

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

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## **PJ HAYNIE**

*Chief Executive Officer, Arkansas River Rice*  
**Cultural Competency Panel**

Philip J. Haynie, III, more commonly known as P.J., graduated from Northumberland High School, Heathsville, Va., in June 1995. While in high school, Haynie served as vice president of his Future Farmers of America chapter and actively worked on his family farm in Reedville, Va. Haynie graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics in May 1999. While attending Virginia Tech, he served as president of the Virginia Tech MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences) chapter. During his senior year at Virginia Tech, Haynie was initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. After graduating from Virginia Tech, he chose to pursue his childhood dream and continue the family tradition of farming. Haynie, a fifth-generation farmer, currently owns and operates Haynie Farms, LLC, a grain farming business producing corn, wheat, soybeans, and canola throughout all four counties of the Northern Neck of Virginia. In addition, The Haynie family also has farming operations in Arkansas, producing corn, wheat, soybeans, and rice. Haynie and his family also own and operate a transportation company specializing in food-grade liquid and dry bulk transportation, timber harvesting, and landscaping & excavating company. In 2021 Haynie and his family purchased a state-of-the-art rice mill, Arkansas River Rice Mill [www.arkansasriverrice.com](http://www.arkansasriverrice.com), located in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, becoming the only Black-owned rice mill in the United States. In addition, to farming, Haynie takes pride in serving as Chairman of the NBGC. A non-profit organization whose mission is to Improve the Efficiency, Productivity, and Sustainability of Black row crop farmers. P.J. and his wife, Dr. Lisa Haynie, reside in Reedville, Va., with their three children, Colette, age 20; Philip, IV, age 19; and Trevor, age 14.



## **JACQUELYN WIERSMA-MOSLEY, PH.D.**

*Professor of Human Development & Family Sciences, Assistant Dean of Bumpers College at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture*  
**Cultural Competency Panel**

Dr. Mosley is a Professor and the Assistant Dean for the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, Food, and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. Dr. Mosley has been recognized with national awards, including APLU's U.S. Department of Agriculture Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards for Food and Agricultural Sciences, and recently with the Ag Innovation's National Experiment Station Section Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award. She has published over 55 research articles and secured over \$2.3 million in funding support from NIH, NSF, and USDA. Dr. Mosley is also the faculty mentor for the UA Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS).

# PANELISTS

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## **RYAN ANDERSON**

*Director, Industry Relations*  
**Industry Relations Panel**

Ryan Anderson is the founding Director of Industry Relations for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL); a role focused on advancing the university's engagement with the private sector with a focus on developing and supporting research and technology development collaborations involving UNL faculty, students and staff and companies.

Anderson is a member of Nebraska's SBIR/STTR Advisory Board, member of the University Industry Demonstration Partnership's Communication Committee, UNL's representative to the international University Industry Innovation Network, member of the University Economic Development Association, and an advisor for The Combine business accelerator at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

Anderson is a native Nebraskan originally from South Omaha, UNL alumnus, proud father of two teenage children, and a volunteer supporting local refugee resettlement.



## **PETER ANGELETTI, PH.D.**

*Professor, Nebraska Center for Virology*  
**Undergraduate Research Programs Panel**

Dr. Peter Angeletti is a Professor in the Nebraska Center for Virology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has 30 years of experience in the DNA tumorvirus field. He received a BS from UCLA and a PhD from the University of Alabama-Birmingham and did his postdoctoral work with Paul Lambert at the McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Angeletti's work is focused on replication and pathogenesis of human papillomaviruses (HPVs). His recent studies investigate the role of multi-HPV genotype infections on cervical dysplasia in HIV positive Tanzanian women. In further studies, Dr. Angeletti's lab discovered that certain bacterial families within the cervical microbiome (such as Mycoplasma), are associated with high-grade cervical dysplasia. His team is now investigating chronic inflammation induced by microbial dysbiosis as a key trigger for progression of cervical neoplasias. In another study, his lab is researching the cause of ocular surface squamous neoplasia (OSSN), which is the sixth most common in cancer among HIV positive Zambians. The goal of these studies is to determine whether DNA tumor viruses have a role in initiation and progression of the aggressive forms of this disease.



