



Issue 17 - April 2019

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St. Louis – A destination point for ESA's ECP Community

This year's ESA Annual Meeting in St. Louis will be ESA's 67th Annual Meeting. Its central-United States location makes it a drivable destination to a large number of ESA members – an important consideration for our ECP community. As you start to plan your travel, we want to highlight a couple of things for you to note:

- [Call for Papers and Posters is open now](#). All submissions must be received by May 24 at 11:59pm (eastern). An annual meeting presentation is a great way to showcase your work to future employers. Start planning your submission now.
- This year we are debuting a new [Infographics poster option](#). There is a competition for students, but anyone can present in this new option. ECPs who are within one year of graduation are eligible to participate.
- [The Antlion Pit Competition](#) is a new addition to the activities at the 2019 ESA annual meeting. If you are interested in pitching an idea for an entomology-related product or service a la Shark Tank, register for the introductory competition webinars, three of which occur before the competition sign-up deadline (May 31). Those interested can join the webinars without having to join the competition and vice versa. Once you are signed-up for the competition, you will be partnered with a mentor and given a list of project deliverables for guidance. Teams including non-entomologists are encouraged!



- We are proud to announce we have an [accepted program symposium](#), **Advocating Diversity Among Entomologists: If Insects are Diverse, We Should Be, Too!** This symposium will address ways to recruit and support a diversity of entomologists at all career stages through candid, solutions-based discussions. We have a great lineup of speakers representing early, middle, and late career stages and myriad backgrounds to discuss their ideas for inclusion in entomology. We will be using Mentimeter again this year to capture audience ideas and promote thoughtful discussion.
- **Work on Your Social Life: Starting Social Science Collaborations** will be an interactive workshop where attendees learn tools and strategies to integrate collaborations with social scientists into their entomological research, extension, and teaching. The ECP Committee has partnered with Dr. Jerrod Penn, assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University and Dr. Keith Machtinger, Penn State University Education Department, to discuss their journeys in forming successful collaborations. Our facilitators will lead activities to show optimal survey design and how to develop syllabi focused on integrated topics. Each segment will have a discussion section, so come ready to interact and learn!
- To properly Advocate Entomology, we must be effective mentors and educators for undergraduate entomology students. This [member symposium](#), **Next-Gen Scientists: Mentorship and Teaching Strategies to Advocate for Undergraduate Entomology Education**, will help attendees grow as educators and learn how to increase interest and retention of students in entomology. Presenters will be from a variety of career stages to show the range of teaching responsibilities that entomologists have today. This symposium will address the challenges of keeping students in entomology with examples, discussion, and new ideas that attendees can take back with them to Advocate Entomology!
- Finally, the ECP Committee is excited to announce that this year we will be **hosting an ECP Mixer in St. Louis!** This is a great opportunity to connect with your peers, forge friendships and collaborations, and wind down from all the great events that are happening. More details to follow!

Call for ESA Awards Nominations

As early career professionals, we should always lift each other up by recognizing the outstanding things we are doing in entomology, and this year we can do it again. Applying for

awards can bring many career benefits. For instance, putting together an application package can help you on your career progress because it may compel you to be more competitive by filling gaps in your CV. Competing for an award also give you the opportunity to receive feedback about your work or your application from those who nominated you. Even if you don't win, applying for an award is often a worthwhile experience that will help you in your growing professional career. ESA has released five ECP awards to honor individuals who have significantly contributed to the science of entomology. Don't miss the opportunity to nominate yourself or a deserving ECP colleague for one of these awards. Nominations for these and all ESA awards are due no later than June 1th, more information is available at <https://www.entsoc.org/about/awards-honors>

Call for ESA Science Policy Fellow Applications

Interested in learning how to advocate for entomology and science at the federal level? The ESA Science Policy Fellows program gives entomologists the opportunity to engage with lawmakers, legislative staff, and federal agency leaders in Washington, D.C. Applications are due June 1, 2019. Start your application today! More information can be found here:

<https://www.entsoc.org/sci-pol/SPFs>

Call for Photos for the World of Insects Calendar

One of the highlights for the Annual Meeting every year, according to many attendees, is receiving their copy of the World of Insects calendar when they pick up their registration materials. Photos will be reviewed by a committee and judged on both aesthetic and technical quality. What a great opportunity to get your name in front of thousands of entomologists! [Learn more online](#) and submit your photos by May 13, 2019.

Entomology Today Blog Highlight ECPs

The ECP Committee has enjoyed working with ESA's Entomology Today blog to highlight the work of several early career professionals since January 2018 in our EntomologyToday ECP Standout Series. Below are a couple of the recent profiles:

- [Dr. Katelyn Kesheimer \(Auburn University\)](#)
- [Dr. Hollis Woodward \(University of California, Riverside\)](#)
- [Dr. Daniel Swale \(Louisiana State University\)](#)

Contact your branch or section ECP representative if you know a standout ECP that deserves to be highlighted!

