



ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
MEDICAL, URBAN, AND VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY

MUVE NEWSLETTER

December 2022

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the New Year. We made it!

I will admit in this first sentence that I am both excited and nervous to serve as your new MUVE president. I remember my first ESA meeting in Cincinnati, OH, and I can say that I did not see myself in this role. That written, please let us know what we can do for you. You selected MUVE as your Section and we want to help make this Section better for you. Let us know! [Please complete the MUVE 2023 survey.](#)

I am supposed to write a little about myself in this first newsletter so here it goes. I am a geriatric millennial, use she/her/hers pronouns, first-generation college student, wife, mom, past soccer player, current soccer coach, and associate professor in Medical and Veterinary Entomology at the University of Tennessee. I have worked a lot of different jobs including waitress at a pizza restaurant, customer service person for a major airline (I do not remember my title, but I was yelled at a lot), ice cream maker, sales associate at a clothing company, and a federal work study undergraduate student (I made copies). I write run-on sentences and enjoy using emojis 😊. That's a lot, but I share because I know we are more than our jobs and our experiences define us.



Over the past year I learned what it takes to keep MUVE going and I want to share that there is a LOT of behind the scenes. This Society operates because of an outstanding team at headquarters, a dedicated group of volunteers that show up,

[Dr. Anna Berry](#),
Secretary

[Dr. Sonja Swiger](#),
Treasurer

[Dr. Ed Vargo](#),
Past President

[Dr. Erika Machtinger](#),
Governing Board Representative

and generous sponsors who continue to help. I am extremely grateful to Past President Ed Vargo and all of the MUVE officers. I am thankful that Kyle Jordan will be assisting me as vice president and look forward to working with Ary Faraji as vice president-elect. Ed, please keep us on track.

If you are interested in working with the Society, then reach out to volunteer. This is your Society and it needs you to show up and help out. Your experience as a MUVE Section member and ESA member is uniquely yours.

In my opinion, MUVE and ESA can help you find your place as an entomologist, but it is ultimately up to you to put some effort into finding out how. Read the emails, click the safe links, and volunteer what you can share. You might be able to share your time, resources, ideas, past experiences, money, or anything else. As I stated at the final business meeting in Vancouver, I am a person who believes in and practices "Give and Take;" our society and Section work because people show up and give. I am lucky to have attended that first meeting in Cincinnati because it was there that I realized *entomology was for me*.

This year I want to build on the idea of "Give and Take." Let's continue to foster the networking and mentoring events because these relationships are vital to our Section's success. Over the next couple of months, I will work with the other Section leaders to come up with quarterly networking themes that will be of broad interest to our members. If you have other ideas on how MUVE can help you or how you can help MUVE, please let us know here. We are here to listen and we will do our best to make it happen. [Please complete the 2023 MUVE survey](#).

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MUVERs



Help us highlight MUVE members and bring their work into the spotlight! Please send any MUVERs news to be included in future newsletters and tweets to [Bethany McGregor](#).



Warren Booth, Ph.D., associate professor of biological science at the University of Tulsa. Dr. Booth has accepted the Joseph R. & Mary W. Wilson endowed professor of urban entomology in the Department of Entomology at Virginia Tech University. Dr. Booth's research focuses on evolutionary biology, molecular ecology, and population genetics of urban arthropod pests, especially bed bugs and their adaptation to urban environments. He begins his new position in January 2023. Congratulations Warren!



Phillip Shults, Ph.D. Dr. Shults recently started in a new position as a research entomologist with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in the Arthropod-borne Animal Diseases Research Unit (ABADRU) in Manhattan, Kansas. His research has focused on using population genetics to study a variety of MUVE insects, such as *Culicoides* biting midges, dark rover ants, and subterranean termites. In his position with ABADRU, he will continue to focus on the use of population genetic techniques to study vectors and arthropod-borne diseases of animals.

NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Matt Bertone

Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today*

- [Vitamin B1 is Not a Mosquito Repellent. So Why Do Doctors Prescribe It?](#)
- [How One Entomologist Takes a 'One Health' Approach to Engage Across Disciplines](#)
- [CDC Internship, Fellowship Program Enlightens Mentors and Mentees Alike](#)
- [Board Game Teaches the Challenges, Uncertainty of IPM](#)
- [Where Lyme Disease is Rare, Can it Still Be Diagnosed Accurately?](#)
- [Career Advancement Slower for Women in Entomology. Study Finds](#)

Remember: For the latest breaking news items related to MUVE, please [follow us on Twitter](#).

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP



Looking for ways to get involved with MUVE or ESA generally? Always feel free to [contact MUVE President Becky Trout Fryxell](#) with your interest.

