

Entomological Society of America Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

July 2013 Newsletter



<http://www.entsoc.org/pie>

P-IE Calendar

July 15 – National & P-IE Elections

August 9 – Deadline for Nomination of MS Students for Legends of Entomology Award

November 10-14 – ESA Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas – with P-IE

Business/Networking Meeting on Monday Nov 11, 2-5 and Listening Session on Wed the 13th 4 to 5.

New P-IE Leaders and representatives assume their roles at the end of the annual conference.

Student Master Award Nominations

It is now time to nominate well-deserving Masters students for the Legends of Entomology Award. The P-IE Section annually awards one Masters student with a \$1,500 cash award, as well as a plaque and recognition at the P-IE Section meeting at the Annual Meeting of ESA. A “Legend of Entomology” is also recognized along with the student’s advisor. Complete guidelines are available on the Section portion of the ESA website at <http://www.entsoc.org/pie> or by contacting the P-IE Student Award Committee Chair Dr. Miriam Cooperband, mcooperb@aphis.usda.gov. The deadline for the P-IE Section Masters student award is August 9.

ESA and Section Elections

The very important annual elections have opened and they close August 15. Please note extended biographical sketches and vision statements to help you make an informed choice. Please do take time to vote and regardless of the winner support them and provide input to them to improve the society. We have a very qualified list of P-IE candidates and thank them for stepping up and volunteering their time and to the Nominating Committee for their efforts.

Vice President-Elect Candidates

Biographical Sketch & Vision Statement- Raul Medina, Texas A&M University

Dr. Raul F. Medina is an associate professor at Texas A&M University. He obtained his Ph.D. in entomology in 2005 from the University of Maryland and joined Texas A&M as an assistant professor in 2006. He studies the influence of evolutionary ecology principles in agroecosystem communities. His research questions explore the roles that ecological factors and microevolutionary forces play in pest and natural enemy population genetics. He is currently studying how host-plant and bacterial associations, morphological differentiation, and mating behavior influence the way insect populations are genetically structured. He has organized several symposia on the role of ecology and evolution in understanding insect pests. He regularly teaches general entomology, plant protection, and integrated pest management at Texas A&M University. He is currently a subject editor for the *Journal of Economic Entomology*.



The membership of ESA is diverse. This diversity includes a variety of agendas and priorities. Nevertheless, I believe there are several critical issues that are recognized as priorities by most ESA members. Issues involving global food security, invasive species, environmental stewardship, and human, animal and plant health are in my opinion at the top of the list. I believe ESA should reflect the challenges and concerns of our times. For that reason I think ESA should address the priorities I just mentioned within the framework of the new challenges facing our world today. Issues such as global warming, the use of GMOs, epigenetics, one health and feed the world initiatives should be reflected in the ESA activities and communication outlets. Regarding ESA membership, I consider important to increase the participation of traditionally underrepresented groups in agriculture as well as to increase the number of undergraduate students engaged with the society. Through its different sections ESA has provided a way to assess membership priorities within some of the sub-disciplines within our diverse field. I would consider an honor to be able to work with P-IE officers to strengthen ESA and to increase its impact in our complex and diverse world.

Biographical Sketch & Vision Statement- Fred Musser, Mississippi State University

Dr. Fred R. Musser is an associate professor at Mississippi State University, focusing on integrated pest management strategies for row crops. He is a graduate of Penn State (BS in agronomy) and Cornell University (Ph.D. in entomology). Before beginning a career in academia, Fred worked in agricultural development for three years each in Haiti and Bangladesh. He also worked four years as a crop consultant in Pennsylvania. He now has a diverse research program with applied goals, such as comparing sampling techniques, developing thresholds, and monitoring insecticide-resistance levels, as well as more fundamental research estimating insect movement within the agricultural landscape, exploring the relationship between polygalacturonases and host plants, and examining the impact of pathogens on insect population dynamics. He is an author on 30 refereed and 65 other publications. He teaches "Field Crop Insects" and "Principles of Insect Pest Management," and is currently major or co-major advisor for seven graduate students. Fred has been an active member of ESA since 1999. He currently represents P-IE as the Chair of the Editorial Board for *Journal of Economic Entomology*. Within the Southeastern Branch of ESA, he has served on the Nominating Committee (2007), the Student Awards Committee (2008-2011, Chair in 2011), and is currently Chair of the



Membership Committee and of the 2015 Local Arrangements Committee. Fred is also a member of the Mississippi Entomological Association, serving as its treasurer since 2007.

