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 bold new 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 research, scholarship and creative activity on issues of contemporary global significance, and engage with Nebraska’s citizens on their most pressing needs. These new members of our faculty embody the next installment toward this goal.

One of the things that makes our campus a great place to conduct a faculty career is that we all have a stake in the success of our newest colleagues. We ask each of you to join us in pledging our support and encouragement to this exceptional Class of 2013—our newest Big Ten faculty class at UNL.

Ellen Weissinger  
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Ronnie Green  
NU Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor
**2013–2014 New Faculty**

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James Coltrain

Juan Cui

Kirk Dombrowski
Abla Hasan

Carrie Heitman

Alexey Kovalev

Yuan-Juang Yvonne Lai

Colin McLear
Stephen Morin  

Beverly Rilett  

Jeffrey Smith  

Ann Tschetter  
History. Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2003; M.A., University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1996; M.A., University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1994; B.A., University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1992. Area of focus: 19th century American history and Willa Cather. Representative grant: Co PI, Enhancing Student Success Grant.

Adrian Wisnicki  
**Xiaoshan Xu**  
Physics and Astronomy.  
Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology; M.S., Nanjing University, 2000; B.S., Nanjing University, 1997.  
**Area of focus:** Condensed matter physics.  

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**Amanda Gonzales**  
School of Accountancy.  
**Area of focus:** Financial reporting.

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**Alok Kumar**  
**Area of focus:** Distribution channels, business-to-business (interorganizational) relationships, supply chain governance, new institutional economics.  
**Representative grants:** Smeal College of Business, Pennsylvania State University ($10,000), 2010.

---

**Stanislava Nikolova**  
**Area of focus:** Fixed-income securities.  
**Representative publications:** Coauthored “Leverage Expectations and Bond Credit Spreads,” *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, 2012;

**Tianxiang Shi**  
Finance. Ph.D., University of Waterloo (Canada), 2013; M.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2009; B.S., Zhejiang University (China), 2007. **Area of focus:** Actuarial science, risk theory, stochastic modeling in insurance and finance.  

**LaDonna Thornton**  

**Stephanie Bondi**  

**Weiwen Chai**  
Nutrition and Health Sciences. Ph.D., University of Wyoming, 2004; M.S., University of Wyoming, 1996; B.S., Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 1991. **Area of focus:** Nutritional epidemiology and behavioral prevention in obesity and cancer. **Representative publications:** “Effects of calcium and vitamin D supplementation on blood pressure and serum lipids and carotenoids: A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, clinical trial,” Ann Epidemiol 2013, 23:564-70, PMCID, in
process; “C-Reactive Protein, Lipid-soluble micronutrients, and survival in colorectal cancer patients,” *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 2013, 22(7): 1278-88 PMCID; in process.

**Amy Dent**

**Matthew Fritz**

**Deryl Hatch**

**Shavonna Holman**
Educational Administration. Ed.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011; M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2004; M.S., University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2004; B.S., University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1999. **Area of focus:** The use of Title I funds and the impact on student achievement; the school leader’s role in assisting teachers in Title I schools; and poverty, urban schools and student achievement.

**Yolanda Mitchell**
Child, Youth, and Family Studies. Ph.D., Kansas State University, 2013; M.S., Kansas State University, 2008; B.S., Kansas State University, 2005. **Area of focus:** Multiculturalism in families, youth development, and family life education. **Representative awards:** Robert H. Poresky Dissertation Award, Kansas State University ($2,500), 2012; Wess Burr Graduate Student Paper Award, National Council on Relations, 2012.

**Elizabeth Niehaus**
Educational Administration. Ph.D., University of Maryland-College Park, 2012; M.A., Washington University in St. Louis, 2007; B.A., University of Virginia, 2002. **Area of focus:** Higher education and student affairs. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “HLM behind the curtain: Unveiling decisions behind the use and interpretation of HLM in higher education.

**Julie Thomas**

**Sarah Thomas**

**Lorey Wheeler**
Student Initiative Funding Grant, Arizona State University, 2010; Travel Grant, National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2010. **Representative awards:** Frances Degen Horowitz Millennium Scholars Program Junior Mentor, Society for Research in Child Development, 2013; Rosabeth Moss Kantor Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research, semi-finalist, Center for Families at Purdue University and the Boston College Center for Work and Family, 2012.

