

1 ESA: Section Systematics Evolution and Biodiversity
2 Final Business Meeting
3 November 18, 2019
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5 Floyd Shockley welcomed everyone to the final business meeting following the social, and
6 announced that this is the sole business meeting for the section this year. We will continue to
7 have one sole meeting at the Annual Meeting subsequently, unless the membership has strong
8 objections. At the beginning of the meeting, we estimated that 151 members were present.
9

10 Floyd presented the agenda for this meeting. Floyd posted the minutes from the 2018 SysEB
11 Business Meeting for members to read. Susan Weller moved to approve the minutes as
12 presented; motion was seconded by Carly Tribull. Floyd called for a vote; motion carried.
13

14 Floyd announced the names of members who have passed away during the year since the last
15 meeting and called for additional names, which follow here: Ross Bell, Kirby Brown, Al Daily,
16 Jonathan Brown, Peter Harper, John Spooner, Robbin Thorp, Barry Valentine, and Christopher
17 Wilson. A moment of silence was held for these members.
18

19 Floyd introduced himself and current Governing Council Members, listed here: Floyd Shockley
20 (President), Andrew Short (Past President), Jennifer Zaspel (Vice President), Carly Tribull (ECP
21 representative), Sandra Schachat (Student Affairs Representative), Aaron Smith (Treasurer), and
22 Rebecca Simmons (Vice President-Elect), Jessica Ware (Representative to the Governing
23 Board), and John Heraty (Publications Council). Floyd also announced newly elected officers for
24 the next year: Chris Hamilton (Vice President Elect), Phillip Barden (Publications Council), and
25 Sandra Schachat, who will continue to serve as SysEB Student Affairs Representative.
26

27 As for appointed members, Gavin Svenson will continue to serve as the representative to the
28 Science Policy Committee. Cara Gibson will become the new representative for the Diversity
29 and Inclusion Committee. There are two openings for SysEB representatives for ESA standing
30 committees: Awards and Honors and Education and Outreach. Jen will make an appointment for
31 those committees, as the 2020 President of SysEB.
32

33 Floyd asked membership to thank retiring officers, listed here: Andrew Short (SysEB Past
34 President), John Heraty (Publications Council), John Leavengood (Representative to Awards and
35 Honors Committee), Adrian Smith (Representative to Education and Outreach Committee), and
36 Andrea Lucky (Representative to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee).
37

38 We have transitioned to the new structure for journal management, meaning that all editorial
39 board members from SysEB will retire. Instead, each journal will be managed by an editor in
40 chief, who will appoint subject editors as needed.
41

42 Floyd announced a “Lunch and Learn” session to recruit new officers, which will occur on
43 Tuesday, November 19 from 12:15-1:15PM in room 132. This session will discuss requirements
44 and expectations for elected and volunteer positions. Please see Jennifer if interested in serving
45 as an officer or volunteer.
46

Floyd announced the numbers of attendees to date. As of Sunday, 3508 members are attending the Annual Meeting with a total of 3660 presentations. The 2019 Annual meeting is the second largest in ESA history. Ten percent of attendees are SysEB members. Floyd also thanked meeting volunteers which included 73 judges and 30 session moderators.

There is a new, automated process for volunteering to judge student entries; ESA central did a “dry test” of the process this year. This process will be used for subsequent meetings, which is more efficient for planning sessions. A link for volunteers will be released in September to mid-October; members should only choose one session to judge. If there are questions and/or feedback please let the governing council know.

Andrew Short reported on the activities of the Awards Committee. First, he recognized members of the committee: Andrew Short (chair), Rebecca Simmons, Aaron Smith, Carly Tribull, and Nicole Gunter. Andrew also recognized SysEB members that received awards at the National level. Gene Kritsky and Bert Hölldobler were elected as ESA fellows; Elizabeth Murray was recognized with the ECP Teaching Award. Seunghyun Lee and Brendon E. Boudinot won the Comstock Awards for Outstanding Research.

Andrew then announced the section awardees. The Thomas Say Award recognizes a North American Researcher or a work dealing with North American insects. This year, the award was given to Sydney Brannoch (Cleveland Museum of Natural History/Case Western University) who was first author of *Manual of praying mantis morphology, nomenclature, and practices (Insecta, Mantodea)*. Gavin Svenson, a co-author on the work, received the award in place of Dr. Brannoch.

