



## **Issue 10 - April-May 2017**

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### **ESA Offers Activities to Support the March for Science**

On April 22, scientists from around the world will gather to participate in the [March for Science](#). Marchers will represent a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines and backgrounds – coming together to support scientific research, evidence-based policies, and the sanctity of science. ESA is planning a meetup point for entomologists taking part in the March in Washington, DC, and encourages members to participate in marches in their own states. If you'd like details and updates on [ESA activities support the March for Science](#), please complete this [short form](#).

To help you prepare for the March, ESA has also scheduled a free one-hour [March for Science Webinar](#) on April 19 at 2:00 pm EDT where speakers from ESA, Lewis-Burke Associates, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) will discuss the logistics of the March, best practices for non-partisan advocacy on behalf of science, and advice for productively engaging with the media during and after the March. [Please register in advance for this webinar](#).

### **Call for Papers, Posters, 3-Minute Lightning Bug Talks for Entomology 2017**

Take advantage of the opportunity to showcase yourself and your work at [Entomology 2017](#). Have potential employers see you in action, and take advantage of the meeting to make important connections. Submissions for papers, posters and three-minute lightning bug talks are now being accepted—and you only have a short window to submit – **deadline is May 15!** Plan early to have your research ready in time – and start working on travel funding. Denver is going to be an exciting host city so don't miss this year's meeting. Questions? Read the submission [FAQs](#). [Submit by May 15](#).

### **ECP Committee Announces its Program Symposium & Workshop for Entomology 2017**

The ECP Committee is proud to announce that it has organized an [accepted program symposium](#) for Entomology 2017, entitled “*Igniting the Spark: Science Communication by the Next Generation of Entomologists*.” The symposium will feature NPR journalist (and former multimedia director of Science Friday) Flora Lichtman, who will speak about getting your message across to reporters. Other speakers include many ECPs; and Dr. May Berenbaum will wrap up the program before the interactive panel discussion answers your burning questions about science communication. Then stay for some food and drink during the ECP mixer.

The ECP Committee is also coordinating a four-hour, interactive workshop providing an introduction to key components of R, which will cover importing data, data manipulation, making figures, fitting a model, and making predictions. Drew Tyre (University of Nebraska Lincoln) will lead the session. The workshop is designed for audiences who are new to R, but have some statistics background. Bring your laptop for this hands-on learning experience! Registration is limited to the first 50 attendees and will be an option during the general ESA meeting registration. We anticipate a \$10 registration fee, but the final cost of registration will be determined before ESA meeting registration opens. We are also looking for five volunteers to assist with the workshop. Volunteers cannot be workshop participants and must have enough experience with R software to help attendees troubleshoot basic coding problems. Please contact the workshop organizer, [Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris](#), if you are interested in volunteering or have questions about the workshop.

### **Call for ESA 2018 World of Insects Calendar Photos**

Have you taken an incredible photo of an insect recently? [Submit](#) your best digital insect or arthropod images for ESA’s 2018 *World of Insects* calendar for a chance to be recognized as one of ESA’s best insect photographers. Photos should be of the highest aesthetic and technical quality. **All entries must be received by May 1.**

### **Nominate Yourself or Another ECP this Year for ESA Awards**

Last year, ESA launched four new awards specifically for early career professionals (ECPs). Consider nominating yourself or a deserving ECP individual for one of these awards, honoring individuals who have greatly contributed to the science of entomology. Read the new [frequently asked questions](#) in case you are not sure if you should apply. **Awards nominations deadline is June 1.**

- The [ECP Outreach and Public Engagement Award](#) will honor a student transition or early professional member working within the field of entomology that has demonstrated excellence, leadership, and creativity in outreach and public engagement.
- The [ECP Research Award](#) will recognize a student transition or early professional member who has made outstanding research contributions to the field of entomology.
- The [ECP Teaching Award](#) will recognize a student transition or early professional member who excels in entomological education.
- The [ECP Extension Award](#) will be given to a student transition or early professional member who excels in entomological extension.

### **Call for YouTube Your Entomology Videos**

Have fun, showcase your videography talents, and win cash! You are invited to participate in ESA’s yearly video contest to showcase the world of insect science.