PBT, P-IE, and WSSA Joint Pest Resistance Management Science Policy Field Tour, 2019

The PBT and P-IE ESA sections, along with the Weed Science Society of America, are putting together a science policy field tour focusing on pest resistance management. The tour is scheduled to take place August 6-7, 2019 in locations in and around Omaha, NE. The tour will take a broad look at resistance management through the lens of community based projects aimed at combating the issues in their immediate areas. Registration for this tour

has not been opened yet so keep an eye out for the announcement from the sections.

Catch Up with Special Collections from the ESA Journals

The ESA journals have published a number of special collections in recent months, bringing together cutting-edge research, reviews, and commentary on a variety of timely topics. Special collections are led by feature editors from all career stages—including early career professional Margarita Lopez-Uribe, who co-edited the “Ecology in the Sixth Mass Extinction” collection in the Annals of the ESA with Elsa Youngsteadt and Clyde Sorenson. Recent special collections published by ESA include:

- **Tools of the Behavior and Biocontrol Trade:** To help researchers discover and learn about available tools and how to use them, Annals of the ESA has published a special collection of review papers that focus on tools researchers are using to study arthropod behavior and biological control.
- **Ecology in the 6th Mass Extinction:** This Annals of the ESA collection examines rare biotic interactions in an era of ecological change. The research showcased in the collection offers fresh perspectives on the study of species interactions, including how studying rare interactions is relevant to the conservation of individual species and how certain interactions provide model systems for addressing basic evolutionary and ecological questions.
- **Mass Rearing of High-Quality Insects:** The Journal of Insect Science has published a collection of new research on the mass rearing of high quality insects in collaboration with members of the International Organization for Biological Control Global Working Group on Mass Rearing and Quality Assurance.
- **Science Policy:** Scientific knowledge and perspectives are needed in many areas of government and policy, but participating in the politico-scientific community as a research scientist can be challenging. This Annals of the ESA collection was developed to encourage and assist scientists in the politico-scientific community and help them develop the skills to be effective members of this community.
- **Ecology and Evolutionary Biology of Mosquitoes:** In honor of the retirement of Distinguished Professor L. Philip Lounibos of the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, University of Florida, the Journal of Medical Entomology has published a special collection of papers on the ecology and evolutionary biology of mosquitoes, celebrating Dr. Lounibos’s distinguished career in this field.

[Access all of these collections and previous ESA journal collections on our site.](#)

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.

Meet the 2019 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.



Dr. Katelyn Kesheimer is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department at Auburn University. She currently works in grain crops, forages, stored grain, and commercial turf and helps to provide Alabama growers with up-to-date research-based information. Her research broadly focuses on combining field and laboratory-based techniques to implement integrated pest management strategies that are both environmentally and economically sustainable. An ESA member since 2009, Katelyn received her MS in Biology from Eastern Illinois University and her PhD in Entomology from the University of Kentucky. Katelyn is excited to chair the ECP Committee and enjoys being part of 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.



Dr. Nicholas Larson is a visiting scientist at the USDA Invasive Insect Biocontrol & Behavior Lab in Beltsville, MD. His current work involves toxicological analysis of naturally occurring compounds on agricultural and human pests. He received his Ph.D. in Entomology from Virginia Tech in 2017 where his work focused on the manipulation of honey bee foraging behavior through utilization of repellent chemistries. Nicholas received his B.S. in biology from the University of Central Florida and his M.S. in entomology from the University of Florida. He joined ESA in 2016, and has been an active member at both the national and Eastern branch meetings. He served in several leadership roles while attending school and he looks forward to continuing his volunteer work by serving as the P-IE representative on the Early Career Professionals Committee.



Dr. Ryan Leonard is currently a post-doc at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His research explores the ecology of ground nesting bees, and how pesticides including neonicotinoids influence the behaviour of these important, and typically undervalued pollinators. Prior to starting this position, Ryan completed a PhD at the University of Sydney, Australia. His thesis - 'Exhausting all avenues - the ecological effects of roads and air pollution on biota' used the European honeybee, *Apis mellifera* as a model organism to explore how pollutants from road and vehicle use affect bee cognition. Ryan is passionate

about pollinator health, science engagement and has been a member of ESA for 3 years. He looks forward to representing the growing international community of early career professionals at ESA in his role as the international branch ECP representative.



