



# Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

## FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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## Celebration of Past, Present and Future of Black Entomologists

February is Black History Month, an annual celebration of the contributions of African Americans to the United States. In honor of our Black and African American colleagues, we hope you will join us in celebrating #BlackInEnto week from February 22-26, 2021. This event celebrates and recognizes Black Entomologists, Black students interested in Entomology, hobbyists or novice Entomologists of color, or bug-loving community member or friends. Black in Entomology invites you to join in the celebration to foster community, create funding opportunities, share passion for insects and arachnids, and inspire each other.

For more information and a full schedule of events, please visit:

<https://blackinento.com>

Twitter: @BlackInEnto  
#BlackInEnto

And don't forget to download a free PDF copy of *Memoirs of Black Entomologists* from ESA, which can be accessed at <https://www.entsoc.org/pubs/new-book-memoirs-black-entomologists>. More information about Black History Month can be found online through the Library of Congress and National Endowment for the Humanities at: <https://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov>

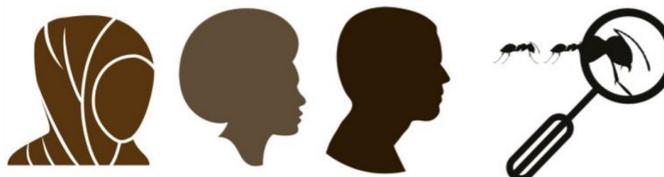
<b>Monday Theme:</b> Who we are, introductions	<b>Tuesday Theme:</b> What we do, the diversity of entomology careers	<b>Wednesday Theme:</b> Celebrating our diversity, diverse bugs, diverse minds	<b>Thursday Theme:</b> What we faced in the past, and what is our future	<b>Friday Theme:</b> Visiting our sites, where we work	<b>Saturday Theme:</b> Reflection and gratitude
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# BLACK IN ENTO

[@BlackInEnto](https://twitter.com/BlackInEnto)

[www.BlackInEnto.com](http://www.BlackInEnto.com)

February 22-26, 2021



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# P-IE Committees and Representatives

The P-IE Governing Council thanks the following volunteers for their important work on various committees. We encourage other members to consider volunteering for these or other activities over the next 12 months.

## **P-IE Reps to Six ESA Committees**

*ESA Diversity and Inclusion Committee:*

Jacqueline Serrano, Term ends Nov. 2022

*ESA Committee on Entomology Games:*

Jonathan Koch, Term ends in 2022

*ESA Awards Committee:*

Rob Morrison, Term ends Nov. 2023

*ESA Education and Outreach Comm:*

Gwen Pearson, Term ends Nov. 2023

*ESA Student Affairs Comm:*

Sarah Elzay, Term ends Nov. 2022

*ESA Science Policy Committee:*

Keri Carstens, Term ends Nov. 2021

## **P-IE Awards Committee**

*Government reps:* Patrick Moran, Chair (2021), and Rick Hellmich (2021-2022)

*Academia reps:* Karly Regan (2021) and Silvia Rondon (2021-2022)

*Industry reps:* Adane Kassa (2021) and Chris Philips (2021-2022)

## **P-IE Nominations Committee**

Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris, Chair, P-IE Governing Council (2021)

Anjel Helms, Southwestern Branch (2019-2021)

Karol Krey, Pacific Branch (2019-2021),

Hannah Broadley, Eastern Branch (2019-2021)

Katelyn Kesheimer, Southeastern Branch (2020-2022)

Maya Evenden, International Branch, (2021-2023)

Jamie Strange, North Central Branch (2021-2023)

## **Three P-IE Committees**

*Science Policy Event Oversight Committee*

Johanna Elsensohn, Chair, Term ends August 2021, Cheri Abraham, Term ends August 2022

## ***P-IE Informational Session: The History of ESA Sections and Overview of the P-IE Section***

Melissa Siebert, P-IE Representative to the ESA Governing Board, will host an informative online session for P-IE Members on March 18, 2021 from 1:30 to 2:30 PM EDT. Please send an email to Melissa at [melissa.siebert@corteva.com](mailto:melissa.siebert@corteva.com) if you wish to join and a zoom link will be provided. The objective of the session is to provide a brief overview to members on the history of sections and their purpose, as instituted in 2008. In addition, David Onstad, P-IE Section President, will provide an overview of the P-IE Section structure, committees, and activities in an effort to build awareness of opportunities for members. Time will be incorporated for Q&A on these two topics. Any other member feedback is also welcome during the session with other Governing Council members participating.