## **GEORGINA BINGHAM, PH.D.**

*Research Associate Professor, Entomology*  
**Undergraduate Research Programs Panel**

Dr. Georgina Bingham has more than 20 years' experience working in developing regions. Her research focuses on the impact of arthropods on food security and nutrition, and medical and veterinary importance. Her research program conducts novel, collaborative research using integrated multidisciplinary methodologies to develop new scalable precision technologies, systems interventions and platforms for improved food and water security and one health, in Nebraska and beyond. The Bingham Lab provides a creative, inclusive, active learning and professional development environment for both undergraduate and graduate students. Prior to her current position at UNL, she directed market access, research, and development for 12 years within private industry at Swiss based global company, Vestergaard, dedicated to improving the health of those most vulnerable in society.



## **JESSE BELL, PH.D.**

*Director of the Water, Climate and Health Program at UNMC and Director of Water, Climate and Health at the University of Nebraska's Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute*

### **University of Nebraska Collaborations Panel**

Dr. Jesse E. Bell is the Claire M. Hubbard Professor of Water, Climate, and Health in the Department of Environmental, Agricultural, and Occupational Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the School of Natural Resources within the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is the director of the Water, Climate and Health Program at UNMC and the director of Water, Climate and Health at the University of Nebraska's Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute. The mission of these programs is to develop interdisciplinary research, education and collaborative solutions to public health challenges associated with environmental issues in Nebraska and around the world. As the founding director, he has helped grow these programs to over 25 faculty, staff, and students. His expertise and research are focused on understanding how human and natural processes are connected to changes in the environment and climate. Before coming to UNMC, Dr. Bell developed and served in an interagency position between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). During his time in this role, his work built the foundation for novel and innovative approaches to use climate data to assist with health research. He was able to unite each organization's efforts toward better understanding the impact of climate change on health. He has authored more than 70 scientific articles and technical reports, including serving as a lead author for the U.S. Global Change Research Program report "The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment" that was released by the White House in 2016 and an author of Human Health chapter for the congressionally mandated Fifth National Climate Assessment.



## **CHRISTINE BOOTH, PH.D.**

*Lecturer, Coordinator IANR Science Communication Hub*  
**Undergraduate Research Programs Panel**

Dr. Christine Booth is a lecturer in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is currently the coordinator of the IANR Science Communication Hub where she is focused mainly on graduate student communication development. She teaches sophomore, senior, and graduate courses in scientific writing and communication, technical writing, and professional development. She also hosts science communication workshops and works directly with graduate students to complete their manuscripts. She has published peer-reviewed research spanning the domains of chemical engineering, biochemistry, and STEM education.



## **JOE BROWNELL**

*Executive Director, Military and Veteran Success*  
**Cultural Competency Panel**

Col Retired Kenneth J Brownell (Joe) served over 28 years in the USAF. Joe currently serves as the Executive Director for Military Relations and the Military and Veteran Success Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He earned a Master of Public Administration from Troy State University and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from The Industrial College of the Armed Forces at the National Defense University. Joe's spouse Kim is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Kearney and works at the UNL Alumni Association. His daughter Bradyn is a 2017 graduate of UNL and teaches fourth grade in Lincoln and his son Clay is currently a 1st Lt in USAF.



## **BYRON CHAVES, PH.D.**

*Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Applied Food Safety Microbiology, Department of Food Science & Technology*  
**Undergraduate Research Programs Panel**

Dr. Byron Chaves is an assistant professor and extension specialist in applied food safety microbiology in the Department of Food Science and Technology. His research focuses on (1) Validating product and process parameters to determine the efficacy of antimicrobial interventions for meat and poultry products; and 2) Characterizing bacterial growth and inactivation parameters as well as viral persistence in foods and food contact surfaces. His extension programs provide relevant technical assistance and training to the food manufacturing industry on food safety, sanitation, and regulatory compliance. Dr. Chaves is a member of the USDA FSIS National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection, the USDA FSIS Nebraska HACCP Coordinator, the Chair of the Poultry Science Association (PSA) Committee on Food Safety, and the Chair of the PSA Salmonella Task Force. He is an active member of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), where he currently chairs the "Physical Hazards and Foreign Material" Professional Development Group, and he has served on the editorial board of IAFP's signature journals, Food Protection Trends and Journal of Food Protection. Byron has a BS from the University of Costa Rica, an MS from Clemson University, and a PhD from Texas Tech University, where he was also a postdoctoral associate for two years before joining the faculty at UNL. He is the recipient of the 2022 "Holling Family Inclusive Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award", recognizing the embodiment of diversity and inclusive excellence in teaching, and the 2023 "Dinsdale Family Faculty Award", recognizing outstanding teaching, research, and outreach in the UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



