

## **Sheena M. A. Parsons**

2101 Constant Avenue

Lawrence, KS 66047

sheenap@ku.edu

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### ***Education***

M.S. Kansas State University. 2011 (Biology)

Thesis research: “A generalist grasshopper species (*Melanoplus femurrubrum*) is adapted to variable environments along a latitudinal gradient”

Advisor: Anthony Joern

B.S. Texas A&M University – College Station. 2006 (Entomology)

Undergraduate research: “Pupal migration and dispersal patterns of blowflies in the Brazos Valley of Central Texas”

Advisors: Jimmy K. Olson and Jeffery K. Tomberlin

### ***Certifications***

Wildland Firefighter (Type 2); American Red Cross First Aid, Adult CPR/AED

### ***Research Interests***

conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, ecology & physiology (mechanisms, species responses and adaptations across ecological gradients), life history, population dynamics, species ranges (factors influencing distributions), nutritional ecology (feeding behavior, environmental constraints on feeding/processing, mutualisms, effects of parasitism on host feeding behavior/physiology)

### ***Appointments Held***

2/2012 – Current      *Research Technician*, Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas

Bryan L. Foster is the primary investigator on this project funded by the National Science Foundation. Primary responsibilities include overseeing a crew of undergraduate (2-4) and graduate students (1-4) and operations for long term plot based field experiments located at the University of Kansas Field Station in Lawrence, KS.

9/2014 – Current      KU Field Station Operations Committee

3/2013 – 4/2013      *Fire Hand Crew*, Horton Bureau of Indian Affairs

8/2008 – 8/2011      *Graduate Teaching Assistant*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University

5/2006 – 8/2008      *Research Assistant*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University

5/2005 – 5/2006      *Research Technician*, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University

### ***Publications and Presentations***

Fraser, L.H., J. Pither, A. Jentsch, M. Sternberg, M. Zobel, D. Askarizadeh, S. Bartha, C. Beierkuhnlein, J.A. Bennett, A. Bittel, B. Boldgiv, I.I. Boldrini, E. Bork, L. Brown, M. Cabido, J. Cahill, C.N. Carlyle, G. Campetella, S. Chelli, O. Cohen, A. Csergo, S. Díaz, L. Enrico, D. Ensing, A. Fidelis, J.D. Fridley, B. Foster, H. Garris, J.R. Goheen, H.A.L. Henry, M. Hohn, M.H. Jouri, J. Klironomos, K. Koorem, R. Lawrence-Lodge, R. Long, P. Manning, R. Mitchell, M. Moora, S.C. Müller, C. Nabinger, K. Naseri, G.E. Overbeck, T.M. Palmer, **S. Parsons**, M. Pesek, V.D. Pillar, R.M. Pringle, K. Roccaforte, A. Schmidt, Z. Shang, R. Stahlmann, G.C. Stotz, S. Sugiyama, S. Szentes, D. Thompson, R. Tungalag, S. Undrakhbold, M. van Rooyen, C. Wellstein, J.B. Wilson, and T. Zupo. 2015. Worldwide evidence of a unimodal relationship between productivity and plant species richness. *Science*. 349: 302-305.

- Parsons, S.M.A.** and A. Joern. 2014. Life history traits associated with body size covary along a latitudinal gradient in a generalist grasshopper. *Oecologia*. 174: 379-391.
- Prather, C.M., Pelini, S., Laws, A., E. Rivest, M. Woltz, C.P. Bloch, I. Del Toro, C.-K. Ho, J. Kominoski, T.A.S. Newbold, **S. Parsons**, and A. Joern. 2013. Invertebrates, ecosystem services and climate change. *Biological Reviews*. 88: 327–348. doi: 10.1111/brv.12002.
- Parsons, S.M.A.** 2011. A generalist grasshopper species (*Melanoplus femurrubrum*) is adapted to variable environments along a latitudinal gradient. K-State Research Exchange. <http://hdl.handle.net/2097/13093>
- Parsons, S.M.A.** and A. Joern. Generalist grasshopper species adapted to variable environments across the central plains. Grasslands in a Global Context Symposium, Kansas State University, September, 2011. (Poster)
- Parsons, S.M.A.** and A. Joern. Converse Bergmann's Rule in the red-legged grasshopper (*Melanoplus femurrubrum*): body size and performance variation along a latitudinal gradient. 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Ecological Society of America meeting, Austin, TX, August, 2011. (Contributed Oral Presentation)
- Parsons, S.M.A.** and A. Joern. A generalist grasshopper response to temperature and food quality along a latitudinal gradient. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Ecological Society of America meeting Pittsburgh, PA, August, 2010. (Poster)
- Parsons, S.M.A.**, Klug, P., Carter, D. and D.C. Hartnett. Ecology of African Savannas. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Seminar Series, Kansas State University, September, 2009. (Invited Presentation)
- Parsons, S.**, Cammack, J. and J.K. Olson and J.K. Tomberlin. Comparison of *Phormia regina* (Diptera: Calliphoridae) data sets for minimal PMI estimates. 4th Annual North American Forensic Entomology Association meeting, West Lafayette, IN, July, 2006. (Contributed Oral Presentation)

### **Teaching Experience**

- Graduate Teaching Assistant*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University  
Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 198) - Spring 2010, 2011  
Physiological Adaptations of Animals Laboratory (BIOL 514) – Fall 2010  
Principles of Biology (BIOL 198) – Fall 2008, 2009, Spring 2009
- Undergraduate Teaching Assistant*, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University  
Applied Forensic Entomology (ENTO 431) – Spring 2006

### **Service and Outreach**

- Free State High School Prairie Restoration – Fall 2014, 2015*  
I have helped with fall plant vegetation surveys and classroom demonstrations for ecological sampling techniques to Julie Schwarting's AP Environmental Studies and Biology classes.
- Learning About Nature Program – May 17, 2013*  
I developed and led a short insect diversity learning activity at the Baker Wetlands for 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- Guided Tours on Konza Prairie Biological Station*  
I led groups of undergraduates, visiting secondary educators, and members from the general public on guided tours which highlighted ongoing research on Konza and the Flint Hills prairie
- Konza Prairie Biological Station's Biennial Visitor's Day– September 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012*  
The KPBS hosts a public open house biennially. I gave guided tours around research headquarters and led nature-based activities for the children's Junior Ecologist program.
- Konza Prairie Burn Crew – 2006-2011*  
I participated in prescribed burning of Konza Prairie Biol. Station research plots and watersheds.