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 2014—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
2014–2015 New Faculty

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2014–2015 New Faculty

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Brandon Bosch

John Brunero
Philosophy. Ph.D., Columbia University, 2006; B.A. Colby College, 1998. **Hometown:** West Warwick, RI. **Area of focus:** Ethics.

Brian Couch
School of Biological Sciences. Ph.D., Yale University, 2011. **Area of focus:** Biology education research. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Bridging physics and biology teaching through modeling,” *American Journal of Physics*, 2014. **Representative grants:** Impact of the Summer Institutes on Faculty Teaching and Student Achievement, National Science Foundation ($476,147), 2014-17; Adopting Research-based Instructional Strategies for Enhancing STEM education, National Science Foundation ($1,990,279), 2014-17.

Mohammad Hasan

Adam Larios
Mike Lippman  

Colin Meiklejohn  

Kristi Montooth  

Maital Neta  
Yumou Qiu
Statistics. Ph.D., Iowa State University, 2014; M.S., Peking University, 2010; B.S., Beijing Normal University, 2008. **Hometown:** Lincoln, NE. **Area of focus:** Inference on high-dimensional covariance matrices; high-dimensional statistical inference and applications in genetic analysis; empirical likelihood method and its application in spatial data. **Representative publication:** Coauthored “Test for Bandedness of High-dimensional Covariance Matrices and Bandwidth Estimation,” *The Annals of Statistics* 40:1285-1314, 2012. **Representative awards:** Snedecor Award, Department of Statistics, Iowa State University, 2013; Laha Travel Award, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 2013.

Heather Richards-Rissetto

Sean Trundle
History. Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2013; M.A., University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2009; B.A., Naropa University, 2002. **Hometown:** San Francisco, CA. **Area of focus:** Digital pedagogy, post-WWII cultural history. **Representative awards:** Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2012; Biography Prize for Best Dissertation in Life Writing, Center for Biographical Research, 2013.

Alexander Vazansky
Nathan Wakefield

Tyler White

Heather Clemens

Jennifer Davidson
2014–2015 New Faculty

Jimmy Downes
Accounting. Ph.D., Oklahoma State University, 2014; M.A.C.C, Kansas State University, 2008; B.S., Kansas State University, 2007. **Hometown:** Overland Park, KS. **Area of focus:** Financial accounting.

Imran Khan
Marketing. Ph.D., Kennesaw State University, 2014; M.B.A., University of South Alabama, 1995; B.S., University of South Alabama, 1993. **Hometown:** Mobile, AL. **Area of focus:** B2B marketing.

Jin Yeub Kim

Nichole MacDonald
Graduate Programs/ M.B.A. Programs. M.B.A., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2006; B.S.B.A., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2001. **Hometown:** Lincoln, NE.

Chad Mardesen
Marketing. M.B.A., Bellevue University, 2001; B.A., Iowa State University, 1993. **Hometown:** Omaha, NE. **Area of focus:** Sales communication, advanced sales communication, and sales management.

Jina Morris
School of Accountancy. M.A., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 1998; B.A., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 1994. **Hometown:** Denton, NE. **Representative awards:** Student Achievement Award, The Organization of Accredited Graduate Programs in Accounting, 1998; Graduated with Distinction from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 1994.

Jing Wang
Finance. Ph.D., Purdue University, 2013; M.S., Boston College, 2008; B.S., Fudan University, 2007. **Hometown:** Shanghai, China. **Area of focus:** Corporate finance. **Representative publication:** “Debt Covenant Renegotiations and Creditor Control Rights,” *Journal of Financial Economics*, 2014
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Wayne Babchuck

Hannah Ditmars

Judy Harvey

Lori Hoetger

Justin Olmanson
Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education. Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 2011; M.Ed., University of Houston, 2001; B.A., Minnesota State University, Mankato, 1997. Hometown: Mankato, MN. Area of focus: Design, development, and implementation of

Mackenzie Savaiano

Lawrence Scharmann
Katherine Wesley

Natalie Williams

Jiangang Xia

Christina Yao
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Christos Argyropoulos

Electrical Engineering.