## **PATRICIO GRASSINI, PH.D.**

*Professor, Sunkist Distinguished Professor of Agronomy*  
**Industry Relations Panel**

Dr. Patricio Grassini is a Sunkist Distinguished Professor in Agronomy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Patricio earned a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) and a Ph.D. in Agronomy from UNL. He has authored over 100 articles published in international peer-review journals, including top-tier journals such as Nature Communications, Nature Sustainability, Nature Food, and PNAS. He has been listed within the top 1% Most Highly Cited Researchers in the discipline in the world during the last four years (2019-2022) according to the Web of Science. His research interests center on yield potential, productivity gaps, and resource-use efficiency in agricultural systems. Patricio's applied research covers a diverse range of cropping systems, including rainfed and irrigated grain crops in South America, the U.S. Corn Belt, and Asia, and oil palm in Southeast Asia. Major on-going projects are (i) the Global Yield Gap Atlas ([www.yieldgap.org](http://www.yieldgap.org)), which provides estimates of gaps between actual and potential yield for major cropping systems, (ii) an initiative to improve productivity and reduce environmental footprint associated with smallholder oil palm cultivation in Southeast Asia, (iii) a project to study interactions between croplands and urban areas funded by U.S. National Science Foundation, and (iv) a global initiative to assess potassium limitation in cropping systems supported by the International Fertilizer Association. Dr Grassini was recipient of the Sunkist Distinguished Professorship in Agronomy, a Fulbright Scholarship, and other three fellowships and seven awards, including the Agronomy Society of America (ASA) Early Career Award and W.L. Nelson Award for Diagnosing Yield-Limiting Factors. Patricio also serves as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of Field Crops Research and Global Food Security journals and Associate Editor for Crop & Environment journal. Patricio was the Chair of the Crop Science Society of America Crop Ecology Division during the 2019 term.



## **DAVID JACKSON, PH.D.**

*Vice Provost, University of Nebraska System*  
**University of Nebraska Collaborations Panel**

Dr. David Jackson joined UNL as an assistant professor of Food Science & Technology in January 1989, specializing in Cereal Chemistry. While active in the Department, he had a three-way research, teaching, and extension appointment. Dr. Jackson also served as the Interim Department head for 18 months, and as Associate Dean and Director in ARD for six years. His current role is Vice Provost for the University of Nebraska System where David helps facilitate research collaborations across the University of Nebraska campuses, has responsibility for administering the Nebraska Research Initiative, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Strategic Research Institute. In his academic role as Vice Provost, he also assists campuses in obtaining Board of Regents and Nebraska Coordinating Commission approvals for all new academic degrees/majors, Centers, and other organizational units.



## **JEEWAN JOYT, PH.D.**

*Director of Licensing, NUtech Ventures*  
**Industry Relations Panel**

Dr. Jeewan Jyot joined NUtech in May 2012 as a technology manager, with a focus on technologies related to agriculture, food science and animal science. She works closely with UNL faculty and students to identify, evaluate and manage aspects of their research with commercial potential. She is passionate about translating discoveries from lab into commercially viable technologies. Jeewan holds a Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of California-Davis, a M.S. in microbiology and a B.S. in microbiology and food science. After her doctoral work, Jeewan received the prestigious Ruth L. Kirsten-NRSA postdoctoral fellowship (2011-2012) from NIH to do research on viruses that impact wheat crop. Prior to joining the doctoral program, Jeewan headed the microbiology lab at a hepatitis B vaccine production facility in India from 2000-2005. Her responsibilities included managing and training 15 lab personnel in cGLP and cGMP practices, and implementing and validating standard operating procedures for vaccine production. Jeewan was instrumental in obtaining the WHO and other regulatory approvals for the microbiological testing and monitoring of the vaccine production facility. Outside of her professional interests, Jeewan enjoys reading, baking and pottery.



