



STEP Newsletter
Issue 3
August 28, 2015

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Greetings,

Welcome to the third edition of the STEP newsletter, created by ESA's STEP Committee to keep early professional members and those just transitioning into their careers informed about important discussions, deadlines and information that's particularly pertinent to this growing membership group. The newsletter is now being sent to ESA leaders as well to keep them informed of STEP activities.



This word cloud contains the most talked-about topics at the 2015 ESA Summer Strategy Day meeting, with each word's size representing its prevalence across all discussions.

As you can see, STEP was a hot topic!

Today's STEP Members are ESA's Future Leaders

ESA leadership, including the STEP Committee, meets annually each summer to discuss long-term goals and plans for our Society. At this year's Summer Strategy Day, in Minneapolis, the discussion focused on developing leadership within the Society, and the STEP (Student Transition and Early Professionals) Committee affirmed that its members are ESA's future leaders.

The Committee advocated for broader awareness of and stronger support for STEP members, highlighting that we are in a critical period of development in our careers but no longer receive the support that we enjoyed while students (MS or PhD). Many of us find ourselves ready and eager to share our research, but we lack the funding that makes attending branch or ESA annual meetings possible; as a result, we miss important networking and collaborating opportunities that would further our career development. Therefore we urged ESA leaders to support STEP members as they support students, and to engage STEP members in leadership roles that benefit both us and the Society. Overall, the leaders in attendance were receptive and supportive in finding ways to increase engagement with STEP membership.

Highlights from the meeting include:

We shared information about two events planned for upcoming ESA meetings developed specifically for STEP members. These include:

- A Lunch & Learn, "Managing Job Transitions as an Early Professional," to be held at the 2015 ESA Annual Meeting (see details below).
- A symposium, "Global International Collaborations," to be held during ICE 2016.

We are advocating for additional travel grants for STEP members, similar to student travel awards. As a timely reminder, the **1 September 2015** deadline for international STEP members to apply for travel funds to attend ICE 2016 is just a few days away! Read more and apply [here](#).

We want to encourage STEP members to attend ESA Section business meetings, which are held during the ESA Annual Meeting and are open to all ESA members. You may have never heard of them until now, but these meetings are an excellent way to learn about the many opportunities to lead and shape our Society. At this year's Annual Meeting, each Section's meeting will be held Monday afternoon at the locations listed in the official meeting program book (and mobile app). To find your Section's specific location, click [here](#).

The Committee has requested that more volunteering positions be made available specifically for STEP members. Volunteering is a great way to network, build your CV, and gain experience while helping the Society function. Solicitations for specific volunteering opportunities come through ESA emails, and you can sign up for your individual areas of interest by completing [this brief survey](#) or updating your [ESA member profile](#).

Finally, we are advocating for greater STEP representation on ESA committees and boards, and in Branch and Section leadership. This will raise the visibility of and enhance the leadership development of STEPs. Stay tuned as this initiative develops!

LAST CALL: USD 50,000 in Travel Funding to ICE 2016 Available for Students and Early Professionals

ESA's Student Transition and Early Professionals Committee (STEP) will award a total of USD 50,000 to STEP members who live outside of the U.S. and wish to attend ICE 2016. All selected individuals will receive complimentary registration for the Congress and up to USD 2,200 to support their travel to it. Awards will be based on criteria such as the scope and importance of the applicant's research to be presented at the Congress, how the applicant's attendance and participation at the Congress will benefit his or her professional development and the science of entomology, and how the applicant's attendance will contribute to the diversity of attendees at ICE 2016. The application deadline is just a few days away — **1 September 2015 at 11:59 PM US ET**. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

New STEP-Only Volunteer Positions at ESA Annual Meeting

In addition to the many volunteer opportunities offered to students during the ESA Annual Meeting, ESA is currently developing new positions exclusively for student transition and early professional members. In exchange for hours worked, early-bird registration fees will be reimbursed. Watch your email for more information.

Register for ESA's Next Webinar - [Time Management Strategies: Survival Stories from Academia and Industry](#) September 2, 2015, 2:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time

Julie Peterson, Jen White, and Kelly Tindall, three women who each navigated the path to a PhD and a successful career, will offer many helpful insights on the crucial role that time management and organization have played throughout their lives - whether in academia, extension, or industry. During this FREE webinar you will learn tips and tricks for managing a demanding academic, research, or work schedule (or all three!); searching for and getting your first real job; and doing all this while still enjoying your personal life and maintaining sanity! Whether you're just starting your first semester or just planning how to spend your retirement, these women will arm you with the knowledge to better deal with life's diverse demands! Register [here](#).

Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Webinars:

- *How to Conduct a Great Scientific Presentation (October 14)*
- *There is no R in Entomology, but there is one in Reproducible (November 11)*

If you missed an ESA webinar, you can always access it through the webinar archives [here](#).

STEP Committee Sponsors Lunch & Learn for Entomology 2015 - [Managing Job Transitions as an Early Professional](#)

Monday, November 16, 2015: 12:45 PM-1:45 PM, Minneapolis Convention Center

Listen to a panel of early professionals with diverse career paths discuss how they successfully managed the unique opportunities and challenges that arose when transitioning job positions. They'll answer questions such as:

- How can you best achieve personal and career development during this time?
- How can you maintain life balance?
- How do you highlight your transferable skills?
- What are opportunities to seize and pitfalls to avoid?
- What are the most important practices to successfully navigate the transition?
- And of course your specific questions as well!

This session will help you prepare for and navigate this exciting time in your career. FREE Boxed lunch will be provided to the first 50 participants who pre-register. Hence, advanced registration is strongly encouraged! Watch your email for registration information.

Moderators: Ms. Therese Cira, STEP Committee Chair, University of Minnesota, and Ms. Ana Maria Velez, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Panel: Dr. Mitchell Stamm, BASF; Dr. Bob Koch, University of Minnesota; Mr. Zach Rystrom, Diamond Ag and Research; Dr. Tamra Reall Lincoln, USDA; and Dr. Andrine Shufran, Oklahoma State University.

Submit a Paper or Poster for ICE 2016

Share your latest research with colleagues from all over the world by presenting a paper or poster during the upcoming Congress. This awesome event offers an unparalleled opportunity to build important global relationships and research collaborations. **Submit** early – the deadline is 1 February 2016.

Want to get involved?

If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or questions for the STEP Committee, please contact us by emailing esa.step.committee@gmail.com or by joining our **ESA network**.

For the full text of newsletter #2, which includes complete bios of the STEP Committee members, click [here](#).