



## **Issue 16 – January 2019**

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### **ADVOCATE Entomology in St. Louis– Don't Miss the Upcoming Deadlines!**

Help make sure that ECPs are well-represented at this year's meeting! Consider organizing a symposium, workshop, or lunch-and-learn. Deadlines are approaching.

- Program Symposia – February 1
- Section and Member Symposia, Organized Meetings and Workshops – March 1
- Lunch & Learns – May 24

Program symposia should relate to the meeting's theme (Advocate Entomology!) and international collaborations with a diverse group of speakers are encouraged. Additionally, workshops that provide the audience with an interactive educational experience are encouraged, so keep these in mind as you prepare your proposals. More information on the submission process [can be found here](#)

### **Present in ESA's International Branch Virtual Symposium April 8-10 (deadline January 28)**

The International Branch is organizing its second annual Virtual Symposium which is open to all ESA members. Specific topics for this year's symposium include: Plant-Insect Interactions, Medical Entomology and Biological Control. This year's symposium will include videos from plenary speakers and poster presentations spanning the full three days! To take part and have

your research heard by an international audience, poster presenters **must register by January 28, 2019** (\$25 USD submission fee required). [Submit here](#).

### **Join the Editorial team for the *Journal of Economic Entomology***

[JEE](#) is seeking additional subject and associate editors to join its distinguished editorial team. Scientists from diverse backgrounds and career stages are encouraged to apply. JEE is ESA's most cited entomology journal, with an Impact Factor of 1.936 (2017).

[JEE](#) publishes articles on economically important arthropods with sections on apiculture, biological control, ecology & behavior, molecular entomology, resistance management, ecotoxicology, crop protection, household & structural insects, forest entomology, veterinary entomology, stored product pests, regulatory entomology, and more.

To apply, send a cover letter indicating your interest with a copy of your CV to [Editor-in-Chief Frank G. Zalom](#) and [Deputy Editor-in-Chief Lisa G. Neven](#).

### **Renew Your ESA Membership Now So You Don't Lose Benefits**

Remember that only current ESA Early Career Professional members receive this ECP newsletter, along with notification of applicable awards and other valuable and important news from ESA, and discounts on meeting registration. So please renew your membership now, before the 'grace period' ends to be sure you aren't dropped from communications and miss out. [Renew today](#).

### **Entomology Today Blog Spotlights ECP Work**

Have you ever wondered what mite Dr. Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris would be or how Dr. Scott O'Neal went from fencing to honey bees? To promote ECP career stories like these, we routinely feature Standout ECPs on the [EntomologyToday](#) Blog.

Be sure to subscribe to the blog or check monthly for new posts about your fellow ECPs! In the meantime, you can find past interviews with Dr. Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris, Dr. Scott O'Neal, as well as many others on research, extension, and what motivated their insect passion under the tag "Standout ECPs." Contact your ECP representative if you have ideas for future features.

### **ECPs are Steadily Increasing Their Involvement in the Society**

Over the past year, the ECP Committee has been working with Branch and Section leaders to create new opportunities for ECP involvement in ESA governance to give a voice to all ECPs within the society. Get in touch with your branch or section representative if you have any questions or comments!

- The Eastern Branch has a newly formed EB ECP Committee beginning at the end of the conclusion of the 2019 EB Meeting. National EB representative [Dr. James Wilson](#).

- The North Central Branch has a recently created ad hoc NCB ECP Committee with plans to develop this into a Standing Committee. National NCB representative [Dr. Hannah Penn](#).
- The Pacific Branch has a newly formed ad hoc Pacific ECP Committee with plans to create a Member-at-Large position for ECP representation on the Governing Board. National PB representative [Monique Rivera](#).
- The Southeastern Branch has a newly formed ad hoc SEB ECP Committee led by chair [Dr. Lauren Diepenbrock](#).
- The International Branch is finalizing a new ECP Member-at-Large position for ECP representation on the Governing Board. IB representative [Ryan Leonard](#).
- The Plant-Insect Interactions (PIE) Section has approved an ECP representative on its Governing Board, [Dr. Nick Larson](#).
- The Physiology, Biochemistry, and Toxicology (PBT) Section has approved an ECP representative on its Governing Council, [Dr. Scott O'Neal](#).

### 2019 Branch Meetings Feature ECP Programs

Be sure to check out these and other programs sponsored by and/or featuring primarily ECPs during the upcoming Branch meetings:

- The [Eastern Branch](#) will have an ECP Symposium titled: *Breaking ground: Research highlights from ECPs and non-academic track Eastern Branch members*.
- The [North Central Branch](#) will have an ECP Symposium titled: *Niche specialization: Communicating science to targeted audiences*. They will also host an off-site mixer.
- The [Southeastern Branch](#) will have an ECP Symposium titled: *What's in your toolbox? The skillset needed for a successful career in entomological research*.

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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).

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## 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](http://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](http://blogs.ext.vt.edu/bees).