



Issue 15 - September 2018

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Don't Miss these ECP Events at Entomology 2018, the Joint ESA, ESC, and ESBC Annual Meeting

- **The "Crossing Borders for a Healthier Tomorrow: The Role of Entomology in the One Health Initiative"** program symposium will look at some of the many ways in which early career entomologists from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are helping to achieve the goals identified by the global [One Health Initiative](#). The One Health Initiative is a worldwide strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations and communications related to understanding and improving human, animal, and ecosystem health. The first half of the symposium will emphasize medical and veterinary entomology, and will begin with a keynote address by Dr. Laura H. Kahn, a physician and research scholar with the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and a Co-Founder of the One Health Initiative. The second half of the symposium will emphasize biodiversity, ecosystem health, and pollinator health, and will begin with another keynote address by Dr. Mary Purcell-Miramontes, a National Program Leader for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Following the talks, there will also be a poster session to spotlight additional early career researchers, in conjunction with a networking mixer hosted by the ESA Early Career Professionals (ECP) Committee with support from the ESC and ESBC. Be sure to show your support for your fellow ECPs by planning to attend the symposium and take part in the networking social! The symposium is scheduled for **Wednesday, Nov 14th, 1:30-5:30pm.**

- The ECP Committee has partnered up with Dr. Rebecca Schmidt (Clemson University) to put on a workshop entitled, **“Breaking down the border between readers and writers: how to improve your scientific writing”**. The workshop features Dr. Stephen Heard, entomologist from University of New Brunswick and author of “The Scientist’s Guide to Writing: How to Write More Easily and Effectively throughout your Scientific Career” and the blog “Scientist Sees Squirrel”. Likely topics include productive writing habits/behavior, visualizing and writing for the reader, and the editorial review process. Be sure to sign-up when you register for ESA, as workshop spots are limited! There is a nominal fee of \$10 to cover supplies. The workshop is scheduled **Sunday, Nov 11th, 1:30-5:30pm**.
- The ECP committee has also partnered with Dr. Robert Zinna (University of Arizona) and Dr. Keaton Wilson (University of Arizona) to organize a workshop entitled, **“Exploiting the dynamism of R Software to help entomologists adapt to a changing world: crossing the border from R admirer to R user”**. Dr. Zinna and Dr. Wilson have developed an interactive course on the use of R Software at University of Arizona, and will be adapting the material for this workshop. Modules cover both the basic syntax needed to operate R for complete beginners as well as how to leverage the power of the R language to simplify complex analyses and produce stunning data visualizations. Sample code for a variety of data visualizations and statistical procedures will be provided to participants so that they can continue leveraging the power of R when they return to their home institutions, as well as a roadmap that includes tutorials, recommended readings, and websites for participants to continue their own journey with this software. Participants must pre-register when they register for the Annual Meeting. The workshop is scheduled for **Wednesday, Nov 14th, 1:30-5:30pm**.
- Currently, the culture surrounding many disciplines – including entomology – is battling both biases and unsafe workplaces in the United States and abroad. These issues will be addressed in an ECP Committee-partnered symposium – **“Leveling the playing field: How entomologists can work to reduce bias and create safe workplaces.”** The negative consequences of bias (unintended and not) and unsafe workplaces will be highlighted, but the real focus will be suggestions for concrete steps that can be taken to mitigate or alter the environments for positive change. The symposium will be broken into two parts, each followed by a discussion. The first part will deal with unintended bias, its effects and possible remedies; the second with creating safe and productive workplaces. The symposium is scheduled for **Wednesday, Nov 14th, 9:30-12:30pm**.
- The ECP Committee is excited to collaborate again this year with the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) and host a Lunch and Learn, **“Breaking down the proverbial wall: Using effective networking to maximize working relationships.”** This workshop will feature Ms. Cynthia Simpson, chief business development officer of AWIS, and Dr. Donna Dean, past president of AWIS. Both women have dedicated their careers to the sciences and mentoring; authoring numerous publications and books on the subject, as well as giving hundreds of workshops around the world. This workshop will be invaluable for those early in their careers, who may simultaneously be both mentees and mentors. By the end of this interactive workshop, each participant will leave with skills that allow them to network more efficiently at social and work-related events, better identify potential mentors or mentees, and understand the

connection between networking and mentorship. Mark your meeting schedule to join us for this great workshop **Wednesday, Nov 14th, 12:15-1:15pm.**

Discounted Registration deadline September 17

Registration rates for the Annual Meeting increase on September 17. ECP members save \$100 by [registering before this deadline](#). Don't miss out on the savings – Register Today!

