

February 2019

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Message from the President

Greetings fellow SysEB members,

As you know, it was an interesting end of 2018 and beginning of 2019, especially for those of us here in the Nation's capital. Hopefully, you saw the statement by ESA about the impact of the shutdown on entomological science. Undoubtedly, you have also been closely following and perhaps even have been interviewed yourself about the issue of declining insect biodiversity that has been making significant news in the media lately. Many of us who are in the biodiversity side of SysEB have weighed in, especially about how important it is to draw conclusions from data and to respond from a scientific rather than an alarmist or reactionary position. Members in our section in particular are well-poised to comment on this issue and the impact of climate change on insect populations and species.

Thanks to excellent leadership by Past President Andrew Short last year, SysEB is well positioned for continued success in 2019. Our membership remains strong and stable and we encourage each of our members to make sure that all of your students, postdocs, and staff are members of ESA and of section SysEB. Our SRTA awards process has begun for students to seek support for research travel and we have launched our new partner award with BioQuip this year, the Richard Fall Memorial Internship. Thanks to your participation and feedback during last year's membership survey and discussion at the Annual Meeting in Vancouver, we are planning to continue the collections management workshop for the foreseeable future (though a 2019 hiatus remains possible). We also continue to work with the Governing Board in response to the proposed changes recommended by the Publications Task Force and acted on by the Governing Board last year. We were already successful in lobbying to retain elected section members to the Publications Council.

I am also hoping to use my year as President of SysEB to improve communication and coordination with the leadership of the other sections, to cultivate additional sponsorship partners for funding the Annual Meeting and the ECM workshop, to continue to build the awards programs for SysEB, and to establish partnerships with other like-minded organizations besides ECN so that SysEB is recognized and consulted on policy initiatives that impact systematics, biodiversity and collections-related issues. If you have suggestions or ideas about any of these initiatives or other things of broad interest to the membership of our section, I welcome your feedback (ShockleyF@si.edu). I look forward to serving you this year and building on the success of my predecessors to make SysEB a leader not just within ESA but among the global systematics community.

Floyd W. Shockley
President, SysEB

Call for SysEB Section and Member symposia submissions

The deadline for Section and Member Symposia submissions for this year's Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO is March 1. ESA members who are federal employees and were furloughed without access to email in January can request a slight extension by contacting Rosina Romano (rromano@entsoc.org), but the extension needs to be well justified as selection processes for program, section, and member symposia are all based on that deadline. Submissions for Section Symposia should be overarching in theme to serve the interest of one or more sections; proposals with an engagement component are highly recommended. Submissions for Member Symposia may cover a wide range of topics and subject matter and may be more narrowly focused. The criteria being used this year by the SysEB Governing Council to evaluate and select Section Symposia can be found at <https://www.entsoc.org/frequently-asked-questions-symposium-submissions>. To submit a symposium application, please visit <https://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting>.

Student Research Travel Award (SRTA) applications for 2019 are now being accepted

The Governing Council of the Systematics, Evolution, and Biodiversity (SysEB) section invites applications for the annual Student Research Travel Award (SRTA) Program. Current undergraduate and graduate students who are members of the SysEB section are eligible to apply. Travel Awards provide funding for student fieldwork and/or research travel to other institutions to enhance research projects. Typical awards range from \$1000 to \$1500. For information on how to apply visit <https://www.entsoc.org/syseb/student-research-travel-award>. Applications are due **Friday, March 15, 2019**.

Richard Fall Memorial Internship: A new undergraduate award for 2019

Through the generosity of BioQuip Products, SysEB is offering a new award this year. The Richard Fall Memorial Internship was established to provide undergraduate students with hands-on experience working in and with established entomological collections in North America over the summer months. The award amount of \$2,000 is given directly to the student, and is meant to offset living and travel expenses. It is not intended to pay for research expenses. For more detailed information on the criteria of the award and instructions to apply, please visit <https://www.entsoc.org/syseb/fall-memorial>. Applications are due **Friday, March 15, 2019**.

Other SysEB Awards deadlines

As in previous years, the deadlines for the Thomas Say Award, the BioQuip Products Undergraduate Scholarship, the Edith Patch Memorial Research Award, and the Snodgrass Memorial Research Award fall later in the year than the SRTA awards and the Fall Internship. The deadline for applications for all of these other awards is **June 1, 2019**. More information about each of these award programs including eligibility requirements, application details and deadlines can be found on the SysEB Awards website: <https://www.entsoc.org/syseb/awards>.

Entomological Collections Management Workshop update

At the moment, we are still waiting to hear from NSF about an extension to provide funding for student travel grants before deciding if we should move forward with the workshop in 2019. In the meantime, the organizers have identified a potential host institution. Larry Gall (Peabody Museum, Yale University) has tentatively agreed to host the workshop with a day-trip down to visit Christine Johnson (AMNH) for a look at their collection. Keep checking the official website for the workshop at

http://ecnweb.org/default.asp?Action=Show_Workshop for details. We will send out a notice to the ECN-L distribution list and have ESA send out a notice in their regular announcements once a final decision has been made.

Editor-in-Chief search underway

The Entomological Society of America is seeking candidates for a co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Economic Entomology to serve alongside current EIC and past President of ESA Dr. Frank G. Zalom. The deadline for submitting an application for this position is **Wednesday, March 6, 2019**. More information can be found at <https://www.entsoc.org/call-co-editor-chief-journal-economic-entomology>.