Favorite Tick and Why: The Tropical Bont tick, Amblyomma variegatum, that vectors Ehrlichia ruminantium, the rickettsia that causes heartwater disease. A. variegatum is a beautiful tick and I used a painting of the male on the

Favorite Tick and Why: The Tropical Bont tick, *Amblyomma variegatum*, because it is the vector of *Ehrlichia ruminantium* (formerly *Cowdria ruminantium*) and *Theileria mutans* and *Theileria velifera* in cattle and wildlife in Africa. It is a very aggressive tick that will attack people and dogs. It is a three-host tick that will feed on a variety of wildlife species and domestic animals. It is a very large tick and very easy to see and work with. It is a very beautiful tick with a white and black pattern on its scutum and legs. It is a very hardy tick that can survive in the hot, dry climate of the savanna and desert regions of Africa. It is a very important tick because it transmits diseases that have a great impact on the livelihood of people in Africa.