All video entries will be judged by a panel of ESA members, who will choose a winner, a runner-up, and up to three honorable mentions. Finalists will be named in August, with winners announced at ESA’s annual meeting. Each finalist receives a “Stinger” award and a cash prize:

\$500 for first place, \$250 for runner-up, and \$50 for honorable mention. **Deadline is July 2.** See full [contest rules](#).

### Looking for a new position? Use ESA's online Career Center

It probably isn't a surprise to ECP's that [Career Center](#) is the #1 viewed page on ESA's website. This is the go-to job board for both national and international entomology positions. Several of our ECP committee members found position announcements via the Career Center, and are now starting new positions in Academia and Industry! Positions can be filtered by keyword or category, and are kept up to date with positions from top institutions and companies. Looking for more of an Extension or teaching position? Those can be [found here](#) too. Check it out!

### ESA Early Career Professionals SPOTLIGHTS

How did you become interested in entomology? What is your current research focus? What are your career goals? We want to hear from YOU about why you are doing what you do. This is your chance to [take the spotlight](#) and tell the world about the work you are doing and what is so great about entomology.

Learn about other early career professional members and how they are involved in research, teaching, outreach or extension and are enjoying their work in insect science. Or, [submit your own information](#) and a photo to be spotlighted on ESA's website. Answer one question or all of them. Additional topics include: Describe how ESA has broadened your horizons. Describe a favorite experience while attending an ESA meeting.

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### Want to Get Involved?

If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or questions for the ECP Committee, please contact us by emailing [esa.step.committee@gmail.com](mailto:esa.step.committee@gmail.com) or by joining our ESA network at <http://esanetworks.org/>.

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## Meet the 2017 ECP Committee



**Ms. Lina Bernaola** is a PhD student at the Louisiana State University studying the mechanistic basis of plant resistance against above-ground and below-ground organisms in rice. Primarily, she studies the effects of mycorrhizal fungi, a symbiotic soil borne organism, on rice resistance to insect herbivores. Lina has been actively involved with ESA since 2013. She has presented her research at several national and Southeastern Branch meetings. Through ESA, Lina has gained opportunities to learn and practice leadership skills and to network with fellow entomologists. Previously, Lina served as student representative of the P-IE Governing Council and Student Affairs Committee of the SEB-ESA. Currently, she is the Student Representative to the ESA Governing Board and a member of the SAC.



**Mrs. Kyndall Dye-Braumuller** is a vector surveillance supervisor at the Harris County Public Health Mosquito and Vector Control Division, in Houston, TX. Her work focuses primarily on creating a surveillance program for hard ticks and kissing bugs in order to identify risk to residents in the county for various arthropod-borne diseases. She received both a BS in Entomology and a BS in Environmental Health Science from the University of Georgia, and she received

her MS in Medical Entomology from the University of Kentucky. During her masters program, she became highly involved with the Student Affairs Committee of the ESA, and she is very much looking forward to serving ESA as the MUVE representative to the ECP Committee.



**Katelyn Kesheimer** is an integrated pest management agent with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension in Lubbock, Texas. She works directly with producers, commodity groups, and other researchers to implement sustainable growing practices for a variety of crops on the High Plains. Her research interests include aphid biology and their interactions with natural enemies. She recently finished a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Kentucky studying bed bug behavior. Katelyn is excited to be a part of ECP and become engaged in such a beneficial society. As part of the ECP committee, she hopes to advocate for all professionals of any career, and provide support for those in this unique phase.



**William R Kuhn (Will)** is an evolutionary biologist, currently working as a National Science Foundation (NSF) Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He completed his PhD in 2016 at Rutgers University-Newark under the advisement of Dr. Jessica L. Ware, with a dissertation entitled “Three approaches to automating taxonomy, with emphasis on the Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies).” In that work, he applied computer vision and machine learning methods to build an automated species identification system for Odonata based on images of their wings. His current research aims to expand upon his dissertation work in order to allow identification of Odonata (and potentially other insects, as well) from less-constrained, field images of these insects, allowing any user—whether a researcher, citizen scientist, or enthusiast—to rapidly identify dragonflies and damselflies just by snapping a picture of one. In addition, he is a Senior Collaborator for another NSF grant, which aims to create a complete image dataset of all North American Odonata, allowing his wing-based automatic identification system to be updated for all taxa in this region and giving researchers a new tool for answering broad questions about odonate evolution.