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

**Chris Cornelius**

**Behzad Esmaeili**
Daniel Linzell  
Civil Engineering.  
Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology, 1999;  
M.S., Georgia Institute of Technology, 1995;  

Hasan Otu  
Electrical Engineering.  
Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2002; M.S., Bogazici University (Turkey), 1997; B.S., Bogazici University (Turkey), 1996. **Area of focus:** Bioinformatics. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Sequencing, analysis, and annotation of expressed sequence tags for camelus dromedaries,” PLoS ONE, 2010; coauthored “Pathway analysis of high throughput biological data within a Bayesian Network framework,” Bioinformatics, 2011. **Representative grants:** Analysis of high-throughput genomic data using an integrated approach, The Dubai Harvard Foundation for Medical Research ($182,000), 2009-2012; Bayesian Network Analysis of High Throughput Biological Data: A Systems Biology Approach, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey ($85,000), 2011-2013. **Representative award:** Best Study Award, Transcriptional Profiling for Detection of a Gene Signature in Renal Cell Cancer, 55th Congress of the German Urological Society, Hamburg, 2003.

Massimiliano Pierobon  
Computer Science and Engineering.  
Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology, 2013; M.S. (B.S.+M.S.), Politecnico di Milano, 2005. **Area of focus:** Molecular communication engineering, nanonetworking, signal processing applied to synthetic biology. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Capacity of a Diffusion-based Molecular Communication System with Channel

**Joshua Steelman**

**Karen Stelling**
Mechanical and Materials Engineering. M.B.A., University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2008; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 1987. **Area of focus:** Professionalism, leadership and teamwork for engineers.

**Richard Wood**

**HIXSON-LIED COLLEGE OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS**

**David Hall**
School of Music. D.M.A, University of North Texas, 2013; M.M., Texas Christian University, 2008; B.M., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2006. **Area of focus:** Percussion and jazz studies.

**Phillip Sapirstein**
Art and Art History. Ph.D., Cornell University, 2008; M.A., Cornell University, 2003; B.A., University of Notre Dame, 1999. **Area of focus:** Ancient art, classical archaeology,

**JEFFREY S. RAIKES SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Ashu Guru**

**COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS**

**Dane Kiambi**

**Adam Wagler**

**COLLEGE OF LAW**

**Gus Hurwitz**  
J.D., University of Chicago Law School, 2007; M.A., George Mason University, 2011; B.A., St. John’s College, 2003. **Area of focus:** Regulation, telecommunications law, law and technology, law and economics.  

**INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Bradley Bennett**  
Animal Science. M.S., Kansas State University, 2013; B.S., Kansas State University, 2011. **Area of focus:** Livestock evaluation and selection, youth livestock programs.

**Karly Black**  
Southeast Research and Extension Center. M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011; B.A., University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2008. **Area of focus:** 4-H youth development; science, engineering and technology (SET).

**Kathleen Brooks**  
Agricultural Economics. Ph.D., Oklahoma State University, 2010; M.S., Illinois State University, 2007; B.S., Kansas State University, 2005.  
**Area of focus:** Production economics, livestock marketing and risk management.  

**John Carroll**  
School of Natural Resources. Ph.D., University of North Dakota, 1989; M.S., Eastern Kentucky University, 1982; B.S., University of Massachusetts, 1979. **Area of focus:** Wildlife ecology and population biology.  
**Representative publications:** Coauthored “Applying landscape metrics to characterize potential habitat of bonobos (Pan paniscus) in the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba landscape, Democratic Republic of the Congo,” *International Journal of*
Jennifer Clarke

Bertrand Clarke

Jenny Dauer
School of Natural Resources. Ph.D., Oregon State University, 2012; M.S., Penn State University, 2005; B.S., Penn State University, 2000. **Area of focus:** Science literacy, research on student learning, biogeochemistry and carbon cycling.
Joseph Dauer

Robert Eirich
Animal Science; Panhandle Research Extension Center. M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2006; B.S., University of Wyoming, 1990. **Area of focus:** Beef systems, beef quality assurance.

Trenton Franz

Dale Grotelueschen
School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences. Ph.D., University of Missouri, 1974; M.S., Colorado State University, 1992. **Representative award:** Distinguished Service Award, Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association, 2012.

Christopher Gustafson

Lindsay Hastings  

Co-authored “The Cell Collective: Toward an open and collaborative approach to systems biology,” *BMC Systems Biology*, 2012; co-authored “Emergent decision-making in biological signal transduction networks,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA*, 2008. **Representative grants:** NE STEM 4U: After school STEM outreach in Omaha Public Schools, Sherwood Foundation ($80,000), 2013-2014. **Representative awards:** Harris Cancer Research Award, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2010; Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2008-2010.