Bai Cui

Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

Erica Ryherd

Asregedew Woldesenbet

David Yuill

Jinying Zhu
Civil Engineering. Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2006; B.Eng., Zhejiang University, 1992. Hometown: Round Rock, TX. Area of focus: Nondestructive testing (NDT) and sensing technologies for civil infrastructure,

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

**Mitchell Critel**
Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film.
M.F.A., University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2009; B.F.A., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2005. **Hometown:** Grand Island, NE. **Area of focus:** Technical direction, theatrical engineering, and construction management.

**Joshua Madsen**
Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film.

**Walker Pickering**
Art and Art History.

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

**Erica DeFrain**
University Libraries.
M.A., University of Arizona, 2004; M.S., University of Arizona, 2006; B.A., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2002. **Hometown:** Lincoln, NE. **Area of focus:** Social sciences liaison. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “A new tool for online database instruction: Evaluating the effectiveness of the Guide on the Side,” *Communications in Information Literacy*, 2014; coauthored “Ice Ice Baby: Are Librarian Stereotypes Freezing Us out of Instruction?” *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*, 2014.
Andrea Dinkelman
University Libraries.
Pharm.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center, 1991; M.S., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2003; B.S., Nebraska Wesleyan University, 1984. **Area of focus:** Information literacy, collaborative teaching partnerships between librarians and faculty. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “The Role of Veterinary Medical Librarians in Teaching Information Literacy,” *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*, 2011; coauthored “Using an Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Undergraduates Communication and Information Literacy Skills,” *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education*, 2010.

Jennifer Thoegersen
University Libraries.
M.L.I.S, Oslo and Akershus University College, 2012; B.S., University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2009. **Hometown:** Peru, NE. **Area of focus:** Data curation. **Representative awards:** Erasmus Mundus Scholar, European Commission, 2010-2012; Fulbright Fellow, Institute of International Education, 2013.

Harriet Wintemute

**INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Tony Adesemoye

Simanti Banerjee
Agricultural Economics. Ph.D., Penn State University, 2010; M.S., Jadavpur University, 2004; B.S.,
Jadavpur University, 2002. **Area of focus:** Environmental economics, experimental and behavioral economics.

**Nicholas Brozovic**  
Robert B. Daugherty  
Water for Food Institute; Agricultural Economics.  
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 2002; M.S., University of Southern California, 1996; M.S., University of California, Berkeley, 2000; B.A., Oxford University, 1993. **Area of focus:** Resource and environmental economics. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “The regulation of a spatially heterogeneous externality: Tradable groundwater permits to protect instream flows,” *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 2013; coauthored “Modeling irrigation behavior in groundwater systems,” *Water Resources Research*, 2014. **Representative grants:** Coupling Hydrologic, Economic, and Social Network Models to Improve Understanding of Surface Water-Groundwater Interactions for Protection of Instream Flows, National Science Foundation ($999,000), 2007-2013; An online clearing house for trading resource use rights with environmental and spatial constraints, National Science Foundation ($50,000), 2013. **Representative awards:** Teacher Fellow Award, North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, 2010; Faculty Fellow, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, 2012-2013.

**Kelly Bruns**  
West Central Research and Extension Center.  

**Virginia Chaidez**  
Nutrition and Health Sciences.  

Soonkyu Chung


Ozan Nazim Ciftci
Food Science and Technology. Ph.D., University of Gaziantep, 2009; M.S., University of Gaziantep, 2003;
David H. Baker Nutrition Scholar Award Fund, Division of Nutritional Sciences Symposium University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Toshiro Nishida Research Award Division of Nutritional Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Roger Elmore

Sydney Everhart
Plant Pathology. Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2012; M.S., University of Central Missouri, 2007; B.S., University of Iowa, 2005. Hometown: Atlantic, IA. Area of focus: Impact of stress on emergence of fungicide resistance, with specific emphasis on the effects of sub-lethal fungicide exposure on genome evolution; population genetics, genomics, and molecular epidemiology of fungal plant pathogens.

