



Issue 11 - May 2017

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Share Your Thoughts on Future Webinar Topics

Lina Bernaola, the ESA Student Representative to the Governing Board, along with ESA's Early Career Professionals Committee, is working on developing the next series of webinars to help you build your skills, learn new techniques and add to your CV. We have some ideas of tentative topics but we want to know your preferences or priorities for these topics, as well as other suggestions. If you haven't already done so, please take this [2 question survey](#). **Deadline May 26.**

The Importance of ESA Elections for ECPs

ECPs are the future of the society, and as such, it is important you make your voice heard by voting in ESA's annual elections. Voting in the elections opens on July 13th. If you want to go a step further in helping to shape the society, you should [nominate yourself or another deserving ECP](#) to serve in a leadership position in ESA. There are positions open in the branches, sections, and on the Society level. Check in with your branch or section president to see what is available, and be sure to get your

nominations in by **midnight on May 31st**, and don't forget to vote in the subsequent elections!

ECP Awards Nominations Deadline June 1

Last year ESA launched four new awards specifically for early career professionals (ECPs). Consider nominating yourself or a deserving ECP individual for one of these awards honoring individuals who have significantly contributed to four areas in entomology: [Outreach and Public Engagement](#), [Research](#), [Teaching](#) and [Extension](#).

Applications for the International Branch Early Career Research and Leadership Award are also now open. They are due by July 1 and further information can be found [here](#).

Call for Volunteers for R-workshop

Due to popular request, a workshop offering training in R will take place during Entomology 2017. We are looking for five student or ECP volunteers **who have experience using the software** to serve as assistants to the workshop moderator to help participants troubleshoot basic coding issues. This will count toward 4 of the 6 volunteer hours required for the partial registration fee refund. Please contact the organizer (rschmi3@clermson.edu) if you are interested in volunteering.

Call for YouTube Your Entomology Videos-Deadline July 2

Have fun, showcase your videography talents, and win cash! You are invited to participate in ESA's yearly video contest to showcase the world of insect science.

All video entries will be judged by a panel of ESA members, who will choose a winner, a runner-up, and up to three honorable mentions. Finalists will be named in August, with winners announced at ESA's annual meeting. Each finalist receives a "Stinger" award and a cash prize: \$500 for first place, \$250 for runner-up, and \$50 for honorable mention. **Deadline is July 2.** See full [contest rules](#).

ESA Launches New Journal in Systematics, Evolution, and Biodiversity: No page charges for ESA members!

ESA's newest journal, *Insect Systematics and Diversity*, provides a new home for entomologists working in systematics, evolution, and biodiversity to publish their research with ESA—all with no page charges for ESA members and no color charges. View *Insect Systematics and Diversity's* [full scope and author guidelines](#) and [submit your research today](#).

Looking to Publish Open Access for Cheap?

The [Journal of Insect Science](#) (JIS) could be a great option for you. JIS has been publishing 100% open access content for 17 years, and for ESA members, the publication fee is only \$824—that's \$1,676 cheaper than eLife and \$671 cheaper

than PLOS ONE. Don't have funding? We have a number of waivers we can grant to you. [Submit](#) your paper for review today!

Mark Your Calendar to Register for Entomology 2017

Each year, ESA offers a fantastic venue, great programming, and a wonderful opportunity for you to socialize with new scientists and long-time friends. Come to Denver this year to present your research in diverse areas of entomology and be inspired by others. Science communication is an important component of our research journey and this year's meeting, [Entomology 2017](#), will provide you with a valuable platform for sharing your research, building collaborations, gaining recognition, and making connections. Please mark your calendar to [register](#) in late June and don't forget early registration discounts. See you in November in Denver, Colorado!

Don't Fall Prey to Predatory Publishers and "ICE 2017"

We understand that some members have recently been contacted regarding "ICE 2017: 19th International Conference of Entomology" in Paris, France, and there may be confusion as to whether ESA or the ICE Council is involved in this event. As a courtesy, we want to inform you that this event is not a sanctioned International Congress of Entomology event. The next official ICE event (ICE 2020) will be held in Helsinki, Finland on 19 - 24 July, 2020. Also, please be aware that predatory open access publishers masquerading as scholarly journals have been contacting ICE 2016 speakers. ESA encourages you to research the legitimacy and reputation of all publications that may contact you before submitting your research to be published.

