeau

http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/entomology.html
David Buntin has been chosen to receive the Southern Region IPM Center’s 2017 Friends of IPM Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is given to individuals to recognize their history of achievement and involvement in the adoption of integrated pest management (IPM). Buntin has made outstanding contributions to IPM implementation in the Southern region and has been a key leader in the IPM community for several decades.

David Riley’s work on the effects of cowpea curculio and other insects on vegetables has earned him the 2016 Recognition Award in Entomology from the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America (SEB-ESA). 

“If you can dream it, you can do it.” – Walt Disney

Tifton Campus Awards

Tifton campus folks celebrated their own April 19, 2017 at the annual University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Tifton Campus Awards Ceremony.

Transitions

This column is designed to recognize all the people that have come and gone since the last publication date. The time frame we used for this newsletter is March 2017 to July 2017. We apologize in advance for any omissions.

ARRIVALS

Lynn Maynard, Associate Accountant, Griffin—has experience in University Systems. Received an Associate Degree from Southern Crescent and is scheduled to receive her B. S. from Clayton State in December. She enjoys traveling with her husband and spending time with grandchildren. Lynn brings with her a “CAN DO” attitude.

Taylor Harrell, Research Technician (Burke Lab), Athens

Will Johns, Research Technician, (Bee Lab), Athens

DEPARTURES

Donnie Cook, Research Technician, Tifton—Retired June 30th after 31 years

Srinivas Lanka, Post Doc, (Ash Lab) Athens

Benjamin Rouse, Research Technician, (Bee Lab) Athens

Nathaniel Beech, Research Technician, (Bee Lab), Athens

Hannah Boomgarden, Research Technician (Burke Lab), Athens

http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/entomology.html
Invest in Entomology

Support UGA Entomology by donating to either the non-endowed research fund or any of the scholarship funds. Some of the available needs are:

- P.W. Fattig Entomology Scholarship
- H.O. Lund Entomology Scholarship
- H.O. Lund Professorship

Put your gift to work immediately by giving online, https://give.uga.edu/
Checks must be made payable to the “UGA Foundation” and can be sent to UGA CAES Office of External Relations, 117 Four Towers, Athens, GA 30602-7072. Please indicate the program area or fund you wish to support.

If you have any questions about making a gift to CAES, please contact the Office of External Relations at 706-542-3390 or email external@uga.edu.

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