



ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
MEDICAL, URBAN, AND VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY

MUVE NEWSLETTER

June 2023

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am writing this in National Harbor, Maryland, while we are organizing sessions and planning logistics for this year's Annual Meeting, [Entomology 2023](#). While November is months from now, we all know deadlines sneak up on us. Please put the [early bird registration](#) rate deadline, **September 11**, and [housing](#) deadline, **October 6**, on your calendar. While we collect our field specimens, process lab samples, and begin to analyze data, please



remember to have someone take photos of you doing science so you can show us what you did while you tell us at the meeting. We really look forward to seeing you at the meeting, and it is a jam-packed meeting with sessions starting Sunday morning and ending Wednesday afternoon.

From where I sit, MUVers should prepare themselves for a MUVE-packed meeting. Know that all MUVers are invited to attend all events and the leadership welcomes everyone to both business meetings (Monday and Wednesday). In the Student Spotlight below, learn about how three of our MUVE students organized a program symposium entitled "Connecting the Pieces: How Entomologists Tackle One Health Challenges and Influence Science Policy." Three speakers were selected to give the "Highlights of MUVE" this year during our Monday afternoon business meeting. We look forward to hearing from Dr. Kim Hung (medical highlights), [Dr. Warren Booth](#) (urban highlights), and [Dr. Erika Machtinger](#) (veterinary highlights) and reading their resulting forum article in the *Journal of Medical Entomology*. Additionally, leadership has selected [14 MUVE](#)

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[Section symposia](#), at least five member-submitted symposia, and many submitted presentations (8 sessions) and posters (2 posters). Entomology 2023 is sure to be packed with MUVE-related science.

As a courtesy to help everyone with travel plans, MUVE has scheduled an organized function each day of the meeting.

- Sunday, November 5: We will have another Mentoring and Networking session to allow people to catch up, introduce themselves to new and seasoned entomologists, and simply network (the primary reason many of us attend meetings).
- Monday, November 6: We will have our traditional business meeting with awards, highlights, updates, and a reception. Our winners for the MUVE logo competition will be announced as well.
- Tuesday, November 7: We will try something a little different – we will problem solve protocol-problems with popcorn (bring your protocol-based problems to the room and hopefully someone in the audience can help think/remember of a solution!).
- Wednesday, November 8: We will have our final business meeting led by Vice President Kyle Jordan. While we lunch, Kyle will introduce some of the exciting changes to come next year (proposed by MUVE in 2022).

So stay tuned and don't forget to start planning for the meeting!

Becky

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MUVers



Help us highlight MUVE members and bring their work into the spotlight! Please send any MUVers news to be included in future newsletters and tweets to [Mikenna Smith](#).



Kevin Vogel, Ph.D. (University of Georgia) has received a Faculty Early Career Development Program award from the National Science Foundation. Over the next five years, the \$1 million plus grant will support Vogel and his team at University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to research the symbiotic relationship between the kissing bug, *Rhodnius prolixus*, and their gut bacterium *Rhodococcus rhodnii*. Mentorship is a priority for the CAREER award, and Vogel has partnered with Georgia Tech's Georgia Intern-Fellowships for Teachers program. Local high school teachers will help design and participate in *R. prolixus* research projects in Vogel's lab, and together they will develop curricula to be incorporated into the high schools.



Dan Suiter, Ph.D. has been named the Orkin Professor of Urban Entomology at the University of Georgia. This \$500,000 endowment will help strengthen University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) entomology program. Through this endowment, this new professorship will help enable Dan Suiter, internationally-recognized expert in urban extension entomology, and the CAES to continue conducting essential research efforts in urban entomology and the development of solutions for the sustainable management of pests in the Southeastern United States as well as other parts of the world.



Donald B. Thomas, Ph.D., research entomologist at the USDA-ARS, Cattle Fever Tick Research Unit in Edinburg, Texas, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 65th annual Livestock Insect Worker's Conference in Fredericksburg, Texas. This award recognizes research contributions to animal health and productivity, active participation in the LIWC organization, and promotion of the livestock entomology field. Throughout his 35-year career with ARS, Don's research has supported the New World Screwworm Eradication Program and, most recently, the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program, each of which has the enormous responsibility of preventing the re-establishment of these livestock ectoparasites in the United States. Don has also mentored early career scientists and graduate students, supporting and advocating for the next generation of livestock entomologists.

