Great universities attract professors who combine passion for their discipline with a focused determination to do important work. Our campus is fortunate indeed to introduce the newest members of our faculty—talented and determined scholars who will enhance our greatest strengths. We hope that each of them enjoys a long and satisfying career at Nebraska.

In his 2012 State of the University address, Chancellor Perlman proposed a set of transformative goals for the University, including an historic investment in new faculty who are specifically selected for their ability to teach and inspire today’s students, focus their scholarship on issues of contemporary global significance and engage with Nebraska’s citizens on our state’s most pressing needs. These new members of our faculty embody the next installment toward this goal.

The entire campus community shares responsibility for the success of our newest colleagues. We ask each of you to join us in pledging your support and encouragement to this exceptional Class of 2015—our newest Big Ten faculty class at UNL.

Ronnie Green
Interim Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Vice President, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Harlan Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Rebecca Brock

Katherine Castle

Clay Cressler

Jennine Capó Crucet
Aaron Duncan

Brittany Duncan
Computer Science and Engineering. Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2015; B.S., Georgia Institute of Technology, 2009. **Hometown:** Lawrenceville, GA. **Area of focus:** Human-robot interaction, field robotics, small unmanned aerial systems. **Representative award:** NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, 2011-2014.

Lynne Elkins

Matthew Johnson
Psychology; Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior. Ph.D., Yale University, 2011; B.A., Yale University, 2003. **Hometown:** Rural Hall, NC. **Area of focus:** Cognitive neuroscience. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Electrophysiological correlates of refreshing: Event-related potentials associated with directing reflective attention to face, scene, or word presentations,” *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience,* in press; coauthored “Decoding individual natural scene representations during perception and imagery,” *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience,* 8, 59, 2014. **Representative grant:** University of Nottingham Internal Pump-Priming

**Kyungyong Lee**

**Chigozie John Obioma**

**Angela Palmer-Wackerly**

**Suzette Person**
Computer Science and Engineering. Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2009; M.S., National Technological University, 2003; B.S., Iowa State University, 1984. **Hometown:** Lincoln, NE. **Area of focus:** Software engineering and program analysis.

Alexandra Seceleanu

Daizaburo Shizuka

Eric Weaver

Rachael Wendler Shah
Protection: A Source for Ethical Service-Learning Practice,” *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 2012. **Representative grants:** 100% Student Engagement Strategic Investment Grant ($7,468), 2015; Community Connections Grant, University of Arizona Foundation ($4,390), 2012. **Representative awards:** PEO Scholar Award, 2014-2015; International Association for Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement Student Award, 2014.

Qi Zhang
Statistics. Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh, 2013; B.S., China Agricultural University, 2008. **Area of focus:** High dimensional inference, statistical genomics.

Alexander Zupan

Ozgur Araz

Christina Carnes
Management. Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2015; M.S., Texas A&M University, 2010; B.A., Texas A&M University, 2008. **Hometown:** McKinney, TX. **Area of focus:** Strategic

**Keith Czerney**  
School of Accountancy.  
Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2015;  
M.A., Villanova University, 2006;  
B.B.A., University of Michigan, 2005. **Area of focus:** Financial accounting, auditing.  

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**Christopher Mann**  
Economics. Ph.D., University of Alabama, 2015; M.A., University of Alabama, 2011; B.A., University of Alabama, 2010. **Hometown:** Huntsville, AL. **Area of focus:** Healthcare economics.

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**Jake Messersmith**  

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**Majid Nabavi**  
Management. Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2006; M.B.A., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2002; Mining Engineering, University of Tehran, 1992. **Hometown:** Tehran, Iran. **Area of focus:** Business analytics.  
2015–2016 New Faculty

Jonathan O’Brien

Joel Owens

Jennifer Ryan
Roberto Stein  
Finance. Ph.D., Tulane University, 2012; M.B.A., Tulane University, 2007; B.S., Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, 1997. **Hometown:** Santiago, Chile. **Area of focus:** Investments, mutual funds and behavioral finance.  