Andrew announced the winners of the Student Research Travel Award, which totals \$8,000-9,000 each year. This year there were 25 applications, which were all of high quality, but more than we could afford to fund. This year’s awardees are: Meghan Barrett, Makani Fisher, Ilgoo Kang, Michael Rivera, Christine Sosiak, and Jason Williams.

Andrew discussed two new awards, funded by BioQuip. The first award is the BioQuip Undergraduate Scholarship, which is a renewable, annual award for \$2,000, given to Genevieve van der Voort. BioQuip also funds the Richard Fall Memorial Internship; this year, the award was given to Madeline McMullen.

Andrew then provided information about SysEB Graduate Research awards. There were no applications for the Patch Award, which recognizes outstanding research by MS students in Entomology. The next due date for the Patch Award is in March/April 2020. The Snodgrass Award recognizes outstanding doctoral dissertations in Entomology. This year, we had a record number of applicants, which submitted high quality dissertations. The committee came to a consensus that we should give two awards to Dr. Jessica P. Gillung (UC Davis) and Dr. Ricardo Mariño-Perez (Texas A&M). Each awardee presented their work to the SysEB membership.

Floyd called for a ten-minute break. After the break, we counted 131 members attending.

Katharina Dittmar from NSF discussed SysEB-related programs, including new competitions. NSF since 1950. This is the first year of the “no deadline system”; submissions are down from previous years; overall there are 50% fewer proposals across the BIO directorate than in previous years. Systematics related proposal submission is 15% lower as well. Funding rates are up compared with previous years, ranging from 25-29%. NSF is expecting a similar budget as the one allotted last year, with a possible small increase in available funds. Panel management is more adaptive; panels are called when a critical number of proposals are submitted and may be virtual or in person. Katharina described a new data reporting requirement in the “Prior Support” section of a proposal that describes where data were submitted. This requirement includes scripts and metadata as well as primary data. Katharina discussed the program’s core solicitation areas, including PursUIT (Poorly-known and Under-represented Taxa). The ARTS (Advancing Revisionary Taxonomy) RFP places a larger emphasis on training components of the supported activities. The BEE program (Bridging Ecology and Evolution) integrates macroevolutionary and ecological questions, and is currently incentivized for researchers to work across disciplines in Biology; there is funding for workshops as catalytic activities. Examples include a previously funded microbial taxonomy workshop and a workshop that discussed rethinking monograph writing. Contact Katharina if you are interested in integrating novel approaches (e.g. machine learning) with systematic research. Further, NSF is sponsoring an internship program that would train students to work outside of academia, preparing them for careers in the private sector.

Katharina discussed SysEB specific issues with research in Indonesia, which has updated legislature making that is punitive for violating permitting laws, including jailtime. This is part of the Nagoya protocol; though US is not a signatory, we must adhere to this protocol. Bolivia has similar issues with collection permits. If you are doing work in these areas, please provide NSF with that information, so that State Department can work with you to avoid violating these protocols.

Katharina described a push to consider biological research across scales. This initiative requires a comparative framework to integrate research across organisms and timescales. She suggested to find ways of collaborating on these opportunities around larger theme. There are many ways to submit interdisciplinary proposals through the core, for workshops, and for special programs. There is a new “Rules of Life” that crosses BIO divisions to fund integrative science. These proposals identify two divisions within NSF engaged by the proposed research. She encouraged us to contact a program officer about possible proposals to ensure a good fit with the program. Katharina also CAREER, EAGER, and RACE opportunities. There was some confusion about Rules of Life RFPs, which is only for BIOL, with no proposal deadlines, and integrate approaches across biological scales versus Understanding Rules of Life RFPs, which is an NSF wide solicitation about specific topics, such as microbial biology, or epigenetics.

Katharina also discussed NEON, which is comprised of 81 terrestrial and aquatic fully operational sites. The NEON repository contains public data, ecological data, collecting data, aquatic samples, and collected macroinvertebrates available in online collections. NSF encourages proposals that makes use of that NEON data in any way; Katharina suggested that researchers be explicit if these data are used for a proposed study.

Katharina discussed Biology Integration Institutes Proposals; these fund groups of researchers across biological disciplines. There are design vs. implementation tracks for these proposals. Activities can be online/virtual institutes, with groups of researchers that think about overarching questions with different disciplines. She recommended that interested researchers contact NSF for more information. Katharina described other programs such as EDGE, which provides support for developing tools in non-model systems. There is also a “Rules of Life” track in the Postdoctoral Research Program; all NSF Postdoctoral proposals are due Nov. 19th. Any collections component of postdoctoral program is sunsetting. The Dimensions of Biodiversity Program is still active and the international component will expand for the near future.

