

Entomological Society of America Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

September 2018 Newsletter

<http://www.entsoc.org/pie>



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Newly Elected P-IE Section Governing Council Members, ESA Governing Board Representative

Congratulations to our newly elected P-IE section governing council members, and ESA Governing Board representative! We look forward to their contributions in furthering the activities and impacts of the P-IE Section.

P-IE Section Vice-President Elect:



David Onstad

Corteva Agriscience, Agricultural Division of DowDuPont

David has served the Society in a variety of roles since 1992: (1) co-wrote guidelines for publishing papers about modeling in ESA journals, (2) served on the ESA North Central Branch Awards Committee, (3) co-founded and led the Quantitative Ecology Subsection of the ESA, (4) helped draft the ESA Position Statement on "Resistance Management for Genetically-Modified Crops," and (5) served as either main editor or subject editor of *Environmental Entomology* for more than 10 years. David began his career as a professor (26 years in Illinois) and a research scientist in industry (6-plus years in Delaware and Iowa) which afforded him a perspective that he sees as valuable for the P-IE section. Most of his work has focused on ecology and IPM, addressing basic ecological questions, and working to improve IPM. The subjects of his research have included (a) herbivores of alfalfa, apple, wheat, corn, soybean, broccoli, and forest trees; (b) bees, parasitoids, and predatory insects; and (c) diseases of insects. The second edition of David's book, *Insect Resistance Management: Biology, Economics and Prediction*, was published in 2014.

P-IE section Student Representative to the governing council:



Anh K. Tran

University of Minnesota

Anh K. Tran is a Ph.D. student at University of Minnesota (UMN), investigating two competing hypotheses on how the invasive vinegar fly, spotted-wing drosophila, survives in areas that experience seasonal climate changes—overwintering or long-distance migration. She received her M.S. in entomology in 2016 (UMN) working on conservation biological control of the soybean aphid and her B.A. in biology in 2011 (Hiram College). Prior to graduate school, Anh has contributed to molecular detection research for parasitoids of the soybean aphid. Additionally, Anh worked for an environmental consultation company releasing the biological control agent, the milfoil weevil, against Eurasian watermilfoil throughout the United States and

Canada. Anh joined ESA in 2013 and has been an active member, presenting and placing in student competitions at both the national and branch meetings, as well as participating in the Linnaean Games at NCB-ESA every year. This year she will be competing in the Student Debates at the Joint Annual Meeting. In Minnesota, Anh leads outreach events, teaching the public about the wonderful world of entomology, and is a pen-pal for Letters to a Pre-Scientist. Within her department, Anh has held multiple leadership positions (e.g., Vice President, Secretary, and Media Coordinator) for Frenatae, the UMN entomology graduate student organization. At the college level, Anh has served on the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and has reviewed student travel grant applications. While Anh continues to be very engaged in her community, she is looking forward to becoming more involved with ESA by serving as the Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section Student Representative.

P-IE Section representative to *American Entomologist* editorial board:



Donn T. Johnson
University of Arkansas

Donn is a professor of entomology at the University of Arkansas. He received a B.S. in biology from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and a Master's in 1976 and Ph.D. in 1978 in fruit entomology from Michigan State University. Since 2014, he has served as Section L (Laboratory Bioassay) editor of ESA's *Arthropod Management Tests*. He is a research and extension entomologist of fruits, nuts, and rice who develops and implements fruit and nut scouting methods and pest management programs for conventional, organic, and high-tunnel production systems. Donn received the 2002 University of Arkansas John White Grape Team Award and the 2007 ESA Southeastern Branch Award for Excellence in Integrated Pest Management. He has taught Insect Behavior and Chemical Ecology and Insect Pest Management.

P-IE Section representatives to the *Environmental Entomology* editorial board:



Fred R. Musser
Mississippi State University

Fred is a professor at Mississippi State University, researching and teaching in the area of integrated pest management. He has been an author on more than 50 refereed publications and teaches "Principles of Insect Pest Management" and "Field Crop Insects" annually. His research focuses in the areas of threshold development, sampling methods, and resistance management for pests of soybean, cotton, corn, and sweet potato. He has been a member of ESA since 1999, joining when he was a graduate student at Cornell University. Previous service to ESA has included being a member of the Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section Governing Council (2013-17), including being president of the section (2015-16); serving as local arrangements chair for the 2015 Southeastern Branch meeting; service on the editorial board of the *Journal of Economic Entomology* (2009-2013); as well as moderating and judging presentations at numerous meetings and reviewing manuscripts for several ESA journals.



Zsafia Szendrei
Michigan State University

Zsafia received her Ph.D. in entomology from Michigan State University (MSU) in 2005. In 2009, Zsafia was hired by the MSU Entomology Department into a tenure-track position, where she currently is an associate professor with a 50 percent extension, 30 percent research, and 20 percent teaching appointment. Her research focuses on the ecology and management of arthropods that occur in vegetable production. Research themes include chemical ecology, biological control, habitat management, and behavioral pest management, using methods range all the way from the field to the molecular lab. Zsafia has been a subject editor for *Environmental Entomology* since 2015, editing manuscripts in population ecology and biological control.