Liying Wang  
Finance. Ph.D., University of South Carolina, 2015. **Area of focus:** Corporate bonds, credit derivatives, corporate finance.  
**Representative publication:** “Margin-based asset pricing and the determinants of the CDS basis,” *Journal of Fixed Income*, 2014. **Representative award:** Semifinal list for the Best Paper Award, FMA, 2012.

Charles K. Waterson  
Management/Center for Entrepreneurship. M.S., University of Arizona, 1984; B.S., Wichita State University, 1979. **Hometown:** Dighton, KS. **Area of focus:** Strategic management, entrepreneurship, technology and innovation management.

Biyu Wu  
School of Accountancy. Ph.D., University of Connecticut, 2015; M.B.A., University of Connecticut, 2006; B.S., Xiamen University (China), 1999. **Area of focus:** Financial reporting quality, securities regulation, initial public offerings, auditing.  

Angela Dietsch  
Emily Dorsey

Michelle Howell Smith

Megan Kelley

Karsten Koehler
Gilbert Parra  

Elliot Tebbe  

Vitaly Alexandrov  

Justin Bradley  
Computer Science and Engineering. Ph.D., University of Michigan, 2014; M.S., Brigham Young University, 2007; B.S., Brigham Young University, 2005. **Hometown:** Salt Lake City, UT. **Area of focus:** Control systems, cyber-physical systems, real-time systems. **Representative publications:**

**Jiong Hu**

**Qing Hui**

**Wei Niu**
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Ph.D., Michigan State University, 2004. **Area of focus:** Biocatalysis, metabolic engineering and synthetic biology. **Representative publication:** “Stereospecific Microbial Conversion of Lactic Acid into 1,2-Propanediol,” *ACS Synthetic Biology*, 2015.
John Sangster

Michael Sealy

Chungwook Sim

Chung Song
Civil Engineering. Ph.D., Louisiana State University, 1999; M.Sc., University of Texas at Austin, 1986; B.S., Yonsei University (Korea), 1984. **Hometown:** Seoul, South Korea. **Area of focus:** Geotechnical engineering (engineering for soils and foundations).
**Jian Wang**  
Mechanical and Materials Engineering.  
Ph.D., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2006; M.S., Xi’an Jiaotong University (P.R. China), 1996; B.S., Xi’an Jiaotong University (P.R. China), 1994.  
**Hometown:** Xi’an, P.R. China.  
**Area of focus:** Materials science, solid mechanics, nanostructures and nanomechanics, multiscale materials modeling and characterization.  
**Representative grants:** Deformation Physics of Ultrafine Scale Materials; DOE BES Core Program ($980,000), 2013-2016; Design of High Fracture Toughness Materials through Interface Engineering; LANL LDRD Directed Research ($330,000), 2013-2016.  
**Representative awards:** International Journal of Plasticity Young Research Award, 2015; TMS MPMD Young Leader Development Award, 2013.

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**Sheng Wei**  
**Area of focus:** Hardware security.  
**Representative award:** Cisco Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Computer Science, University of California, Los Angeles, 2013.

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**Qin Zhou**  
Mechanical and Materials Engineering.  
Ph.D., University of California Berkeley, 2011; M.S., Tsinghua University (Beijing), 2006; B.S., Tsinghua University (Beijing), 2004.  
**Hometown:** Berkeley, CA.  
**Area of focus:** Nanomaterials, micromechanics and dynamics, MEMS.  
HIXSON-LIED COLLEGE OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Wesley Broulik
Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film. M.F.A., Rutgers State University of New Jersey; B.A., University of Iowa. Hometown: Mechanicsville, IA. Area of focus: Acting.

Thomas Larson

Milena Radzikowska

COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Changmin Yan
in Prevention Science, Department of Human Development, Washington State University, Pullman, 2011-2014; Graham Endowed Fellowship, the Graduate School, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, 2005-2008.

**INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Sandra Barrera**  
West Central Research and Extension Center.  
M.A., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2012; B.A., La Salle University, 1992.  
**Hometown:** Grand Island, NE.  
**Area of focus:** Community Vitality Initiative (CVI) with an emphasis on small business development with a focus on entrepreneurship.  
**Representative award:** Employee of the Year, UNL Extension, 2009.

**Meredith Bremer**  
Panhandle Research and Extension Center.  
M.A., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2009; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2006.  
**Hometown:** St. Edward, NE.  
**Area of focus:** Beef systems.

**Kimberly Clark**  
Animal Science.  
M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2014; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2012.  
**Hometown:** Seward, NE.  
**Area of focus:** Dairy systems, Extension Educator.  
**Representative publications:**  

**Cody Creech**  
Agronomy and Horticulture.  
Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2015; M.S., Utah State University, 2012; B.S., Utah State University, 2008.  
**Hometown:** Cornish, UT.  
**Area of focus:** Dryland cropping systems in Western Nebraska.  
**Representative publications:**  
**Representative grants:** A survey of current dryland production practices, crop rotations, weed pressure, and herbicide-resistance in Western Nebraska, 2015; Establishing a long-term crop rotation study to evaluate the benefit of alternative crops in dryland wheat production systems in Nebraska, 2015.  
**Representative awards:**  
Henry M. Beachell Fellowship, 2014; Dean’s Fellowship, 2013 and 2014.
Melanie Downs  
Food Science and Technology. Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2013; M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2010; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2008.  
**Hometown:** Rapid City, SD.  
**Area of focus:** Food allergen proteomics, protein mass spectrometry, and food protein chemistry.  

Connie Fisk  
Southeast Research and Extension Center. Ph.D., North Carolina State University, 2013; M.S., Oregon State University, 2006; B.S., Oregon State University, 1999.  
**Hometown:** Prineville, OR.  
**Area of focus:** Local foods and urban agriculture.  
**Representative grants:** Agricultural water quality and transfer of foodborne pathogens in grapes and strawberries, Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium ($5,000), 2007; Influence of training systems, levels of pruning severity and long-term effects on yield and quality in Carlos muscadine grapes, North Carolina Wine and Grape Council ($8,500), 2006.  
**Representative award:** Master Distance Educator Award, Wyoming Distance Education Consortium, 2014.

Leah Gremm  
**Hometown:** Chadron, NE.  
**Area of focus:** 4-H Child and Youth Development Educator.

Amir Haghverdi  
Biological Systems Engineering. Ph.D., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2015; Ph.D., Ferdows University of Mashhad (Iran), 2011; M.S., Bu-Ali Sina University (Iran), 2007; B.S., University of Tehran (Iran), 2005.  
**Hometown:** Mashhad, Iran.  
**Area of focus:** Irrigation water management, soil hydrology, precision agriculture, remote sensing, data mining, machine learning, geostatistics.  
**Representative grants:** Leib, B.G., Haghverdi, A., and Grant T. Evaluating the performance of Decagon MPS-2 sensors for establishing cotton irrigation scheduling...
stations that automatically update a water balance and soil matric potential, Cotton Incorporated ($19,999), 2014. **Representative awards:** Graduate Student with Professional Promise in Biosystems Engineering Award, BESS, UTK, 2015; Outstanding Graduate Student Award, International Society of Precision Agriculture, 2014.

**Joshua Herr**


**David Hyten**

Agronomy and Horticulture. Ph.D., University of Maryland, 2005; M.S., University of Tennessee, 2002; B.A., South Illinois University, 1999. **Hometown:** McLeansboro, IL. **Area of focus:** Soybean genomics. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Impacts of genetic bottlenecks on soybean genome diversity,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2006; coauthored “A high density integrated genetic linkage map of soybean and the development of a 1536 universal soy linkage panel for quantitative trait locus mapping,” *Crop Science*, 2010. **Representative grants:** Whole genome analysis of the USDA soybean germplasm collection and applications for new gene discovery, United Soybean Board ($2,913,480), 2009-2011; Nested association mapping to identify yield QTL in diverse high yielding elite soybean lines, United Soybean Board ($160,000), 2009-2010. **Representative awards:** James R. Miller award, Maryland Crop Improvement Association, 2004; Outstanding Graduate Student in Natural Resource Sciences, University of Maryland, 2005.