Get Involved in the ESA Journal Editorial Process

Publishing in ESA journals is an effective way to gain recognition within your field. [ESA journals](#) cover a wide variety of subjects, so you are sure to reach your target audience. For one ECP's perspective on publishing in the *Journal of Integrated Pest Management*, read [an interview of an author](#) on [Entomology Today](#). In addition to authorship, you can also participate in the editorial process by reviewing submissions or serving as a subject editor. To indicate your interest, contact an ESA subject editor for the [appropriate journal](#).

ESA Early Career Professionals SPOTLIGHTS

How did you become interested in entomology? What is your current research focus? What are your career goals? We want to hear from YOU about why you are doing what you do. This is your chance to [take the spotlight](#) and tell the world about the work you are doing and what is so great about entomology.

Learn about other early career professional members and how they are involved in research, teaching, outreach or extension and are enjoying their work in insect science. Or, [submit your own information](#) and a photo to be spotlighted on ESA's

website. Answer one question or all of them. Additional topics include: Describe how ESA has broadened your horizons. Describe a favorite experience while attending an ESA 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 2017 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. Erika T. Machtinger is a Post-Doctoral Scientist with the USDA, ARS in Beltsville, MD. She received her BS from the University of Delaware in Wildlife Conservation and her MS and PhD in entomology from the University of Florida. Erika was raised in the natural areas surrounding the coast of Maine, which fostered her love of the environment and wildlife. Erika has worked at the USDA-BIIRL Laboratory in Newark, DE and also as a wildlife biologist and environmental scientist. Because of her involvement with the equine industry, Erika focused her

doctoral research on biological control of filth flies. In her current position, Erika is combining her wildlife background and investigating host targeting integrated control of ticks.



Dr. Amy Morey is a post-doctoral researcher with the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center and the University of Minnesota Department of Entomology. Her research broadly centers on the intersection of species distribution modelling, invasion biology, and risk assessment. The goal of her current work is to improve methods used to characterize and forecast invasive insect distributions. Amy has been active in ESA since 2008, presenting at yearly branch and national meetings, participating in the Linnaean Games, volunteering,

and serving on the North Central Branch Student Affairs Committee. She is thrilled to continue being strongly connected with the ESA community and actively contribute to its function as a member of the ECP Committee.



Dr. Rob Morrison is a post-doctoral researcher with the USDA-ARS at the Appalachian Fruit Research Center in West Virginia. He is currently researching attract-and-kill technology to manage the brown marmorated stink bug in apples, and is also investigating its native predator community. Rob’s long-term research interests include understanding how semiochemicals modify plant-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 STEP Committee and to be the STEP liaison to the Education and Outreach Committee of ESA, because he believes it is important to increase science literacy among the public.



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.



Ms. 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.



Dr. Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris joined the ESA in 2010 as a graduate student at Washington State University. She is currently a postdoctoral research associate at Cornell University. Her research interests include landscape ecology, biological control, and the development of innovative IPM practices in specialty crops. She has greatly benefited from being involved in ESA; her leadership roles have included chairing the ESA and 2016 ICE Student Affairs Committees and organizing the Student Debates and symposia. In addition to her membership on the ECP Committee, she is also a member of the P-IE Governing Council. Rebecca would like to help other members become engaged with ESA, please contact her with any questions or suggestions regarding how ESA can better serve its members.



Dr. Ana María Vélez is an Assistant at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her research focuses on understanding how insects respond and adapt to chemical and biotechnology stressors. She is specifically interested in current and emerging technologies used for insect pest management such as transgenic plants that express toxins from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) and RNA interference (RNAi). For Ana, her ESA membership has been extremely valuable since it has provided her with an opportunity to share her research, to network with fellow entomologists, and to meet friends and colleagues every year. As the ECP Committee Chair, Ana is eager to advocate for the needs of the STEP community, her main goal is to improve support and recognition of early career professionals. In addition, Ana is interested in promoting diversity and inclusion in the STEP community.