Katharina suggested that members sign up for DEB blogs for updated information. There are also monthly virtual office hours held by program officers.

Katharina addressed two questions. One member asked if workshops had to be held in the US. They can be held internationally, but there are budgetary restrictions. Another member asked about the rule about the number of proposals an investigator can submit as a PI or CoPI; there are no restrictions about the number of proposals that can be submitted by individuals. With no further questions for Katharina, we moved to committee reports.

Floyd’s presentation serves as the SysEB officer report. Please see slides for further information.

Aaron Smith gave the treasurer report. Our yearly allotment is based on membership. Our current budget is approximately \$13000, with funds committed to previous and current STRA winners, food served at the earlier reception. We do have an unallocated balance that we will carry forward. We also plan to donate funds to ECN and student awards. The STRA endowment currently has \$71,000, with \$6500 from donations. It is easy to donate through the SysEB website. Next year there will be a silent auction with books and other items to raise money for the endowment. There will also be a GoFund Site with student research profiles.

Jessica Ware gave the Governing Board Report. There are changes in staffing at the national office. David Gammel is leaving his position as Executive Director; Chris Stelzig is our new Executive Director. Erin Caldwell will be the Director of Strategic Initiatives. The Governing Board is examining opportunities to be creative and nimble. One issue is that Branch Meetings lose money. SysEB members typically do not go to Branch Meetings, mostly because of a mismatch in research interests and topics discussed at these meetings. Bob Peterson created a task force to implement new ideas to update Branch Meetings to make them more attractive to membership. Jessica congratulated our new ESA Fellows. The Governing Board is examining ways to increase the diversity of members that are selected to be ESA Fellows; please consider nominating colleagues for this honor. The Science Policy Committee, including member Kaitlin Deutsch, had a successful year that included passing of the TICK act, and the new Farm Bill codified pollinator health. In the future, the committee will focus on Insect Biodiversity, which is especially relevant to our section.

This year’s meeting has been very successful; the Governing Board has selected future locations that will hold growing numbers of attendees: Orlando (2020), Denver (2021), and Vancouver (2022). Organization of sessions and talk submissions will move into a new platform that is more

user-friendly than Confex. Surveys about the Linnaean Games indicate that two-thirds of the membership do not want to change the games. The Governing Board is examining ways to broaden topics and diversity regarding the history of Entomology and selected questions. There will be an updated logo, and encouragement to increase the diversity of team members, including reaching out to historically black colleges and universities. It is important to make sure that everyone feels welcome at the Linnaean Games.

Carly Tribull gave the Early Career Professional (ECP) report. The goal of this committee is to create programming and advocate for ECP members, who are defined as individuals that are within five years after graduating with their highest degrees. ECP members had two program symposia: Advocating for Diversity Among Entomologists and Next-gen Scientists. Everyone is welcome at ECP events. There were also workshops and lunch-and-learn sessions, including, Selling Yourself as a Professional, So You're on the Academic Job Market, and What's Your Story. ECP had their first mixer, which is concurrent with the Student Mixer. The ECP committee is surveying their members to help grow resources. Other activities of the ECP include featuring ECP members on the Entomology Today Blog, and articles targeted toward ECP members. If you have suggestions for who should be featured, please contact Carly. There is also an ECP newsletter and a variety of ECP sponsored awards. If you are an ECP member, please consider applying.

Sandra Schachat gave the Student Affairs Committee Report. Student morale is low because of the recent decisions regarding the Linnaean Games. Students are still working to have ESA acknowledge the contribution of the first peoples/native communities who inhabited the territory of the annual meeting site; please contact Sandra if you are interested in helping in this effort. The Committee is working to increase student involvement in ESA journals, and to highlight student contributions in the ESA Newsletter. At the annual meeting, student activities include the Linnaean Games, the Student Debates, and the Student Mixer.

Andrea Lucky gave the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report; the committee is nearly five years old. During this time period, the committee has made the following accomplishments:

- A workshop during the Annual Meeting (Wednesday, Nov. 20th, 2019) about implicit bias.
- A mixer for LGBTQA+ members
- The inclusion of personal pronouns on badges.
- A Safety Pin Activity in the Exhibit Hall during the meeting that recognizes diversity
- A name change for the Monday Breakfast that is more inclusive "Women and Allies Breakfast"
- Post conference survey that addresses diversity and inclusion
- A diversity and inclusion breakfast at the South East/Eastern Branch joint meeting
- A representative of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee on ECP award committee.