NEWS BRIEFS



Photo by Matt Bertone

Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today*

- [Feeding Deer Corn With Tick-Control Drug Shows Promise in New Study](#)
- [Biting Midges' Overwintering Activity Offers Clues to Persistence of Bluetongue Virus](#)
- [How One Urban Entomologist Persisted Through Pandemic Challenges](#)
- [Tick Blitz: How Community Science is Helping New York State Monitor Ticks](#)
- [Mosquito Migration: Study Finds More High-Altitude Dispersal of Disease Vectors in Africa](#)
- [Mosquito Populations Linked Across Further Distances Than the Viruses They Carry](#)
- [What's in a Nest: Scavenger Turns Major Pest in Chicken Houses](#)
- [Another Non-Native Mosquito Species Adds to Growing List in Florida](#)
- [Honey Bee Virus Found in Mosquitoes](#)

Remember: For the latest breaking news items related to MUVE, please [follow us on Twitter](#).

MUVE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Three Students Who Combined Forces to Develop a Program Symposium to Highlight Students and Early Career Professionals at Entomology 2023

By: Corey Day, Victoria Pickens, and Elizabeth (Ellie) Taylor

During the 2022 MUVE business meeting in Vancouver, MUVE President Dr. Becky Trout Fryxell asked us to consider what they could do to contribute to MUVE and ESA. The three of us— Corey Day (Ph.D. student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Victoria Pickens (Ph.D. student at Kansas State University), and Elizabeth “Ellie” Taylor (Ph.D. student at Northern Illinois University)—had never collaborated before, and actually only met in-person for the first time that week. However, during the business meeting, we quickly identified a shared interest in highlighting the ways that students and early career professionals (ECPs) go above and beyond to make societal impacts with their science. So, we made a pact to submit a symposium proposal for Entomology 2023 that would entirely feature students and ECPs. After a series of Zoom meetings over the following months, we drafted and submitted a symposium proposal entitled “Students and Early Career Professionals Going Beyond the Lab to Advance Entomology’s Impact.” This symposium proposed a unique format to showcase a diverse array of student and ECP speakers from multiple ESA Sections who are making societal impacts with entomology.

Our proposal was selected as a Program Symposium for Entomology 2023 which will provide a great platform for our speakers to share their work. The two-hour symposium will consist of a round of lightning talks (3-5 minutes) followed by a poster social where audience members can interact with the speakers. We are encouraging our speakers to be creative with their definition of “posters,” which

may create a fun viewing experience for attendees. We hope that this format will encourage networking and collaboration among the audience and speakers, and that it will create a unique opportunity for students and ECPs to showcase their efforts to connect entomology with society.

Although it is not typical for Program Symposia at ESA Annual Meetings to be organized entirely by students, there are no rules against it. This is true for all of ESA, which relies on volunteer leadership from members at all career levels. In our case, we relied on our student perspectives to design a symposium that would add value to the Entomology 2023 program. If you are a student with ideas that could benefit MUVE or the society overall, we encourage you to take the initiative to make it a reality, whether that means taking on a leadership position, joining a committee, organizing your own symposium, or something else entirely. You can likely even find other students who will be excited to collaborate with you. Interactive events like the MUVE business meeting, which takes place every year at the ESA Annual Meeting, are perfect places to make those kinds of connections. As our symposium will demonstrate, being a student is not a preclusion from making an impact!

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP



Looking for ways to get involved with MUVE or ESA generally? Always feel free to [contact MUVE President Becky Trout Fryxell](#) with your interest.

Volunteers Needed to Support the Grand MUVE Library WIG

Have you ever thought it would be great to have a one-stop-shop for MUVE-related resources? Are you interested in a common repository for information like MUVE related protocols, available awards and opportunities, and the emergency response entomologist list? ESA MUVE is looking for volunteers to assist with one of our new section WIGs, the Grand MUVE Library. If you are interested in assisting with this effort or want to learn more, please contact Alexis Kriete (akriete@ncsu.edu).

Get More Involved With the ECP Committee!

Interested in becoming more involved with the ECP Committee? Early career professionals (ECP) and student transition members are welcome to contribute ideas for webinars (including development and hosting the webinar), ESA Annual Meeting symposia, workshops, and mini workshops, and topics and written pieces for the ECP-focused “Zyzyva” column in the *American Entomologist*. These are great ways to get more involved with the committee and ESA! If you have any questions or would like to contribute to any of these ideas, please contact the MUVE ECP representative Karen Poh (karen.poh@usda.gov).

MUVE Honors & Awards

The MUVE Honors & Award Committee is looking for volunteers to serve as judges. Reach out to Zach DeVries (zdevries@uky.edu) if you are interested in serving as a volunteer on this section.

ASK CLARY FLY



By Lidia Gonzalez, MUVE Representative to the ESA Student Affairs Committee

Hey there MUVers!