Jackie Farrell

Katie Fink

Jaclynn Foged

Cory Forbes
Elementary Science (MoHSES), National Science Foundation ($448,546), 2012-2015; Principal Investigator, Reflective Assessment for Elementary Science (RAES), Spencer Foundation ($39,932), 2014-2016. Representative awards: Early Career Research Award, National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST), 2014.

Patricio Grassini


Hernan Garcia-Ruiz

Jill Goedeken

Martin Hamel
Baburao Kamble

Kaytlyn Kennedy

Eric Knoll

Ron Lewis

L.J. McElravy
Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication. Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2014; M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2007.
of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2008. **Hometown:** Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. **Area of focus:** Youth civic leadership. **Representative publication:** Coauthored “Profiling the youth leader: Personality and emotional intelligence trends and their relationship to leadership skills,” *Journal of Agricultural Education*, 2013. **Representative grant:** Rural Community Engagement and Leadership Program, Rural Futures Institute ($25,000), 2014. **Representative awards:** Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2014; Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2014.

**Jacie Milius**
Southeast Research and Extension Center. M.Ed., Concordia University, 2014; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011. **Hometown:** Fairbury, NE. **Area of focus:** Child and youth development, community vitality.

**Gota Morota**
Animal Science. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2014; M.S., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011; B.S., Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, 2008. **Area of focus:** Quantitative genetics. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Genome-enabled prediction of broiler traits in chickens using genomic annotation,” *BMC Genomics*, 2014; coauthored “Predicting complex traits using a diffusion kernel on genetic markers with an application to dairy cattle and wheat data,” *Genetics Selection Evolution*, 2014.

**Nathan Mueller**
Southeast Research and Extension Center. Ph.D., Kansas State University, 2012; M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2007; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2005. **Hometown:** Hooper, NE. **Area of focus:** Cropping systems and agricultural technologies. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Winter annual weed management and nitrogen rate effects on corn yield,” *Agronomy Journal*, 2013; coauthored Chapter 6: “Selecting Soybean Varieties,” *iGrow Soybean: Best Management Practices for Soybean Production*, 2013. **Representative grants:** Critically evaluating the interpretation of soybean plant analysis in the 21st century, South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council ($132,876), 2013; Field pea variety testing in South Dakota, South Dakota Pulse Council ($20,149), 2014. **Representative awards:** Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award in Crop Science, Crop Science Society of America, 2011; University of Nebraska Widaman Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2006.

**Lia Nogueira**
Agricultural Economics. Ph.D., Washington State University, 2008; M.S., Washington State University, 2008; M.S. University of British Columbia, 2004; B.S., Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey
Jay Parsons

Daren Redfearn

Kelley Rice

Rebecca Roston

**Daniel Schachtman**  

**James Schnable**  

**Jennifer Schoen**  
Northeast Research and Extension Center. M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2013; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011. **Hometown:** Oxford, NE. **Area of focus:** 4-H Youth Development.

**Charles Schroeder**  
Rural Futures Institute. B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 1973. **Hometown:** Palisade, NE. **Area of focus:** Rural community development and revitalization. **Representative awards:** Oklahoma Humanities Council Community Leadership Award, 2011; University of Nebraska Ag Econ/Agribusiness Club Award for Outstanding Service to Agriculture, 1995.
Strahinja Stepanovic  
Agronomy and Horticulture.  
M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2013; B.S., University of Belgrade (Serbia), 2011. **Hometown:** Grant, NE.  
**Area of focus:** Cropping systems with limited water, crop modeling.  
**Representative publications:** “Impact of single and repeated flaming on yield and yield components of maize,” *Organic Agriculture*, 2013; “Tolerance of selected weed species to broadcast flaming at different application times,” *Weed Technology*, 2013. **Representative awards:** Dean’s Fellowship, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2014; Graduate Student Award, Great Plains Soil Fertility, 2014.

