



Issue 13 - January 2018

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Consider Organizing a Symposium, Workshop or Lunch & Learn for the 2018 Annual Meeting

Important deadlines are coming up for the 2018 Joint Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, and we want to make sure ECPs are well-represented! Consider organizing a symposium, workshop, or lunch-and-learn. Deadlines are approaching. You can find more information about deadlines and submitting events [here](#).

Present in ESA's First International Branch Virtual Symposium – Submissions Open (deadline Feb 5).

The International Branch is organizing a Virtual Symposium April 16-18, 2018, which is open to all ESA members. Each of the three days has a different theme: Invasive Species; Integrated Pest Management; and Science Communication. The symposium will include videos from plenary speakers and poster presentations (submissions are [currently open](#) and will close on February 5). The \$25 USD submission fee allows you to have a presentation to share with an international audience and one you can list on your CV--and you can participate in all 3 days of programming.

New Feature Blog Series in *Entomology Today* on Outstanding ECPs

The ECP committee is pleased to announce a new series on the *Entomology Today* blog: ECP Standouts. In this column, we will feature a notable entomologist at the early career stage and share the highlights of their recent research. The committee will be drawing from past ECP Award

winners to showcase the work of a diverse set of ECPs who are already doing great work in their careers. Our first highlighted ECP is [Dr. Erika Machtinger from Penn State](#), who won the ECP Teaching Award and works in med/vet entomology. In addition to featuring outstanding ECPs, the ECP Committee will also be highlighting events of interest to ECP members surrounding the branch and annual meetings of ESA, so keep your eyes peeled for those.

Annals Special Issue, 'Use of Social Media to Combat Research-Isolation'

Research isolation (RI) is a problem that many researchers face, and possibly may not realize they are suffering from. There is a chance that if you are reading this you may have already taken steps to avoid this issue even if you do so without realizing it. If, however you do not know what it is or if you may be suffering from it, RI involves the disconnect of one's research with the outside research community. The authors of "*The Use of Social Media to Combat Research-Isolation*" in the Special Issue on Communication by the Annals of ESA have done an excellent job reviewing RI and current methods that can be utilized to aid in combating it. Whatever the cause may be, preventing isolation is imperative for researchers to maintain a healthy mental state. We encourage you to take the time to [read the article](#).

Revamped Annals Encourages Review Articles From Your Students

The Annals of the Entomological Society of America has recently been revamped and is under new leadership. If you work with or oversee students, the Annals would love to be the outlet for your student's literature review on their thesis or dissertation. Every student is usually required to perform a literature review, and this is a great outlet for that work. Consider submitting to the Annals, and check out the most up-to-date information on [how to prepare your review or manuscript](#) for them.

ESA's Governance Structure Review Brings "Town Hall" Sessions to Branch Meetings

ESA is conducting a review of its governance structure and welcomes feedback from its members on how to improve ESA policies, procedures, and bylaws to meet the current needs of today's entomologists. With nearly 7,000 members, the Society needs a volunteer leadership and structure that reflects its diverse membership in a changing world. Members have the opportunity to participate in the governance review via "town hall" forums at the Eastern, North Central, Pacific, Southeastern, and Southwestern Branch meetings, and through other venues. [Listen](#) as ESA President Michael Parrella discusses how important it is for ESA's governing board to engage all members of the Society.

Could You Use Tips on Interviewing? ESA Webinar Executive Summary Available Online

Are you interested in getting a leg up on the competition when interviewing for a new job? Get the most important points from the ECP Committee's interviewing webinar series! The committee has reviewed the advice provided by established and early career professionals who are in government, industry, academia, and other professions. And this advice has been distilled into an [easy-to-digest 2-page executive summary](#) that is accessible to ESA members.

Helpful New Infographic on What an Entomologist Can Do for You

When describing entomology as a career path, many times entomologists are met with looks of confusion as many people are unaware of what "entomology" means let alone what the field contributes to society. Having an easy way to describe the contributions of entomology to the public is important for outreach, broader impacts for funding sources, and a way to explain to our families what we do. To this end, ESA has put together a new [infographic](#) describing how

entomologists improve human well-being. Share the infographic (as pdf or jpeg) which can be found with other [ESA infographics](#), with your students, representatives, friends, and family!

Recruit a member for ESA and have the chance to win a \$300 AMEX gift card

Help your Society thrive by sharing your experience with others. You probably know someone in your office, lab, or program that could benefit from the resources that ESA provides. [Encourage them to become members of ESA!](#) And you'll have the opportunity to win a \$300 AMEX card, and your Branch could win a free coffee break for its meeting.

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 or by joining our ESA network at <http://esanetworks.org/>.

Meet the 2018 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. 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. Rob Morrison is a Research Entomologist with the USDA-ARS Center for Grain and Animal Health Research in Manhattan, Kansas. He is currently researching behaviorally-based management strategies for controlling stored product pests, including attract-and-kill. Rob’s long-term research interests include understanding how semiochemicals modify plant product-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 ECP Committee and to be the ECP liaison to the Education and Outreach Committee of ESA, because he believes it is important to increase science literacy among the public.



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. He is excited about assuming a more active role in ESA, where he has recently joined the ECP Committee as the PBT section representative and will also serve as the ECP representative on the Governing Council of the PBT Section.



Dr. Hannah Penn is a postdoctoral researcher at Louisiana State University working in collaboration with the USDA Honeybee breeding, physiology, and genetics laboratory. The primary focus of her current research is the interactions of honeybees, deformed wing virus, and Varroa mites. Hannah's broader research interest centers on insect ecology in human landscapes with special emphasis on sustainable management of both pest and beneficial species and variation across land uses. Hannah has been an active member of ESA since 2009 and has served on the NCB Linnaean Games Committee and Student Affairs Committee. As the current NCB representative, she is excited to support the needs of graduating students and early professionals.



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.



Monique Rivera is currently working as a postdoctoral researcher at the Citrus Research and Education Center at University of Florida. Her research broadly focuses on insect-plant interactions within agroecosystems and developing sustainable insect pest management strategies and tools. Her current work focuses on the biology and ecology of Asian citrus psyllid in the citrus agroecosystem under high citrus greening pressure. 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 is excited to join the ECP Committee in 2018 and hopes to contribute to the guidance and advancing of fellow ECPs.



Dr. 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.