Entomology 2011 Program Co-chairs’ Message

On behalf of the entire program committee, we welcome you to the 59th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. In recent years this has become the largest annual meeting of entomologists in the world, and this year’s meeting promises to be no different. Our meeting continues to grow. This year there are over 2,200 presentations from entomologists from all 50 states and 37 countries. With this many presentations, we have a full day’s schedule for each of the 4 days of the meeting.

At the close of last year’s annual meeting, current President Ernest Delfosse introduced the theme for Entomology 2011: “Identify… Clarify… Speak Out!” The motivation behind this theme comes from our strong belief that as entomologists we must do more to communicate our positions and take stands on important social, policy, and scientific issues that face us all. We encourage you to read President Delfosse’s message for more on this year’s theme.

At the beginning of this year we solicited proposals for symposia that best exemplified this theme. We have selected six Program Symposia, 35 Section Symposia, and 45 Member Symposia. Many of these symposia are excellent examples of how we, as a society, can provide cutting-edge information with which scientifically sound policy decisions can be made. Great examples of this are 3 program symposia:

• Basic Science to Application for Management of Bed Bug Populations
• Bee Declines: Identification, Clarification, and Communication of the Real Truths
• The Molecular Physiology of Arthropod Vectors and Pests: Towards the Development of Novel Control Agents and Approaches

Three other program symposia demonstrate the ways that entomologists can broaden their impact:

• Citizen Scientists in Entomology Research
• Identifying the Current Status of Women in Entomology, Clarifying Initiatives for Retention, and Speaking Out to Share Experience
• Identify, Clarify, Speak Out: Turning Young People onto Science Through Insects and Ensuring a Future for Entomology!

In addition, we are delighted to have two special symposia. The first is “Impacts of the March 2011 Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami on Entomologists, Research, and Society”, and promises to provide a comprehensive view of how this tragic earthquake has affected insects, entomologists, the scientific community and society as a whole. The second special symposium, “An Eisnerian View of Nature: a Tribute to the Life and Work of Thomas Eisner”, honors the scientific contributions of the late Thomas Eisner with presentations by former students and colleagues of this amazing entomologist.

Students, both graduate and undergraduate, continue to play a vital role in our society and this is reflected throughout our annual meeting. This year, we have 392 ten-minute talks scheduled in the student competition for the President’s Prize on Monday morning. We have 190 competition posters, which will be available for viewing all day Monday. We
look forward to an exciting student debate on the “Land Grant Mission, Organic Agriculture, and Host Plant Resistance Programs” on Tuesday afternoon, and the Linnaean Games on Sunday (preliminary rounds) and Tuesday evening (final rounds).

Another unique aspect of this year’s program is a series of ‘Lunch and Learn’ sessions held each day of the meeting. These are intended to be informal sessions where people can grab lunch from one of the several vendors throughout the convention center and listen/participate in a variety of sessions ranging from ‘Working with the media’ to a discussion with this year’s plenary speaker, Christianne Corbett on ‘Why so few’ women are in positions of leadership in the sciences, to ‘Interviewing Strategies’. These informal sessions should provide something for everyone, so grab your lunch and learn!

We continue to take advantage of recent technology to improve the program. As in previous years, ‘virtual posters’ will provide an opportunity for even more overseas entomologists to present their work. Attendees of the meeting in Reno will be able to view the posters in Reno and interact remotely with the presenters to discuss their research. Also, we have dedicated one room at the conference site to handle remote video-audio links enabling international speakers to speak and interact with the audience in Reno from a location abroad in real time. Both capabilities will strengthen the presence of ESA internationally.

And we will again have an exciting exhibit hall filled with a variety of products and services for the entomological field.

Finally, it has been a pleasure working with the entire program planning committee. This year’s program committee includes Student Competition Co-chairs (and next year’s program co-chairs) Jerome Grant and Michael Jackson, Poster Co-chairs (and last year’s program chairs) Megha Parajulee and Bonnie Pendleton, MUVE (Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology) Section President Douglas Norris and Vice-President Christopher Geden, PBT (Physiology, Biochemistry, and Toxicology) Section President Jeffrey Scott and Vice-President Subba Palli, P-IE (Plant-Insect Ecosystems) Section President B. Rogers Leonard and Vice-President Bonnie Pendleton, and SEB (Systematics, Evolution, and Biodiversity) Section President Jason Cryan and Vice-President Kelly Miller, and Student Liaison Cheri Abraham. We are particularly indebted to Director of Meetings Keith Schlesinger and Meetings Assistant Cassie Mescher along with ESA staff members Mary Falcone, Debi Sutton, and the new Executive Director David Gammel. When you see each of these individuals in Reno, please thank them in person.

We look forward to seeing you all in Reno!

Paul Ode and Andrew Norton
2011 Entomology Program Co-chairs