ECP Committee Issues Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

The ECP Committee has issued a statement on diversity and inclusion in entomology in response to the derogatory images and text about women of color recently highlighted in the Scarabs Newsletter. We strongly support the inclusion of all people regardless of their gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, political affiliation or any other identity. To read more, please click here to view our [inclusion statement](#).

Entomology Today Blog Spotlights ECPs

The Committee has highlighted the important work of several ECPs in the last few months through our EntomologyToday ECP Standout Series. See links below for the folks we've highlighted and their articles. Committee members Lina Bernaola, Kyndall Dye-Braumuller, Rob Morrison and Monique Rivera have provided these profiles:

- [Dr. Ted Burgess \(Northern Illinois University\)](#)
- [Dr. Lauren Diepenbrock \(University of Florida\)](#)
- [Dr. Kate Mathis \(University of Arizona\)](#)
- [Ms. Alex Bryant \(University of Kentucky 4H\)](#)
- [Ms. Nancy Miorelli \(Ask an Entomologist\)](#)

New opportunities for ECPs to Become Involved at the Branch Level

The ECP Committee has been working with Branch leaders to create new opportunities for ECP involvement in Branch governance, and allow for the needs of ECPs to be represented at the Branch level.

- The newly formed **Eastern Branch Early Career Professionals (ECP) Committee** is accepting applications for two positions, Vice-Chair and Member-At-Large to the EB Executive Committee. These positions will start at the conclusion of the next Eastern Branch Annual Meeting scheduled for March 2019. The goal of the EB ECP committee is to provide value-added opportunities for ECPs at the annual branch meeting, and to help develop the next generation of branch leaders. If you are a highly motivated ECP in the Eastern Branch and are interested in serving in a role designed to promote ECPs at the Branch level, then this is the opportunity for you. The deadline to apply for these positions is Oct. 31. Detailed information regarding the EB ECP committee positions and how to apply can be found here at the [EB ECP Call for Applications](#). Please send a short biosketch of <200 words indicating your interest in serving on the

committee (which should include a statement that you will be a member of the EB by the deadline for applications), as well as your current CV to Nick Larson (Nicholas.Larson@ars.usda.gov).

- The **International Branch** is finalizing a new ECP Member-at-Large position on its Governing Board dedicated to representation of ECPs at the Branch level. This ECP representative will work closely with the IB representative on the national ESA ECP Committee to engage ECPs at the Branch level. Stay tuned to IB newsletters for more information.
- ESA's **North Central Branch** recently approved a new ad hoc NCB ECP Committee consisting of a chair, vice-chair, the NCB representative on the National ECP Committee, and an ECP-specific member-at-large who will serve on the NCB Executive Committee. These positions have been filled this year, and the committee held a very successful networking mixer for ECPs at the last NCB Annual Meeting. The NCB ECP Committee is in the process of developing a proposal to change the bylaws of the NCB to make this an official NCB Standing Committee. There are plans for a value-added event for the upcoming NCB Meeting in Vancouver. Keep an eye out for future communications about getting involved in this committee.
- The **Pacific Branch** Executive Committee recently approved an ad-hoc ECP Committee at the branch level. In addition, the current president, Dr. Jennifer Henke, and the PB Executive Committee have also agreed to work towards creating a Member-At-Large position to represent the ECP to the governing board of the Pacific Branch. ECPs who are interested in serving various ECP positions in the Pacific Branch can contact PB-ESA Branch Representative, Jhalendra Rijal (jrijal@ucdavis.edu).
- The **Southeastern Branch** recently created an ad hoc ECP Committee whose mission is to develop events for and/or featuring ECPs at the SE Branch Annual Meeting. Dr. Lauren Diepenbrock has been appointed as chair, and is seeking candidates to serve as vice-chair, and in other capacities. If you're interested, email her at ldiepenbrock@ufl.edu.
- The **Southwestern Branch** also recently created a new presidential committee, the SWB ECP Committee, but without elected positions. There are openings for a chair and a vice chair. If you are interested in serving, please contact Katelyn Kesheimer (Katelyn.Kesheimer@ag.tamu.edu).

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 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.