I believe the two most important issues facing entomologists within P-IE are to make ourselves more effective and to train our replacements. Making current entomologists more effective entails keeping ourselves informed of relevant information and making the positions shared by P-IE entomologists known to others. The ESA and P-IE have improved our efforts recently to make policymakers aware of entomology concerns through development of our liaison to the Environmental Protection Agency and joining with the American Institute of Biological Sciences and these efforts need our continued support. In addition to targeting policymakers, we need to improve our efforts to enlighten the general public better on issues important to our discipline. White papers and forum articles are a good tool to collect the data and thoughts, but these must be followed by press releases and other media products to put science into the public conscience. In regard to training young people to replace us, the shortage of P-IE entomologists is acute as those who were hired when IPM first became popular have now retired. Training begins by instilling a love and understanding of science and insects in the K-12 curriculum. Each of us can help here as a part of our community service. It must continue through the undergraduate and graduate programs. We need to develop stronger linkages with students and professionals in other life sciences to develop more scientists with an understanding of insects and how they impact the various facets of our world.

Treasurer Candidate

Biographical Sketch - Patrick Moran, USDA

Dr. Patrick J. Moran is a research entomologist with the USDA-ARS Exotic and Invasive Weeds Research Unit in Albany, California. Dr. Moran has worked for ARS since 2001, and he spent 11 years at the former ARS location in Weslaco, Texas. His research focuses on development and evaluation of biological control of invasive weeds using insects, with an emphasis on weeds that grow in or near water and threaten water resources, such as arundo, saltcedar, and water hyacinth. This work has led to 24 peer-reviewed papers and numerous other publications since 2001. Other areas of interest include plant gene expression responses to insect feeding and insect-plant pathogen-plant interactions. Dr. Moran received a BS in biology and environmental studies from Tufts University in 1992 and a Ph.D. in entomology from Penn State in 1998. He has received and managed over \$500,000 in grant funds in his Ph.D., postdoctoral, and USDA-ARS studies, and has served as treasurer for several local community groups over the years. He held leadership positions in the Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society, including program chair (2004) and editor (2005-2008). Patrick has been a member of ESA since 1992. He has chaired one symposium (another pending in 2013), and has judged student presentations at various national and branch meetings.



Secretary Candidate

Biographical Sketch - Andy Michel, Ohio State University

Dr. Andy Michel's research focuses on characterizing the genetic basis for insect adaptation and how these adaptive traits spread across the landscape. His overall goal is to understand how insect pests adapt to rapidly changing selection pressures in agroecosystems, such as host-shifting to important crops or resistance to management tactics. Understanding and demonstrating how insects adapt, as well as communicating research-based insect management recommendations, delays the evolution of resistance or the emergence of pests and ensures a safer and more productive food supply. He received his BS in entomology from Purdue University (2001) and his Ph.D. in biology from the University of Notre Dame (2005). After postdoctoral research at the University of Notre Dame (2005-2007), he joined the Department of Entomology at The Ohio State University with a 70% research and 30% extension appointment. He has studied the genetics of adaptation in various systems, but focuses much of his research on the soybean aphid, *Aphis glycines*. Overall, he has received over \$2 million in research funding and has published more than 35 peer-reviewed papers and two book chapters. Additionally, he has provided over 70 extension presentations on field crop insect management, reaching thousands of participants. He has served as the P-IE Editorial Board member for the *Journal of Medical Entomology* for the past three years, and has developed, participated in, and moderated several symposia at ESA national meetings. He is a current member of three regional projects, and has served as President for NCERA213 and S1055.