P-IE Section representative to the *Thomas Say* editorial board:



Don Henne
Lakehead University Faculty of Natural Resources Management

Dr. Don Henne is currently assistant professor of forest entomology at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. He has a B.S. in agriculture (majoring in entomology) and a M.S. in entomology from the University of Manitoba and a Ph.D. in entomology from Louisiana State University. Dr. Henne has previously worked on biological control of invasive insects and weeds, host-parasitoid interactions, ecologically-based pest management of corn pests in Hawaii, plant disease-vector interactions, plant disease epidemiology, and population ecology of fire ant parasitoids. Dr. Henne is currently interested in boreal and Great Lakes forest insect biodiversity (particularly ants and bees), saproxylic insects, spatial and temporal dynamics and distributions of insect populations, and biology and ecology of oakworms (*Anisota*) and mapleworms (*Dryocampa*). A member of ESA since 1997, Dr. Henne has served on various ESA committees, including panel judge member of the ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Horticultural Entomology and chair of the ESA Southwestern Branch Audit Committee, and has organized and moderated several ESA symposia. Dr. Henne was one of several recipients of the 2012 ESA Integrated Pest Management Team Award.

P-IE Section Representative to the ESA Governing Board:



Melissa Willrich Siebert

Corteva Agriscience, Agricultural Division of DowDuPont

Melissa is the Global Entomology Program Leader for Corteva Agriscience, Agricultural Division of DowDuPont. She has held several roles within Dow AgroSciences following her graduate studies at Louisiana State University in 2004 and was awarded the inaugural "FlashPoint" award by Dow AgroSciences for outstanding contributions as an early career professional.

Melissa has demonstrated consistent leadership within entomology and ESA. She served as 2017 President for the Plant-Insect Ecosystems (P-IE) Section where, with her guidance, the Section developed a strategy and agenda to include the design and execution of a highly influential "Science Policy Field Tour on Pollinator Health," attended by scientists, agriculture producers, beekeepers, NGO professionals, and policy makers. In addition, she served as Chair of the ESA Publications Council, subject editor for the *Journal Integrated Pest Management*, P-IE Section Secretary, and President of the Mississippi Entomological Association. Melissa is currently an assistant editor for the *Journal of Cotton Science*.

Melissa's demonstrated broad influence and ability to accelerate action will be critical to expand the impact of the Section as a Governing Board representative. She is passionate about the role ESA and P-IE will play as an organizational platform for addressing entomology-related issues

and grand challenges. As Governing Board representative, she will proactively seek member inputs and constructively address opportunities to expand the impact of P-IE and ESA in all relevant circles. The ESA exists to serve members, and Melissa has a solid track record in service to P-IE and ESA that has prepared her well to serve on the Governing Board.

Invasive Species Tour in *Entomology Today*

See <https://entomologytoday.org/2018/09/06/field-tour-offers-look-invasive-insects-species-security/> for a write-up on the recent P-IE Invasive Species Science Policy study tour.

ESA Committee Vacancies for P-IE Reps – seeking volunteers

We have two vacancies for P-IE representatives on ESA committees – please volunteer if you are interested in serving on either committee.

ESA Diversity and Inclusion Committee – two-year term.

ESA Student Affairs Committee – one-year term.

Contact Mark Wright markwrig@hawaii.edu if you are interested in volunteering.

P-IE networking session at annual meeting

A reminder that we will have two invited speakers addressing topics pertaining to pollinators, pollinator health and invasive species impacts at the P-IE networking / business meeting, at the Joint ESA meeting in Vancouver. The invited speakers and their presentation topics are:

- Julie Shapiro, Healthy Bees, Healthy People, Healthy Planet: How the Honey Bee Health Coalition is Fostering Collaboration for Pollinator Health.
- Ethel Villalobos, Bee Diversity and Ecological Interactions – Why we Stumble on Issues of Pollinator Health.

The session also includes student awards, professional awards and an update on all the years' activities of the P-IE governing council.

There will of course be pie served, and other suitable refreshments after the meeting, and there will be drawings for two prizes: FitBit fitness trackers.

All P-IE members are welcome – please attend!

P-IE Feedback Session at Annual Meeting

Please attend the P-IE feedback session: Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 07:00 - 08:00 AM, Vancouver Convention Centre, Meeting Room 302/303. Yes, that does say 07:00 AM! But we do provide breakfast, and you get the opportunity to contribute your input on important P-IE section issues! We welcome input from all members, including students at this session.

– See you soon in Vancouver –

P-IE Governing Council

Mark G Wright, President, markwrig@hawaii.edu

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Lily Calderwood, Treasurer, lily.calderwood@maine.edu

Melissa Willrich Siebert, Past President, mwillrichsiebert@dow.com

Sujaya Rao, ESA Governing Board Representative, sujaya@umn.edu

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