I hope you are all enjoying the summer break! Whether taking an actual break or using the time to catch up with some of your work! Either way, summer always goes by so fast... so please take a moment to enjoy the outdoors and spend time in nature (not working) to give your mind a peaceful and refreshing break.

As scientists, we care for our research, but mentoring, outreach, and networking are critical in order to make good science. When I started my undergraduate degree, it was really challenging for me to understand the science world, and I was overwhelmed by all the matters I had to take care of to build my reputation. It was really hard to navigate through all that because nobody told me what was important and what wasn't for my career.

It is important to take a break, enjoy the summer, and let our minds decompress, however, the summer is a great time to achieve all those things we cannot do during the school year. It is a great moment to get involved, be active, and expand the professional entomology network!

Hopefully, you have heard that ESA offers plenty of volunteer opportunities, and student members are encouraged to participate. But, did you know that as a student you can volunteer in [many positions on any committee](#), not just for the student-related ones? Especially if you are a graduate student, these can be an excellent moment to improve some skills that are not just for students. If you haven't checked it out, you should definitely take a look at the [different opportunities](#) that are offered, and maybe consider joining some of the committee positions!

Volunteering is a great way to network with other entomologists outside your institution but is also an excellent way to help you navigate your decisions on what interests you! As students, we get a lot of emphasis on learning topical knowledge, and some laboratory and field skills. Some other soft skills are often considered "within the person" but those can improve, and you can learn new ways of doing things, or even learning new things, by involving yourself in multiple environments.

If you think this is something for you don't wait! Remember that to be able to volunteer and participate, it is important to [keep your membership active](#)! Get involved with ESA or other scientific community groups and build up your network. Make sure you make some friends along the way, and don't be afraid to ask for help!

I hope this short letter serves as a reminder to keep on doing important things, while still taking a little break, during the summer. I hope you all have a wonderful and nice summer! Stay tuned for more buzzing news and don't hesitate to reach out to lidiag@email.sc.edu for any questions!

Kindly,

Clary Fly

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Participation Requests from MUVE Members

- Dr. Amy Murillo is conducting a [poultry mite survey](#). The lab at UC Riverside is looking for commercial producers (via extension folks or veterinarians) to provide pests of poultry. This nationwide survey is open to all.
- Dr. Caleb Hubbard is conducting a house fly survey. Please contact Dr Hubbard (caleb.hubbard@ucr.edu) if you have recently colonized or wild caught house flies.
- Ms. Katy Smith from University of Tennessee is looking for images of ticks or flies on animals. If you think you can provide any fly-infested or tick-infested images, [please volunteer via this short Google Form](#).

Register for Entomology 2023

Registration is now open for this year's Annual Meeting, [Entomology 2023](#), in National Harbor, Maryland. Attend and join experts from around the world to discuss the latest advances in entomology and the rapidly changing world of insects. Register by **September 12** for the discounted rate. Plus, remember to [book your housing](#). [Learn more](#).

MUVE Design Contest

MUVE leadership is hosting a MUVE design contest! We are seeking a variety of designs that represent our diverse disciplines and be sufficiently different from ESA's logo. The first-place winner will receive \$200 and the runner up will receive \$100. The winner's design will be used as an emblem to represent MUVE and used on MUVE handouts (and swag!) at the Annual Meeting. To participate in this contest, the design needs to fit the style and branding of ESA and its logo.

Contest criteria:

- Anyone, regardless of ESA membership status or section is eligible to participate.
- The design must be suitable for a variety of items (e.g., baseball caps, t-shirts, and tote bags).
- Limit the design to up to 5 colors: please limit to neutrals (e.g., white, black, gray) and the [ESA color palette](#).
- Use ESA's official font, Nunito Sans.
- Design must include the words "Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology" or "MUVE" and "ESA"
- Design should incorporate topics relevant to the Section.
- Include a short 3-6 sentence description to explain the logo.

Entries are due to Becky Trout Fryxell (rfryxell@utk.edu) by **September 1** at 12:00 p.m. ET.

3rd International Conference of the Subterranean Termite

The 3rd International Conference of the Subterranean Termite will be held September 18-19, 2023 at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI. Abstracts are being accepted until July 15 and conference registration is open until August 15. [Register now](#).

ECP Career Webinar Series

Not really sure what you want to do? Join the ECP Committee and panelists as we discuss various careers in entomology! We will showcase the diversity of entomology careers, including those in academia (research/extension and teaching), federal government, industry, state/county government, and NGOs and nonprofits. Can't make one of the webinars? Recordings of the webinar will be uploaded to the ESA website for members to view after the webinar concludes. The next installment is **July 19** discussing federal government and military careers. [Learn more.](#)



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