**Nicole Iverson**


**Phil Johnson**  

**Christian King**  

**Jesse Korus**  
School of Natural Resources; Conservation and Survey Division. Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2015; M.S., Virginia Tech, 2002; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2000. **Hometown:** Lindsay, NE. **Area of focus:** Groundwater hydrology. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Enhanced bioturbation on the down-drift flank of a Turonian asymmetric delta: Implications for seaway circulation, river nutrients, and facies models,” *Sedimentology*, in press, 2015; coauthored “Asymmetry in Holocene river deltas: patterns, controls, and stratigraphic effects,” *Earth Science Reviews*, in press, 2015. **Representative grants:** High-resolution imaging of the Platte River streambed using combined electromagnetic induction and hydraulic parameter estimation techniques, USGS Nebraska Water Resources 104B 2011 ($19,000), 2011-2012; Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment Study, Ashland, Firth, and Oakland Bulletins, Lower Platte North Natural Resources District of Nebraska ($84,500), 2009-2011. **Representative awards:** John C. Frye Memorial Award for best environmental geology publication, American Association of State Geologists and Geological Society of America, 2014; Staff Recognition Award, UNL School of Natural Resources, 2009.

**Julia Kreikemeier**  
Northeast Research and Extension Center. M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2015; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2013. **Hometown:** Dodge, NE. **Area of focus:** 4-H Youth Development.

**Jamie Loizzo**  
Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication. Ph.D., Purdue University, 2015; M.S.Ed, Purdue University, 2011; B.A., Southern Illinois University-Carbondale,

Representative grants: Purdue Agricultural Research Office, Senior Associate Dean Dr. Karen Plaut ($12,500), 2013; Proposal to Develop Science Communication Products for the Purdue University College of Agriculture; Purdue College of Education Seed Grant ($7,000), Opening a Backchannel: Enhancing Student Engagement through Social Networking Technology, 2012. Representative awards: Gold Award for Outstanding Professional Skill for Lafayette Science Caf, The Association for Communication Excellence, 2013; Outstanding Professional Skill Award and Gold Award in Distance Education and Instructional Design for Purdue zipTrips, ACE: The Association for Communication Excellence, 2010.

Cecilea Meyer

Taro Mieno

Sarah Paulos

Chris Proctor
Daran Rudnick  
Biological Systems Engineering; West Central Research and Extension Center.  
Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2015; M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2013; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011.  
**Hometown:** South Sioux City, NE.  
**Area of focus:** Irrigation management, soil water extraction dynamics, crop water productivity.  
**Representative awards:** ASABE Superior Paper Award, 2014; Maude Hammond Fling Fellowship, 2014.

Elizabeth Slack  
Northeast Research and Extension Center.  
M.P.S., Cornell University, 2015; B.S., University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, 2014.  
**Hometown:** Park Falls, WI.  
**Area of focus:** Food, nutrition and health.

Limei Zhang  
Biochemistry.  
Ph.D., University of Saskatchewan (Canada), 2009; M.S., University of Victoria (Canada), 2000; B.S., Jilin University (China), 1997.  
**Hometown:** Shulan, Jilin Province, P.R. China.  
**Area of focus:** Biochemistry and biophysics.  
**Representative awards:** Center of Environmental Microbial Interactions Fellowship, 2013-2014; Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2009-2011.

Yue Zhang  
Food Science and Technology. Ph.D., Wuhan University (China), 2011; B.S., Wuhan University (China), 2006.  
**Hometown:** Jiangxi, China.  
**Area of focus:** Food physical chemistry, food nanotechnology.  
**Representative publications:** “Probing the binding between norbixin and dairy proteins by spectroscopy methods,” *Food Chemistry*, 2013; “Encapsulation of bixin in sodium caseinate to deliver the colorant in transparent dispersions,” *Food Hydrocolloids*, 2013.
Yuzhen Zhou