Communications Committee Looking for Newsletter Editor

Do you have a flair for editing and an interest in improving communications within our Section? Join the MUVE Communications Committee! We are in need of a new MUVE Newsletter editor. This is a relatively low workload role that helps to identify newsworthy items, collate contributions from the MUVE Board and the membership, and edit and streamline content for our every-other-month email newsletter. There is no set term, although commitment of at least one year is ideal. If you're interested in being the next ESA MUVE newsletter editor, or for more information on the role, please reach out to Mikenna Smith (mssmith@tcweed.org).

MUVE Initiative Seeking Member Involvement

The MUVE Initiative “[MUVE-ing together: Connecting entomologists, wildlife biologists, and ecologists to strengthen One Health approaches focusing on human and animal parasites](#)” is looking for members at any career stage (student, ECP, senior member) to get involved with the initiative. The initiative was born from a desire to create connections among entomologists, wildlife biologists, and ecologists throughout the Entomological Society of America and other Societies to advance the One Health initiative and improve public, animal, and ecosystem health.

Members could be involved with various leadership activities and networking opportunities including, but not limited to, organizing symposia or other events at ESA (National and/or Branch levels) and other related conferences, develop webinars or workshops for members, and promoting an inclusive environment for members interested in learning more about the intersection of entomology, wildlife biology, and ecology. [Learn more](#) and contact Dr. Erika Machtinger at etm10@psu.edu.



Volunteers Needed to Support the Grand MUVE Library WIG

Have you ever thought it would be great to have a one-stop-shop for MUVE-related resources? Are you interested in a common repository for information like MUVE related protocols, available awards and opportunities, and the emergency response entomologist list? ESA MUVE is looking for volunteers to assist with one of our new section WIGs, the Grand MUVE Library. If you are interested in assisting with this effort or want to learn more, please contact Alexis Kriete (akriete@ncsu.edu).

POLICY CORNER



Policy Corner: What is the “Federal Register” and why should you care?

By: Meaghan L. Pimsler, Ph.D.

Entomologists already have to work hard to remain up-to-date on current developments in their field, but there’s another official journal that is worth keeping abreast of: The *Federal Register*. Sure, while you may not find the most recent meta-analysis of off-target effects of organophosphates in the weekly released publication, you will be able to learn what new rules the EPA is proposing governing their study, development, or deployment. You even have the opportunity to submit edits, comments, and concerns. This means that you have another tool you can use to shape federal science policy as it relates to entomology, science funding, or other topics of interest to you. You can directly participate in the federal rulemaking process.

The Federal Register is an official publication of the US Federal Government that comes out daily Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. The goal is to inform citizens of their obligations and rights, and it contains major decided or proposed changes in rules, regulations, or policies by any federal agency which will affect the public, as well as Executive Orders and Proclamations, public notices, and more. You can access the *Federal Register* from its [website](#).

There are many ways to navigate the *Federal Register*. You can focus on sections of interest (such as “Environment” or “Science and Technology”), browse for a specific agency (such as the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS], the parent agency of the Centers for Disease Control [CDC]), or directly search for keywords in all of the active documents. If you aren’t interested in coming back daily, you can always sign up for an account and subscribe to the results of any search, document, or agency to get updates sent directly to your email inbox.

So what can you do if you come across a document asking for input on a rule, policy, or request for information that you want to address? Get started early: make note of the deadline and make sure to get it submitted prior to 11:59 PM EST the date the comments are due. If you don’t understand the language or have questions, you can reach out to the agency contact person, ESA, or your MUVE Science Policy Committee [SPC] Representative.

Make sure that the top of your comment includes all of the document information, including docket number, FR date and page number, and subject heading. Include an introduction, relevant background, analysis, and a conclusion with constructive details explaining why you support something or not. And remember, evidence-based information is particularly valuable and convincing, so don’t be afraid to cite relevant statistics, scientific papers, etc. You can find a wealth of more detailed tips for submitting effective public comments to the *Federal Register* from federal agencies, non-profit advocacy groups, and academic institutions with a quick online search.

ESA already does their best to stay up-to-date on topics of relevance to the MUVE section and general Society membership overall. This includes identifying documents, organizing committees to draft comments, and communicating with relevant federal agencies. If you are not interested in signing up for a *Federal Register* subscription, but you are interested in contributing to ESA communication efforts in relation to Science Policy, you can [sign up for ESA Action Alerts](#) or contact your MUVE representative as a volunteer.

ASK CLARY FLY



By Lidia Gonzalez, Student Representative to the ESA Governing Board

Clary Fly here, with fresh updates for the students in ESA. I hope y'all had a great time at our Annual Meeting in Vancouver; it was great to see everyone there!