## **JOE LUCK, PH.D.**

*Professor of Biological Systems Engineering, Precision Agriculture Engineer*  
**Industry Relations Panel**

Dr. Joe Luck joined the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in April, 2012 and currently serves as Professor and Extension Specialist for Precision Agriculture as well as the Associate Director for the Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center. His responsibilities include developing extension and research programs regarding the application of digital agriculture technologies in crop production as well as teaching in this focus area. His current research and extension efforts are focused on demonstrating agricultural data management strategies and technology applications for improving crop production efficiency. He works closely with interdisciplinary teams to evaluate technologies including sensors for nitrogen application and advanced pesticide application systems. Dr. Luck received his Master's and Doctorate degrees from the University of Kentucky in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. He has received numerous awards for both research and extension activities including the Pierre Roberts Young Scientist award from the International Society of Precision Agriculture in 2020 as well as the Larry Turner Young Extension Professional award from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers in 2017.



## **BRAD ROTH, PH.D.**

*Executive Director, NUtech Ventures*  
**Industry Relations Panel**

Dr. Brad Roth is president and executive director of NUtech Ventures. He also serves as associate vice chancellor for technology development at University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Further, Dr. Roth is the principal investigator and program director for UNL's membership in the NSF Great Lakes I-Corps Hub. As executive director, Dr. Roth leads a team of licensing and intellectual property professionals and graduate and professional student interns responsible for commercialization of UNL's intellectual property assets arising from more than \$340 million in annual research expenditures. He also works with a wide range of campus, corporate and community partners to encourage innovation, enhance UNL research and potential research funding, entrepreneurship, and to facilitate economic development. Prior to joining NUtech Ventures, he was director of business development, biotechnology and clinical translation at LICOR, Inc. He was also a technology manager at University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign's Office of Technology Management. He previously held research manager/principal investigator and technology scouting/licensing coordinator positions at Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Dr. Roth earned a Ph.D. in genetics from Iowa State University, B.S. in Biological Sciences from UNL, and was a post-doctoral research geneticist at USDA/University of California-Berkeley, Plant Gene Expression Center.



## **SHARON OBASI, PH.D.**

*Director and Associate Professor*  
**University of Nebraska Collaborations Panel**

Dr. Sharon N. Obasi is Associate Professor and Program Chair in Family Science at UNK. Concurrently serving as the Director of Research Integrity (Compliance) she diligently oversees the adherence to proper, responsible, and ethical conduct in research endeavors undertaken at UNK and in conjunction with affiliated entities. Dr. Obasi also fervently cultivates collaborations in both research and creative activity demonstrating an unwavering dedication to the advancement of scholarly engagement at UNK.



## **LEAH SANDALL**

*Associate Professor of Practice, Agronomy & Horticulture*  
**Undergraduate Research Programs Panel**

Ms. Leah Sandall, Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture has worked with students in the classroom and online and has experience developing online educational resources related to STEM and agriculture. Sandall co-facilitated and co-led the outreach/extension product development by students in the Applied Plant Systems summer research program in 2017-2021. She was the education lead on the Applied Phenotyping Technologies and supported the summer research program interns in 2022 and 2023.



## **ELIZABETH VANWORMER, PH.D.**

*Assistant Professor and One Health Coordinator, University of Nebraska - Lincoln*

### ***University of Nebraska Collaborations Panel***

Dr. Liz VanWormer is a veterinary epidemiologist in the School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the School of Natural Resources. She coordinates the Nebraska One Health program, working with students, interdisciplinary researchers, and local stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to address complex health challenges at the interface of people, animals (both domestic and wild), and the environment. Liz collaborates on One Health projects ranging from studies of land-to-sea pathogen transmission to community-based research on connections among livestock herd health, human nutrition, and rural livelihoods.



## **JING ZHANG, PH.D.**

*Assistant Professor, Biochemistry*

### ***Undergraduate Research Programs Panel***

Dr. Jing Zhang's teaching and research emphasize Biochemistry education, particularly on integrating Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) in lab courses to provide all students enrolled in the courses with an impactful experiential learning experience. She serves as a faculty mentor on an NSF-funded CURE national network that involves different types of institutions including community colleges, minority-serving institutions, primary undergraduate institutions, and research-intensive institutions. She is passionate about providing inclusive and equitable undergraduate research experiences that enhance student success.



# **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DIVISION**