Dr. Erika Machtinger holds a B.S. from the University of Delaware in Wildlife Conservation and Ecology, and a M.S. and PhD in Entomology from the University of Florida. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor at Pennsylvania State University. As the principal investigator for the Veterinary Entomology Laboratory, her research focuses on arthropod pests of veterinary concern. The mission of the Veterinary Entomology Laboratory is to reduce the health risks to wild and domesticated animals associated with arthropod vectors and parasites. Current projects include understanding the ecology of mange

infection in American black bears, spatial ecology of white-tailed deer and white-footed mouse as it relates to tick abundance, evaluating the chemical ecology of blacklegged ticks, developing better fly control products for poultry facilities, and assessing the role of landscape in mosquito presence in ruffed grouse habitat.



Dr. Tracey Payton Miller is currently an Assistant Professor of Horticulture and Plant and Soil Sciences Program Leader at Langston University in Oklahoma. Tracey became interested in plant-related research early in her college career while working at the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Cimarron Valley Research station. After a semester in Greece studying cucumber genetics, she earned her B.S. in Horticulture, minor Entomology, from OSU. While employed at a wholesale greenhouse in Nebraska, she developed a keen interest in the insects feeding on the plants. Shortly

afterward she returned to Oklahoma to work as a Biological Science Technician at the USDA-ARS in Stillwater. While there, she received her M.S. in Entomology from OSU. After graduation, she joined the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service in Norman for 10 years. During this time, Tracey earned her Ph.D. in Entomology working on the *Aphidius colemani*-*Rhopalosiphum padi* banker plant system for aphid control in greenhouses. Tracey continues investigating effective banker plant species and their incorporation into existing growing environments.



Dr. Scott O'Neal is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Scott grew up on a farm in rural southern Indiana and first developed an interest in entomology through his participation in 4-H. He earned his B.S. in Genetics and Microbiology from Purdue University and then his M.S. in Forensic Science from Virginia Commonwealth University. After working for several years as a researcher in the field of mammalian behavioral pharmacology, Scott returned to graduate school to earn his Ph.D. in Entomology from Virginia Tech, during which time he was awarded a USDA NIFA Predoctoral Fellowship to study ion channel regulation of honey bee cardiac function and antiviral immunity. Scott continues to investigate questions related to insect physiology with an overall interest in examining interactions between viruses and the immune response of the insect host.



Dr. Hannah Penn is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Louisiana State University; her primary research focus is on incorporating IPM practices with food web and landscape ecology. Hannah's interest in entomology stemmed from meeting entomologists at Florida's sterile Mediterranean fruit fly facility, prompting her to obtain a B.S. in entomology from the University of Florida. She has since gone on to earn a Ph.D. in entomology from the University of Kentucky with NSF GRFP funding looking at how land use influences biological control in soybeans. She is currently working on questions of disease and mite resistance and how they impact foraging decisions across honey bee stocks. Additionally, she is working on extension projects in collaboration with environmental economists to survey hobbyist beekeeper and farmer management decisions, how best to disseminate IPM methods, and delineating public perceptions of pollinators.



Ms. Monique Rivera is currently an Assistant Specialist in Cooperative Extension at the University of California, Riverside. Monique has been an ESA member since 2010, presenting at national and branch meetings, volunteering and serving as the student representative on ESA's membership committee. Monique joined the ECP Committee in 2018 and hopes to contribute to the guidance and advancing of fellow ECPs.



Dr. Carly Tribull is currently an Assistant Professor in the Biology department at Farmingdale State College (SUNY). She began her studies in entomology as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, and continued studying parasitoid Hymenoptera systematics at the Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History. As a professor at a primarily teaching-focused institution, she focuses on providing meaningful undergraduate research experiences and mentorship in field entomology and molecular systematics. Her other great passion is comics, specifically the incorporation of science communication and education comics into the college classroom - her work on a free, online textbook for non-major biology students can be found at www.biologycomics.com.



Dr. James Wilson joined the Virginia Tech faculty in January 2017 as the new Extension Apiculturist. His duties include Extension efforts throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and teaching the Bees and Beekeeping class and Insects in Human Society class on campus in Blacksburg, Virginia. James grew up in Southport North Carolina and earned his BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from NC State in 2008. During his studies at NC State he became engrossed in the smaller wildlife of the region, especially insects. James went on to earn his MS in Entomology with Dr. Rick Fell at Virginia Tech, researching forensic entomology in wildlife poaching, while trying to learn as much about bees as he could on the side. After his Master's, James

worked with Dr. Tom Kuhar, Vegetable Entomologist at Virginia Tech, on the Integrated Pest Management of Cucurbit Production in Virginia. His dissertation research focused on pest and beneficial insect interactions as well as the qualification of pesticide exposure risk to honey bees. James maintains Virginia Tech's research and teaching apiaries and is looking forward to expanding the impact of Apiculture Extension throughout Virginia and surrounding states. For more information on Apiculture Extension in Virginia please visit blogs.ext.vt.edu/bees.