

# MUVE NEWSLETTER

April 2024

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, MUVE Section members!

I hope everyone's spring is off to a great start! I have a few important topics to share with you this time around because we have some deadlines coming up.



First, we are seeking Highlights Speakers for the Annual Meeting. During the Monday afternoon MUVE session/business meeting, three speakers will share the past year's highlights for each MUVE sub-sections. Besides reaching the entire Section via a 25-minute presentation, speakers will also produce a Forum Article for publication in the *Journal of Medical Entomology*. We have increased the stipend this year to \$2,000 to offset the time investment to prepare the talk and article. This is a great opportunity to present in front of the entire MUVE Section and reach the greater ESA audience! More details on [submissions](#) can be found [online](#). **The deadline is May 10.**

## OFFICERS

[Dr. Kyle Jordan](#),  
President

[Dr. Ary Faraji](#),  
Vice President

[Dr. Alexander Ko](#),  
Vice President-Elect

[Dr. Anna Berry](#),  
Secretary

[Dr. Sudip Gaire](#),

Besides the Highlights Speakers, ESA and MUVE awards are due **June 1**. The MUVE Governing Council has changed some of the Section-based awards. We will offer Student Recognition Awards for each of the sub-sections at the MS and Ph.D. levels. Each winner will receive \$500 to help support their program or travel to the Annual Meeting. Speaking of travel, the new MUVE Travel Awards will cover the cost of a student's travel to the meeting and support them while at the meeting. While open to all students, the main goal is that this award will enable students from schools that might not have a huge (or any) entomology program to attend the annual meeting and make contacts and learn about additional opportunities. Information on these and other MUVE Section Awards can be found [online](#).

[Read the full article.](#)

Treasurer

[Dr. Becky Trout-Fryxell](#),  
Past President

[Dr. Erika Machtinger](#),  
Governing Board Representative

## MUVE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Visit the [ESA Career Center](#) to explore new job opportunities in your field. Some of the most recent MUVE job listings include:

- [Assistant/Associate Extension Educator for Controlled Environment Agriculture](#), University of Connecticut
- [Founding Director of the Center for Biomedical Research and Innovation](#), Georgia Southern University
- [Research Specialist I](#), Princeton University
- [Post Doctoral Scholar](#), The Ohio State University
- [Senior Scientific Specialist, Environmental Public Health - Prairie Research Institute](#), University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
- [Student Worker: Public Land Corps Wildlife Intern](#), Umpqua Community College
- [Fall 2024 Lecturer for Department of Entomology/Nematology](#), University of California, Davis
- [Extension Educator Vector-borne Disease](#), The Ohio State University

## 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](#).

### Medical MUVER:



**Angela M. Tucker, Ph.D., BCE**, recently joined the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at the University of Tennessee as a Teaching and Training Specialist focusing on vectors and vector-borne diseases. This position is a part of the larger VectorEd Network with goals of developing and evaluating training content and providing support for internal and external stakeholders. Dr. Tucker is excited about this role as it will allow her to combine and use her broad expertise in human and animal health and entomology, as well as her passion for science education for all. She will continue to support and mentor individuals seeking ACE or BCE credentials and be a member of the Better Common Names Project.

### Urban MUVER:

**Nancy Troyano, BCE**, was recently recognized with the NPMA Impact Award for Women in Pest Management. This award honors and celebrates exceptional women at all levels within the pest management industry. Nancy is a Board Certified Entomologist, skilled in medical, veterinary, and urban entomology with over 20 years of teaching experience. She currently leads Technical



Education and Training for U.S. Pest Operations in Rentokil Terminix. Nancy provides technical support for Rentokil Terminix Operations as needed and is active in the industry, including regularly presenting at state and annual conferences, past president of the Certification Board of the Entomological Society of America, and a board member for Pi Chi Omega.

### Forensics MUVers:



**Jennifer Rhinesmith-Carranza, Ph.D., M-ABFE, T-ABFE** and **Adrienne Brundage, Ph.D., D-ABFE** are being recognized for creating and facilitating the first Forensic Entomology Workshop at Texas State University, a certified workshop of the American Board of Forensic Entomology. In collaboration with the Texas State University Forensic Anthropology Center, Drs. Rhinesmith-Carranza and Brundage will prepare attendees to collect,

identify, preserve, and ship entomological evidence that is found at crime scenes and investigations, culminating in the opportunity to sit for the Certification Exam for ABFE-Technician. Those who pass and become certified can collect, process, and ship entomological evidence. In addition, the workshop provides continuing education credits for members of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. This is the first time the training is being offered in collaboration with the Forensic Anthropology Research Facility, but Drs. Rhinesmith-Carranza and Brundage hope to make this an annual training opportunity. Drs. Rhinesmith-Carranza and Brundage hope to create more ABFE certified technicians to meet the growing needs of forensic departments, to continue to increase the quality of evidence received by forensic entomologists, and to continue fostering the collaborative relationships between research professionals and forensic practitioners. Dr. Rhinesmith-Carranza is the Director of Advising at Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and an Assistant Lecturer for the Department of Entomology. Dr. Brundage is the Assistant Director of the Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program and Instructional Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University.