Congratulations to all the students that participated in the debates and attended the student symposium; you did an awesome job! A big part of the ESA Annual Meeting attendees are students, so it would not be possible without all of you. So, thank you.

Before I continue, let me introduce you to our new MUVE Section Student Affairs Committee (SAC) Representative: Lidia Gual Gonzalez! (Woo-hoo!) She is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of South Carolina and is a brand new ESA member! She will be taking over Victoria Pickens' role, who we will miss very much. Thanks for your hard work these past two years, and we will continue to see you around!

On a second note, I wanted to remind you to renew your ESA membership if you haven't done so yet! I know, I know... we are all very busy and tend to leave this for last minute, and that is why I have the [link here](#) so you can access your ESA membership renewal. Do not wait to get your membership right before the Annual Meeting; it is great to have membership all year-round as it has so many benefits. Take a look at the [benefits](#)! There are many [resources](#) available for students such as interesting webinars or the career center that can help you build professional skills and identify career-building opportunities.

As the new year approaches, I wanted you all to consider applying yourself or nominating your colleagues to any of our many ESA Awards! Every year we have many students that get recognition for their work in entomology, and it is an opportunity to help you all grow and show your success as MUVE students! If you haven't thought about it or don't know where to start, take a look at the different [MUVE Section Awards](#), [Branch Awards](#), and [ESA Awards and Scholarship opportunities](#) supported by our sponsors.

Lastly, I wanted to remind you all that if you have any questions or would like to know more about involvement in ESA, you can contact the Student Affairs Committee through the [ESA website](#) or send an e-mail to lidiag@email.sc.edu. This newsletter section will be used to address any questions you send, and if you do so, the questions and comments will be addressed in an anonymous format in the next MUVE newsletter. Have a great end of the year and enjoy time with family, friends and pets during the holiday season. And always remember to take care of yourselves!

All the best wishes,
Clary Fly

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Remembrance of Gene White

Ken Brown, MUVE Representative to the Education and Outreach Committee, provided a moving eulogy and tribute to Gene White at the MUVE Business Meeting in Vancouver. Ken shared this tribute for other MUVE members who were not in attendance to read. Thank you to Ken for preparing and providing this eulogy that so eloquently conveys Gene's personality and passion for his work, life, and family. [Read the eulogy.](#)



MUVE 2023 Strategy

Do you have an idea for a way to improve the MUVE section? Are you interested in leading the charge to be the change you want to see in the section? Let us know! [Complete the MUVE 2023 survey](#) to tell us what we're doing right, how we can improve, and how you'd be interested in helping!

Three MUVE Members Accepted into the Science Policy Fellows Class of 2022

The 2022 class of the Science Policy Fellows program has been announced and three of the new fellows are from the ESA MUVE section. Please join us in congratulating the following new Science Policy Fellows:

- **Corey Day**, Ph.D. student, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology
- **Sarah Gunter, Ph.D.**, assistant professor at the Baylor College of Medicine
- **Hannah Quellhorst**, Ph.D. candidate, University of Kansas Department of Entomology

New MUVE Representatives and Officers Announced

Several new MUVE representatives and internal MUVE officers were announced at the 2022 ESA Joint Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC. Please join us in welcoming everyone to their new posts!

- President: **Becky Trout Fryxell**
- Vice-President: **Kyle Jordan**
- Vice-President Elect: **Ary Faraji**
- Secretary: **Anna Berry**
- Communications Chair: **Mikenna Smith**
- Nominations Committee: **Madison Gits**
- Governing Board Representative: **Erika Machtinger**
- Diversity and Inclusion Committee: **Melissa Nolan**
- Entomology Games Committee: **Mark Janowiecki**
- Awards and Honors: **Zach Devries**
- Publications Council: **Cynthia Lord**
- Science Policy Committee: **Meredith Spence Beaulieu**
- Student Affairs Committee: **Lidia Gonzalez**

Symposia and Workshop Submissions for Entomology 2023 Due in March

If you're interested in organizing a symposium, organized meeting, or workshop at the Entomological Society of America 2023 Annual Meeting in National Harbor, MD, now is a great time to start thinking about your submission! Submissions are due by **March 1, 2023**, and this deadline includes all symposium types-program, section, and member symposia. [Learn more.](#)

2nd MUVE Mentorship Network Workshop Held

The 2nd workshop for the MUVE Mentorship Network Initiative was held on November 7. Participants in the Mentorship Network program got together for a 2-hour workshop, led by mentorship experts Dr. Christopher Lavan and Dr. Mitsunori Misawa, focused on leadership in mentoring and identifying best practices in connecting virtually with mentorship groups. There will be two additional workshops held for this round of the Mentorship Network, which are anticipated to be held in February and May.

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