Laura Thompson  
Southeast Research and Extension Center.  
M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2014; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2012. **Hometown:** Falls City, NE.  
**Area of focus:** Cropping systems and agriculture technologies working with Nebraska’s on-farm research network.

Dirac Twidwell  

Karin van Dijk  
**Area of focus:** Host-pathogen interactions, epigenetics, innate immunity, and algal lipid biology. **Representative publications:** Coauthored “Dynamic changes in genome-wide histone H3 lysine 4 methylation patterns in response to dehydration stress in Arabidopsis thaliana,” *BMC Plant Biology*, 2010; coauthored “The hrpK operon of Pseudomonas syringae pv. tomato DC3000 encodes two proteins secreted by the type III (Hrp) protein secretion system: HopB1 and HrpK, a putative type III translocator,” *J. Bacteriology*, 2005. **Representative grants:** Plant chromatin remodeling in response to the bacterial pathogen Pseudomonas syringae, National Science Foundation ($350,000), 2009-2012; Type III chaperones in the type III protein secretion system of Pseudomonas
2014–2015 New Faculty

syringae, National Institutes of Health/NIH ($188,475), 2009-2014.

Bing Wang


Jack Whittier


Dustin Yates

Animal Science. Ph.D., New Mexico State University, 2009; M.S., Angelo State University, 2006; B.S., Texas A&M University, 2004. Hometown: Haskell County, TX. Area of focus: Stress physiology, fetal development, muscle growth and metabolism. Representative publications: Coauthored “Myoblasts from intrauterine growth-restricted sheep fetuses exhibit intrinsic deficiencies in proliferation that contribute to smaller semitendinosus myofibres,” *Journal of
Physiology, 2014; coauthored “Catecholamines mediate multiple fetal adaptations during placental insufficiency that contribute to intrauterine growth restriction: Lessons from hyperthermic sheep,” Journal of Pregnancy, 2011. **Representative grant:** Chronic Hypercatecholaminemia Evokes IUGR Pathology in Myoblasts and Skeletal Muscle of the Heat-Stressed Fetus, USDA ($125,630), 2012. **Representative awards:** NIFA Post-doctoral Fellowship Award, USDA, 2 years of post-doctoral research support, 2012-2014; Perinatal Biology Symposium Young Investigator Award, “Intrinsic deficiencies in myoblast proliferation result in less differentiated myoblasts and smaller myofibers in IUGR fetal sheep,” 2013.

**Carmen Zafft**
Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication; College of Engineering. Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2013; M.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2007; B.S., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 1999. **Hometown:** Lincoln, NE. **Area of focus:** Leadership development, scholarship of teaching and learning, leadership and racial identity.

**Lirong Zeng**
Plant Pathology; Plant Science Innovation Center. Ph.D., The Ohio State University, 2005. **Area of focus:** Molecular plant-microbe interactions, particularly the roles and mechanism by which ubiquitination regulates plant responses against biotic stresses, graduate education. **Representative publications:**


**Arthur Zygielbaum**
School of Natural Resources; Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies. Ph.D., University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2009; M.S.E.E., University of Southern California, 1975; B.S., University of California, Los Angeles, 1968. **Area of focus:** Remote sensing detection and measurement of plant stress (water, nutrient deficiency, etc.). **Representative publications:** “Detection and measurement of vegetation photoprotection stress response using PAR reflectance,” Israel Journal of Plant Science, 2012; “Chloroplast avoidance movement causes increasing PAR reflectance in water stressed plants and may distort biophysical estimates based on spectral indices,” American Geophysical Union Fall Conference, 2013. **Representative grants:** Ecological Spectral Information System (ESIS): Integration of Spectral Data with Measurements of Vegetation Functional Traits, NASA ($75,665); Collaborative Research: Dimensions: Linking remotely sensed optical diversity to genetic phylogenetic and functional diversity to predict ecosystem processes, NSF ($721,075).
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