## NEWS BRIEFS



### Blog Post Highlights from *Entomology Today*

- [Some Florida Mosquitoes Spend the Winter in Tortoise Burrows](#)
- [Invasive Tick Has Been Present in New York Longer Than Previously Known, Study Shows](#)
- [Bladderwort: How a Carnivorous Plant Could Be Used in Mosquito Control](#)
- [The Value of Pest Management: A New Model for Measuring Industry's Economic Impact](#)

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

## MUVE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Students, what accomplishments would you like to highlight for the MUVE Section? Write a short (200 words or less) article explaining your achievements and include this as a non-refereed article on your CV! Please send your achievements to be included in future newsletters and tweets to [Mikenna Smith](#).



**Grayson Cave, Ph.D.**, is a recent graduate, now post-doctoral researcher in the R. Michael Roe lab at North Carolina State University in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology. Grayson came to Entomology from the Department of Biochemistry, NCSU, where his work focused on the proteomic mass spectroscopy of plant enzymes. This interest in the physical sciences and biology led him to a collaborative project with Dr. Roe and the Wilson College of Textiles at NCSU supported by the Department of Defense to create lightweight textiles and garments for our deployed US warfighters that could prevent mosquito bites without insecticides. His collaborative work produced

mathematical models based on textile structure that now serve as a road map for developing next generation military clothing 100% translational to public safety. Unexpectedly, these models turned out to be a springboard to 3-D spacer fabrics as crop covers for organic farming that physically exclude pests based on a tortuous path and that enhance plant growth 3-fold. All of this research is now patented and licensed.

[Read the full article.](#)

You can reach Grayson through [LinkedIn](#).

## ASK CLARY FLY



Hey there MUVErs!

Clary Fly here confused with this April weather. Is it cold? Is it hot? Do we get some rain and snow? Perhaps *gone with the wind*? Anyway, I'm very excited to get to share some news with you!

Spring is the time to get ready for the year and start thinking about the calls for the ESA Annual Meeting that are open. This year the Annual Meeting will take place November 10-13 in Phoenix, AZ. Just a reminder of the deadlines: [student awards](#) are due **June 1**, and [abstract and mini-workshop submissions](#) are due **May 31**.

Start thinking about applying for an ESA or [MUVE Student Award](#), now as time flies! This year, in addition to the usual awards, we have a new [MUVE Travel Award for New Attendees](#) that will cover travel, hotel, meeting registration, ground transportation, and per diem allowance to students **attending the annual meeting for the first time**. Do not let this opportunity pass! Moreover, graduate students are invited (and encouraged) to apply to present their work at the [Rising Stars of Entomology Award Symposium](#). The deadline for this submission application is **May 17**.

In other news, it is time to begin the **call for a new MUVE Student Representative** to the ESA Student Affairs Committee (SAC). It feels like it was yesterday when Lidia's term started, but it will be ending this November. This is a 2-year term (that goes by really quick), it is an exciting opportunity for students in MUVE to be part of ESA from the inside. It opens many doors as you get to network, learn new skills, interact with other MUVE and SAC representatives, as well as organize and coordinate a wide variety of student activities! The deadline for nominations is **May 30**, check out the [ESA Committee Vacancies](#), and feel free to [email Lidia](#) with any questions.

Lastly, for those who are at the end of their student years and are transitioning to postdoc, there is a great opportunity for you to boost your skills! Have you heard of PACT, [the Professional Advancement Career Training Initiative](#)? This is a six-month program for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the U.S. to help guide you, identifying strengths and areas of growth. The program begins September 2024 and continues until March 2025. It is \$100 and takes about four hours per month in



one-to-one mentoring sessions, webinars, and networking events. If you are interested, check out the [application form](#). The deadline is **May 30**.

There was a lot to share this month! Make sure to keep checking out the [Student Affairs Committee X account](#), or [send me an email](#) about anything related to the students in MUVE, any questions you have, or just to share fun memes.

If you read all the updates, thank you!

All the best,

Clary Fly

## POLICY CORNER



*MUVE editorial content is generated by and for MUVE members of the ESA and does not necessarily reflect policy of the broader organization.*

### **U.S. Unveils National Strategy to Combat Vector-Borne Diseases: A Legislative Response to Growing Threats**

***By Joanelis Medina Quintana, MS  
Class of 2023 ESA Science Policy Fellow***

To address the increasing threat of vector-borne diseases (VBDs), the U.S. government has revealed a comprehensive [National Public Health Strategy to Prevent and Control Vector-Borne Diseases in People](#). The strategy was implemented as a result of legislative action—the Kay Hagan Tick Act—to describe priorities and approaches aimed at preventing and controlling VBDs within the United States. The Kay Hagan Tick Act was signed into law in 2019, mandating the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop a VBD National Strategy. With cases of VBDs increasing over the past two decades, this strategic initiative marks a pivotal step in safeguarding public health against the dangers posed by mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, and other vectors.