Andrea said she would be happy to address questions about these activities or other issues involving diversity and inclusion.

Gavin Svenson reported on the activities of the Science Policy Committee. While several members are rotating off the committee, Gavin will be staying on as the SysEB representative. Gavin highlighted several positive outcomes of the committee's activities including legislation involving insects, informational documents (position papers, new infographics and a revised statement on the importance of collections). The committee is working on a position paper on invasive species; feedback is welcome when a draft is available. There are five newly selected ESA policy fellows; one of these fellows is a SysEB member. Biodiversity has been included as part of ESA's Grand Challenges Agenda, and participation is invited from SysEB members.

The last set of reports from journal committee representatives followed. In future, we will no longer have these reports because of the new leadership structure for ESA journals.

The American Entomologist has a new editor in chief and has launched its new design in the fall. The magazine's content and overall "look" is updated based on a readership survey. Some of the magazine's former departments have been retired. The magazine translates well online with more than 7000 subscriptions from members and institutions. The editorial board includes a SysEB member.

Marc Branham reported on the *Annals of the ESA*; please refer to slides for specific numbers. The *Annals* serves to collect papers around various topics, such as science policy, bugs as food, etc. If you have ideas for an issue, please contact Larry Bird at the *Annals* website.

The report on Arthropod Management Tests described lower submissions to the journal and efforts to recruit new authors from outside the US. The average time from submission to acceptance is three weeks.

The report about Environmental Entomology discussed new chief editors and efforts to increase diversity of subject editors. The review timeline is 5-6 weeks.

Jim Whitfield gave the report for Insect Systematics and Diversity, which started in 2016 and is co-edited by Sydney Cameron. To date 68 SysEB members have been authors/co-authors, and is on track to increase submissions by 50%. The journal had its first special collection; there are flyers at the submission booth. There is also a goal to increase access to the journal across the US and world to at least 500 institutional subscriptions. The journal is now indexed in the Web of Science, and is being tracked to calculate its impact factor.

The report for *Journal of Economic Entomology* was given. Editor in chief Mike Brewer increased the diversity of subject matter experts, and is implementing a new structure for the editorial board. There has been an increase in online usage of the journal by 10%; *JEE* is the most cited journal in entomology.

Eric Rebek is the new editor in chief selected for the *Journal of Integrated Pest Management*. The journal received its first impact factor which is highest of the ESA journals (2.333). There are a record number of submissions the journal. The editor pool is being expanded to include more diverse individuals.

Phil Braden gave the report for the *Journal of Insect Science*, who like other SysEB journal board representatives, is rotating off this year. Phil reported an average time of 6 to 8 weeks from manuscript submission to publication. The scope of the journal is to publish broadly interesting entomological papers. Currently, there are efforts to increase the diversity of subject editors.

Jennifer Zaspel reported on the *Journal of Medical Entomology*. The goal is to increase submissions to this journal, particularly by student members. There are 15 new subject editors. The journal is on track to increase online usage and had two special issues.

Members raised issues of concern at this point in the meeting. The first topic was resources for student travel to the International Conference of Entomology in Helsinki, Finland. Topics for discussion: ICE travel for students and ECP. Students have six awards. There are six awards allotted for student travel.

Jay McPherson voiced concerns about the topics covered by *Insect Systematics and Diversity*; he feels that there is no place in the journal's scope for nonintegrated papers, which alienates some SysEB members. He would like to edit the call for papers to include more traditional papers that discuss alpha-level taxonomy.

Floyd Shockley announced that the Entomological Collections Management Workshop will return next year, located at Yale University's Peabody Museum. He and David Furth will serve as instructors. Floyd was asked if this would be NSF funded; he responded that this would be the main source of funding and that iDigBio would also sponsor events. The workshop will occur in summer/fall and will be announced on the ECN webpage and list serve.

Jennifer Zaspel then recognized Floyd's service to SysEB as President and awarded him a plaque to thank him for his service.

Jennifer then called for a motion to adjourn. Jay McPherson so moved, Alma Solis seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Simmons
Vice-President Elect for Systematics Evolution and Biodiversity Section, 2019

If you have corrections to these minutes, please list the relevant line number and your correction as a response to the survey found at this link:

https://und.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cYcSyC5r9XtFhMp

Thank you!