## ***P-IE Student Listening Session: Come Share Ideas and Feedback with the P-IE Section Student Rep***

Michelle Boone, P-IE Governing Board Student Representative, will host two listening sessions for P-IE student members on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 2:00 PM EDT and Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 7:00 to 8:00 PM EDT. Please send an email to Michelle at [boon0086@umn.edu](mailto:boon0086@umn.edu) if you wish to join and a zoom link will be provided. The purpose of these sessions is for students to share ideas for how P-IE can better serve them or any feedback they would like to share with us about the section. We welcome any and all ideas! Additional P-IE governing council members may also be present to listen to feedback.



## ***Submit a Section Symposium Proposal (due 03/01)***

Section and member symposia, organized meetings and workshop are due March 1. See <https://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting/2021> for more details. Note that at least one organizer of a P-IE Section symposium must be a member of P-IE.

# Two Wildly Important Goals Approved by the P-IE Governing Council

In December the Governing Council chose two projects proposed by P-IE members to be our WIGs for the next few years. These are not the only projects and activities that we will sponsor or support, but they will be given top priority.

- ***Amplifying the Buzz: Establishing the ESA as a leader in developing and disseminating information on pollinators*** led by Kimberly Stoner, Christina Grozinger, and Victor Gonzalez
- ***Invasive Species: Preventing Establishment and Mitigating Impacts*** led by Dave Coyle and Ashley Schulz

We look forward to assisting these teams as they implement their plans concerning education, outreach, and science policy.

## Member news



**Dr. Fikru Haile** of Corteva Agriscience had the privilege to work as a Corteva food security fellow based in Kenya for six months. The objective of this fellowship was to help local organizations with food security problems and enable small scale farmers to become profitable in crop and livestock productions. He travelled extensively in Western Kenya, listening to the farmers and addressing their most pressing agriculture issues through training on best agronomic and pest management practices. As an entomologist, his favorite project was training farmers on fall armyworm, the invasive and voracious pest of corn. This training was focused on the biology and management of this pest using cultural, mechanical, biological, and

chemical control methods, including discussions on the importance of safe pesticide handling and use of personal protective equipment to minimize unnecessary exposures to pesticides.

**Dr. Rob Morrison** (Research Entomologist, USDA-ARS Center for Grain and Animal Health Research) was recently awarded the Anderson's Cereals and Oilseeds Early-in-Career Award of Excellence from the NC-213 Grain Consortium, which recognizes individuals early in their careers whose work has significantly contributed to improvements in science, innovation, implementation, policy formation, and/or education related to quality of cereals and oilseeds from processing to consumption, and who show outstanding promise of continuing those contributions in the future.

Since October 2020, the Board of Directors of Embrapa Soybean has set a goal of strengthening the institution's image around the world, firming new partnerships with the most renowned soybean researchers, besides consolidating former partners. To tackle those challenges, entomologist **Dr. Adeney de Freitas Bueno**, ESA member in the P-IE Section, has assumed the role of Embrapa Soybean International Affairs Coordinator. Embrapa

Soybean is a federal public research center linked to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil. Its mission is to generate knowledge, technologies and innovation for soybean, aiming at solutions for the sustainability of this productive system. To find out more about Embrapa Soybean (<https://www.embrapa.br/en/soja/apresentacao>) contact Adeney at [adeney.bueno@embrapa.br](mailto:adeney.bueno@embrapa.br).

One of the leaders of the P-IE Section's Pollinator WIG, **Dr. Christina Grozinger**, is the winner of the 2021 NAS Prize in Food & Agriculture Sciences for her work addressing the pollinator crisis. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Prize is awarded annually to a scientist who has made an extraordinary contribution to agriculture or to the understanding of the biology of a species fundamentally important to agriculture or food production. Grozinger's research at Pennsylvania State University seeks to understand the primary factors driving declines in wild and managed bee populations. She is working to develop approaches that can be used to support bees in urban, agricultural and natural landscapes. The Grozinger Lab uses an integrative approach encompassing genomics, physiology, behavior, chemical ecology and ecology.