



Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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Greetings everyone!

I hope you all had a good start to 2023 and are staying busy with your research, teaching, extension, and other activities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our now Past President Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris for her leadership last year and continued guidance this year. I would also like to thank Lina Bernaola for her service as the Treasurer and wish her the very best in her new role as the ESA Vice President-Elect.

Vice President - Elect

Anjel Helms
Texas A&M University

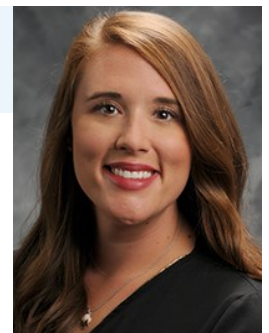
Bio: Anjel Helms is an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University. She received bachelor's degrees in biology and biochemistry from Pepperdine University before spending a year as a Fulbright Scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Germany, investigating defensive traits of spruce trees against bark beetles. She completed a Ph.D. in ecology at Penn State, where her dissertation research examined the role of insect pheromones in enhancing plant anti-herbivore defenses. She was a USDA Postdoctoral Fellow in the Penn State Entomology Department, studying plant and insect responses to chemical cues from entomopathogenic nematodes. At Texas A&M, her lab is investigating the chemical ecology of belowground interactions involving plants, insect herbivores, natural enemies, and plant-associated microbes.



Secretary

Whitney Crow
Mississippi State University

Bio: Whitney has a B.S. in agriculture with a concentration in crop and soil management from the University of Tennessee at Martin, an M.S. in plant science with a concentration in weed science from the University of Tennessee, and a Ph.D. in life sciences with a concentration in entomology from Mississippi State University. She spent a little over a year as an integrated field scientist for Corteva Agriscience in Leland, Mississippi. At Corteva, she was responsible for herbicide and insect trait development trials, seed applied technology development trials, and discovery insecticide research. In 2019, Whitney started at Mississippi State University at the Delta Research and Extension Center as an assistant extension professor. At MSU, she is involved in extension and research programming to help the local needs of consultants and producers in Mississippi and throughout the MidSouth.



Governing Council Members cont.

Student Representative to the Governing Council
Hailey Shanovich
University of Minnesota



Bio: Shanovich is a Ph.D. candidate and research assistant at the University of Minnesota where her dissertation research focuses on developing integrated pest management plans for novel arthropod pests in a newly developed agroforestry crop. Shanovich is highly involved in her academic department and graduate program where she also holds leadership roles. Her past and current service to ESA is great; she will soon rotate off as the chair of the North Central Branch Student Affairs Committee and organized a Program Symposium for the Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

Call for Symposia

One of the goals for P-IE leadership in 2023 is to address the unmet needs of the members, especially those in teaching and outreach. P-IE is seeking symposia proposals on formal and informal education methods and related topics in addition to the research topics for the annual meetings. Please keep the annual meetings theme *Insects and Influence: Advancing Entomology's Impact on People and Policy in mind as you develop and submit symposium ideas in 2023*. The deadline for submissions is **March 1**.

ESA 2022: Annual Meeting Recap

At the 2022 annual meetings in Vancouver, P-IE successfully organized well-attended section symposia, networking session and awards ceremony, and a business meeting. We distributed hats, tote bags, and t-shirts with James Earl Pey's design at the networking session. During the awards ceremony, Undergraduate Student Achievement in Entomology Award recipient Edith Ikuze (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Kenneth and Barbara Starks Plant Resistance to Insects Graduate Student Award recipients Morgan Thompson (Texas A&M University) and Heena Puri (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Master's Student Achievement in Entomology Award recipient Jacqueline Buenrostro (Colorado State University), Lifetime Achievement in Entomology Award recipient Anthony Shelton, and P-IE Recognition Award in Entomology recipient Joe Louis (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) were recognized for their achievements. The then-Past President David Onstad also organized a commemoration ceremony at the annual meetings to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*.



P-IE celebrates 60 years of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring led by past P-IE president David Onstad. Ceremony took place at the National ESA meeting in Vancouver, CA (above). Winner of P-IE's 2021 design contest! James Earl Pey's design is shown to the left.

P-IE Committee Updates

The P-IE Communications Committee was formed in 2020 to explore additional engagement opportunities, but leadership has decided to discontinue the committee and focus on the newsletter (co-edited by Ashley Leach and Anh Tran), the Twitter account @PIE_Entsoc (managed by Anh Tran and Anjel Helms), and direct communication with leadership for engagement. P-IE thanks the members of the committee (Kacie Athey - chair, Jonathan Larson, Ashley Leach, and Anh Tran) for their service in 2022. P-IE leadership reviewed the DEI P-IE Undergraduate Travel Award that was initiated in 2022 but decided to support ESA's Alate Award rather than having a similar Section award.

Volunteer Opportunities!

P-IE has many opportunities to serve or expand the Section engagement. Please consider serving on various committees or the P-IE General Council; judging student competitions; nominating yourself, your colleagues, or students for awards; submitting exciting symposium topics; participating in Wildly Important Goals; suggesting ideas for new activities or public/member engagement; contributing articles or news items to the newsletter; or anything else to help our mission of serving all our members and advancing entomology.

I am excited to be serving you all with the team members Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris (Past President), Cesar Rodriguez-Saona (Vice President), Anjel Helms (Vice President-Elect), Laura Weiser-Erlandson (Treasurer), Whitney Crow (Secretary), Melissa Willrich Siebert (Governing Board Representative), Rob Morrison (Awards and Honors Committee), Navneet Kaur (Diversity and Inclusion Committee), Nicole Quinn (Early Career Professionals Representation), Gwen Pearson (Education and Outreach Committee), Cheri Abraham (Entomology Games Committee), Eric Riddick (Publications Council), Monica Farfan (Science Policy Committee), and Hailey Shanovich (Student Representative). Please feel free to reach me or any of us whenever you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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