Student Representative Candidates

Biographical Sketch - Alejandro Del Pozo, North Carolina State University

Alejandro has a BS in agronomy from La Molina National Agrarian University in Lima, Peru. Upon completion of his degree, Alejandro worked at one of the largest asparagus producers in Peru and was charged with the implementation and execution of their IPM program. Alejandro obtained an MS in entomology from Washington State University under the direction of Dr. John Brown. His research focused on developing new IPM strategies for irrigated hybrid poplars. Alejandro is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at North Carolina State University under the direction of Dr. Dominic Reisig. His project focuses on implementing new strategies to manage the recently introduced soybean pest, *Megacopta cribraria*, also known as the kudzu bug. The ultimate goal of Alejandro's research is to provide practical solutions to manage this new soybean pest in North Carolina. Alejandro has been active within ESA and presented results of his research at Branch and national meetings and in the *Journal of Economic Entomology*. He was also the recipient of the 2012 Entomological Foundation's Larry Larson Graduate Student Award for Leadership in Applied Entomology. Alejandro is also actively supporting multicultural events at the Office of International Services and serves as president of the Latino American Student Association at NCSU. Alejandro would like to serve as the Student Representative to the P-IE Governing Council so he can represent the student perspective based on his experience at multiple institutions and other student organizations. He believes that having a student voice is important for improving the future goals of the P-IE Section.



Biographical Sketch - Suhas Vyavhare, Texas A&M

Ph.D. candidate in entomology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; MS in plant, soil and environmental science (2010), West Texas A&M University, Canyon, TX; BS in agriculture, College of Agriculture, Pune, India (2008). Interests: Insect toxicology, insecticide resistance management, population genetics, field entomology. 2013 runner-up in the SEB Linnaean Games Competition (Texas A&M University team). 2013 Meeting of the ESA Southwestern Branch, Las Cruces, NM. 2012 Student Enhancement and Endowment Scholarship, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University. 2010 Annual Meeting of the ESA SWB, Cancun, Mexico. First place in graduate research poster competition; honor for an outstanding participation in Linnaean Games Competition; 2010 - 16th Annual Student Research Conference, West Texas A&M University; Completed graduate research papers – first place; graduate research presentation – first place. Organizer of a research symposium, “Solutions for Invasive Insect Pests in a Connected World,” at the ESA Annual Meeting in Austin, TX in November, 2013. Vice President, University Apartments Community Council, TAMU Secretary, Entomology Graduate Student Organization, Texas A&M University. Participant in the Linnaean games and Student Debate in the upcoming ESA Annual Meeting. Volunteer, ESA SWB Meetings in 2010 and 2012. Volunteer at ESA Annual Meetings in 2011 and 2012.



2013 Annual Conference & P-IE Networking and Business Meeting

John Adamczyk and Gary Thompson spent 3 days in Austin arranging and proofing the program for P-IE and Member Symposia, ten minute Papers, Student Competition and Posters. By all measurements this will be the most information packed conference with record numbers of entries in all of the above categories. We tried but absolutely no way to not have some subject matter run concurrently. The P-IE GC will continue the tradition of a Monday afternoon networking and business meeting, and based on survey feedback we will shorten your time commitment to participate. After the annual brief business meeting, we will have an information session on the theme of **Connecting to the Future** – What entomology needs will continue, disappear and emerge? There will be great tips on how to keep your job now and be in demand in the future. Following the panel presentation there will be refreshments and a **DRAWING for 2 I-PAD wireless enabled minis**. One will be reserved for moderator and student judging volunteers and one will be for all P-IE members. YOU MUST BE PRESENT to participate, learn and have a high odds chance at a new I-PAD.

P-IE Volunteers Needed for National Conference

More than 100 volunteers, primarily moderators of 10-minute papers and judges of student papers and posters, are needed each year to run the P-IE portion of the national ESA Annual Meeting. Vice President John Adamczyk has the wrangling duties this year and believes he has enough volunteers however once assignments are made there has historically been a high level of turnover so he would like to collect more alternates. If you might be able to help please ask John to add you to the alternate list by sending him an email at jadamczyk301@gmail.com. Thank you for those who have stepped up for this crucial task; without you we could not hold our annual conference. Note all volunteers and alternates will be included in the special I-PAD drawing at the Network-Business Meeting on Monday afternoon.

P-IE Governing Council (GC)

Bonnie Pendleton, Past President (bpendleton@wtamu.edu)

Gary Thompson, President (gdthompson@dow.com)

John Adamczyk, Vice President (jadamczyk301@gmail.com)

Sujaya Rao, Vice President Elect (sujaya@oregonstate.edu)

Melissa Willrich Siebert, Secretary (mwillrichsiebert@dow.com)

Paula Davis, Treasurer (paula.davis@pioneer.com)

Alton "Stormy" Sparks, ESA Governing Board Representative (asparks@uga.edu)

Joy Newton, Student Representative (joysbugs@gmail.com)