Thomas Helikar  
Biochemistry. Ph.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2010; B.S., University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2006. **Area of focus:** Systems biology, computational biology, immunology, and cellular emergent properties. **Representative publications:**

Euwanda Jennings  
Southeast Research and Extension Center. M.A., University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2012; B.S., University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1996. **Area of focus:** 4-H.
Joe Louis
Entomology; Biochemistry. Ph.D., University of North Texas, 2011; M.S., Kansas State University, 2006; B.S., Kerala Agricultural University, 2003. **Area of focus:** Plant stress biology, plant-insect interactions, plant signaling mechanisms. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Host-specific salivary elicitor(s) of European Corn Borer (Ostrinia nubilalis) induce defenses in tomato and maize,” *New Phytologist* 199: 63-73, 2013; coauthored “Arabidopsis thaliana-Myzus persicae interaction: Shaping the understanding of plant defense against phloem-feeding aphids,” *Frontiers in Plant Science* 4: 213, 2013. **Representative grants:** Travel Grant for Post-doctoral Fellows, Physiology, Biochemistry, and Toxicology Section, Entomological Society of America, 2012; College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Support Grant, University of North Texas, 2011. **Representative awards:** International Congress on Insect Neurochemistry and Neurophysiology (ICINN) Student Recognition Award in Insect Physiology, Biochemistry, Toxicology, and Molecular Biology, Entomological Foundation, 2011; John Henry Comstock Graduate Student Award, Entomological Society of America, 2010.

Fabio Lanhoso de Mattos
Agricultural Economics. Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2008; M.S., University of Sao Paulo, 2000; B.A., University of Sao Paulo, 1992. **Area of focus:** Commodity marketing and risk management, price analysis, decision-making under uncertainty. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Marketing contracts, overconfidence and timing in the Canadian wheat market,” *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 2012; coauthored “Probability Weighting and Loss Aversion in Futures Hedging,” *Journal of Financial Markets*, 2008. **Representative grants:** Do Farmers Exhibit Disposition Effect?: Evidence from Grain Marketing, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ($25,000), 2011; Is It Price Variability or Actual Risk? Evaluating Risk and Risk Management Strategies in Agriculture Using Different Risk Measures, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ($22,000), 2012. **Representative awards:** Outstanding Graduate Student Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2006-2007; Biester Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2006-2008.

Jennifer Melander
Joseph Msanne

Katie Pekarek
Southeast Research and Extension Center; School of Natural Resources. M.S., North Carolina State University, 2008; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2006. **Area of focus:** Water quality. **Representative publications:** “Stormwater Management: Terminology, EC701,” *University of Nebraska–Lincoln NebGuides*, 2011; “Stormwater Sleuth and Running Rain, MP97,” *University of Nebraska–Lincoln Market Place*, 2012. **Representative award:** ANREP Gold Team Award, Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals, 2013.

Oscar Rodriguez
Agronomy and Horticulture. Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 1995; M.S., Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro (Mexico), 1989; B.S., Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro (Mexico), 1983. **Area of focus:** Plant breeding and genetics (Joint Research Agreement Conagra Foods–UNL).

Consuelo Romero
School of Natural Resources. Ph.D., Wageningen University and Research Centre (The Netherlands), 2005; M.S., National Agricultural University La Molina (Peru), 1997; B.S., National Agricultural University La Molin (Peru), 1994. **Area of focus:** Soil and water conservation, erosion modeling. **Representative publications:** “Interrill and rill erodibility in the northern Andean Highlands,” *Catena*, 2007; “Reanalysis of the global soil database for crop and environmental modeling,” *Environmental Modelling and Software*, 2012.
Ron Rosati

Annie Specht

Rebecca Swartz
Jessica Torrion  

Wenzhong Wei  
School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Center for Virology. Ph.D., Chinese Academy of Science, 2002; M.S., Chinese Academy of Science, 1998; B.S., Wuhan University, 1995. **Area of focus:** Lactobacillus-based HIV vaccine. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Cadmium-mediated rescue from ER-associated degradation induces expression of its exporter,” *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*, 2009; coauthored “Increased PAFAH and oxidized lipids are associated with inflammation and atherosclerosis in hypercholesterolemic pigs,” *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol*, 2009.

Todd Whitney  
Southeast Research and Extension Center. M.S.; Kansas State University, 2008; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 1985. **Area of focus:** Cropping systems (irrigation and cover crops). **Representative publication:** “Planting Cover Crops into Storm Damaged Fields,” *No-till Farmer*, 2013. **Representative grant:** Nebraska No-Till Travel Grant, Sustainable Agriculture Resource (SARE), 2013. **Representative awards:** Distinguished Extension Service Award, 2005; Achievement Extension Award, 1999.

Jing Zhang  
Biochemistry. Ph.D., Wright State University, 2004; B.S., Shanghai University, 1995. **Area of focus:** Teaching, endocytic trafficking. **Representative publication:** “Rabankyrin-5 interacts with EHD1 and Vps26 to regulate endocytic trafficking and retromer function,” *Traffic*, 2012.

Lorna Dawes  
M.L.I.S., University of South Carolina, 2001; B.S., University of the West Indies, 1984. **Area of focus:** Information literacy pedagogy and first year instruction.