The strategy sets out four key public health outcomes: 1) eliminate deaths from Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in Arizona tribal communities by 2025; 2) eliminate sustained local spread of dengue by 2035; 3) reduce the number of Lyme disease cases (laboratory confirmed) 25% by 2035, compared to 2022; and 4) reduce the annual number of West Nile virus neuroinvasive disease cases to below 500 by 2035. These outcomes contribute to an ultimate vision of “a nation where VBDs no longer threaten the health of people.” The strategy outlines 15 challenges to addressing VBDs and achieving these outcomes, but it also details opportunities for overcoming these challenges. Many of the opportunities hinge on surveillance capacity, data modernization and availability, and basic and applied research like that done in the MUVE section.

[Read the full article.](#)

## VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP



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

**Volunteers Needed for the Grand MUVE Library Initiative**

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 Initiatives, the Grand MUVE Library. If you are interested in assisting with this effort or want to learn more, please contact [Alexis Kriete](#).

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ESA Drag Show

The ESA Drag Show is back! Whether you are a seasoned vet or want to set a stiletto-clad foot on stage for the first time, the ESA LGBTQ+ community is hosting a drag show in Phoenix and invites you to perform. Entomology-themed names, costumes, and acts are encouraged, attending a few virtual planning meetings is required. [Contact Thomas Sheenan](#) if you are interested.

### 2023 Annual Report from ESA Now Available

If you haven't yet had a chance to look at it, the [2023 ESA Annual Report](#) is now available.

### Reminder: *Journal of Insect Science* Seeks Protocols Submissions

Back in January 2019, the Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology Section encouraged the *Journal of Insect Science* to begin publishing standardized protocols. The journal agreed, and in 2019 a new article type was [announced](#), followed by a [special protocol collection](#) in 2020. Standard protocols can save entomologists time and reduce duplication of effort. As such, MUVE Section members are encouraged to consider JIS when publishing. A [guide](#) has been created to simplify the process for authors.

### MUVE Members Invited to Become ESA Journals Peer Reviewers

The editors of the ESA Journals invite MUVE members of all backgrounds and experience levels to become peer reviewers.

By volunteering as an ESA reviewer, MUVE members can improve their peer review skills, earn Web of Science (Publons) credit, and help curate and improve the latest science reported in the society's publications.

The ESA's 7 peer reviewed Journals publish reports on a wide range of insect science. *Environmental Entomology* publishes reports on the interaction of insects with the biological, chemical, and physical aspects of their environment. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* publishes research, extension, teaching, policy, and public outreach concerning insects and related arthropods. *Journal of Medical Entomology* covers all phases of medical entomology and medical acarology, including the systematics and biology of insects, acarines, and other arthropods of public health and veterinary significance.

None of these journals would be possible without the dedication of our expert reviewers, who evaluate the manuscripts submitted for publication. To become a peer reviewer, please email [pubs@entsoc.org](mailto:pubs@entsoc.org) to express your interest. The Editorial Office will send you more information about how to create or update your ScholarOne account so that you can start receiving invitations to review.

To learn more about the review process see: [Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers](#)



### Participation Requests from MUVE Members

- 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](#).

## MUVE EVENTS

### [National Conference on Urban Entomology](#)

**May 19-22, Mobile, Alabama**

The National Conference on Urban Entomology/Invasive Ant Conference (NCUE/IAC) will take place May 19-22 at the Renaissance Riverview in Mobile, AL. For more than 30 years, the biennial NCUE/IAC brings scientists in industry, academia, and government to open channels of communication and fosters interest and research in urban entomology. Deadline for paper submissions is March 1. For more information, please visit the [NCUE website](#).

### [Biology of Vector-Borne Diseases Course](#)

**June 10-15, 2024, University of Idaho**

University of Idaho's Institute for Health in the Human Ecosystem will host the [sixth annual Vector-Borne Diseases Course](#) in Moscow, Idaho. This six-day, in-person course provides accessible, condensed training and "knowledge networking" for advanced graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty and professionals to ensure competency in basic biology, current trends and developments, and practical knowledge for U.S. and global vector-borne diseases of plants, animals, and humans. The [course application](#) deadline is March 15, 2024.

### [Society for Vector Ecology \(SOVE\) Annual Conference](#)

**September 15-19, 2024, Fort Collins, Colorado**

Registration for the 52nd Annual SOVE Conference is open. You can register here. Detailed information on due dates for abstract submission and travel grant applications can be found here. This year, there is an open call for presentation abstracts. Presentation abstracts are due by April 19! A vector-borne disease outbreak simulation pre-meeting workshop will be held September 15 at Colorado State University.

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