**Dr. Erika T. Machtinger** is a Post-Doctoral Scientist with the USDA, ARS in Beltsville, MD. She received her BS from the University of Delaware in Wildlife Conservation and her MS and PhD in entomology from the University of Florida. Erika was raised in the natural areas surrounding the coast of Maine, which fostered her love of the environment and wildlife. Erika has worked at the USDA-BIIRL Laboratory in Newark, DE and also as a wildlife biologist and environmental scientist. Because of her involvement with the equine industry, Erika focused her doctoral research on biological control of filth flies. In her current position, Erika is combining her wildlife background and investigating host targeting integrated control of ticks.



**Dr. Amy Morey** is a post-doctoral researcher with the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center and the University of Minnesota Department of Entomology. Her research broadly centers on the intersection of species distribution modelling, invasion biology, and risk assessment. The goal of her current work is to improve methods used to characterize and forecast invasive insect distributions. Amy has been active in ESA since 2008, presenting at yearly branch and national meetings, participating in the Linnaean Games, volunteering, and serving on the North Central Branch Student Affairs Committee. She is thrilled to continue being strongly connected with the ESA community and actively contribute to its function as a member of the ECP Committee.



**Dr. Rob Morrison** is a post-doctoral researcher with the USDA-ARS at the Appalachian Fruit Research Center in West Virginia. He is currently researching attract-and-kill technology to manage the brown marmorated stink bug in apples, and is also investigating its native predator community. Rob's long-term research interests include understanding how semiochemicals modify plant-insect interactions, and how we can exploit this knowledge to improve the sustainability of agriculture. Rob has been active in ESA, serving on committees in the North Central and Eastern Branches of ESA, as well as regularly judging student competitions. He is excited to be serving on the STEP Committee and to be the STEP liaison to the Education and Outreach Committee of ESA, because he believes it is important to increase science literacy among the public.



**Dr. Jhalendra Rijal** is currently working as an Area Integrated Pest Management Advisor with the University of California Cooperative Extension and UC Statewide IPM Program. The major responsibility includes conducting applied pest management research and educating pest control professionals, growers, and other stakeholders in adopting IPM activities. Jhalendra's research and extension activities cover major insect pests of tree fruits (peach, cherry), tree nuts (almond, walnut) and other commercially important crops in the San Joaquin Valley, California. Jhalendra has been a member of the ESA since 2009. As a Pacific Branch representative of the ECP Committee, Jhalendra aims to help ECP members (student-in-transition, postdocs, and early career professionals) in their career path by recognizing their contributions to the Entomological science.



**Ms. Isobel Ronai** has joined the ECP committee as the International Branch member and is keen to boost ESA's international reach. She is about to hand in her PhD thesis at the University of Sydney (Sydney, Australia). Isobel's PhD investigated the genetic and mechanistic basis of worker sterility in the honey bee. She is particularly fascinated by genetics and plans to pursue a career in insect genetics, potentially in the US. During her PhD, Isobel was involved in a few committees and even helped organize a conference. Isobel really appreciates ESA's support of ECPs as they provided her with a travel grant attend the ICE 2016 conference.



**Dr. Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris** joined the ESA in 2010 as a graduate student at Washington State University. She is currently a postdoctoral research associate at Cornell University. Her research interests include landscape ecology, biological control, and the development of innovative IPM practices in specialty crops. She has greatly benefited from being involved in ESA; her leadership roles have included chairing the ESA and 2016 ICE Student Affairs Committees and organizing the Student Debates and symposia. In addition to her membership on the ECP Committee, she is also a member of the P-IE Governing Council. Rebecca would like to help other members become engaged with ESA, please contact her with any questions or suggestions regarding how ESA can better serve its members.



**Dr. Ana María Vélez** is an Assistant at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her research focuses on understanding how insects respond and adapt to chemical and biotechnology stressors. She is specifically interested in current and emerging technologies used for insect pest management such as transgenic plants that express toxins from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) and RNA interference (RNAi). For Ana, her ESA membership has been extremely valuable since it has provided her with an opportunity to share her research, to network with fellow entomologists, and to meet friends and colleagues every year. As the ECP Committee Chair, Ana is eager to advocate for the needs of the STEP community, her main goal is to improve support and recognition

of early career professionals. In addition, Ana is interested in promoting diversity and inclusion in the STEP community.