THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGISTS SPRING 2021

NEWSLETTER

Edited by Kelly Weinersmith | Layout by Joanna Cielocha

The President's Corner By Vasyl Tkach

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the spring 2021 edition of the President's corner. A lot has happened since the fall 2020 edition of our newsletter. While the pandemic still continues taking its heavy toll around the globe, there are a lot more reasons for optimism now than a few months ago. Due to the fast development, testing, approval and distribution of vaccines, combined with other public health measures, we can finally see some light at the end of the tunnel. The number of cases is decreasing across the United States and many, but not all, other countries. As I write this, there has been only one new case today in the (admittedly small) county where I live. We all hope that the situation will further improve, and we will return to our normal activities and have an outstanding in-person meeting in 2022.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to the forthcoming 2021 ASP meeting. Ever since it was decided to hold a virtual 2021 meeting, the Organizing Committee chaired by Tamara Cook and our Scientific Program Officers, Maria Castillo and Judith Humphries, worked tirelessly to ensure that we have a great meeting where ASP members will have opportunities to present their latest results, exchange research and teaching ideas and just communicate. This will be our first ever virtual meeting, therefore, the organizing committee had to find solutions and overcome challenges not encountered before by the ASP. I can't wait for the meeting and am certain that it will be vibrant and welcoming to everyone. Besides session presentations, we have a great line up of speakers, including invited symposium talks and awardees. That said, I wholeheartedly congratulate this year's ASP award recipients. Both the Award Committee and Student Award Committee had a difficult job selecting winners from a number of outstanding nominees. I would also like to congratulate all newly elected ASP officers and especially the incoming Vice President Reginald Blaylock, and thank them for their willingness to devote their precious time to serve our Society. I also cannot thank enough colleagues who ran for various ASP offices, but were not elected this time. I would like you to know that your dedication is highly appreciated and I encourage you to run again. The ASP's vitality and ability to accomplish its mission entirely depends on the members like you who voluntarily contribute their time and expertise to the Society.

Although the last several months were busy for everyone, the ASP remained a working, active society. March was marked by the now traditional Parasite Week mostly organized by Christina Anaya. This event was once again a success. I have met with a couple of high school classes and that was a highly positive and rewarding experience. Talking about parasites to kids who are not yet restrained by the predispositions and stereotypes is definitely refreshing and I hi-

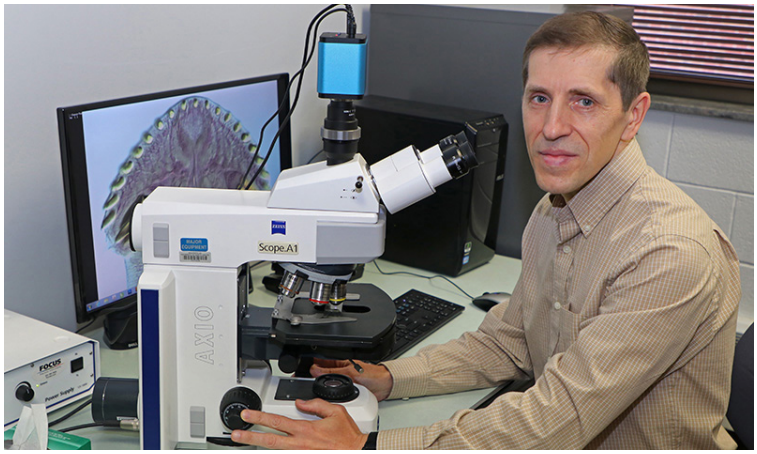


Table of Contents

President's Corner 1–2
ASP 2021 Invitation 2
Student Rep's Corner 2
Society News 3
Parasite Week 2021 3
Member Spotlight
Dr. Alyssa-Lois Gehman 4–5
Field Notes
Adventures in Australia, by Eric Pulis, commentary by Michael Andres 5–6
Affiliate Society News & Updates 7–9
In Memoriam: Dick Seed 9–10

Be sure to check out the *The Journal of Parasitology* website for new papers, and information on how to submit your manuscript. With the continuous publication model, manuscripts go online as soon as formatting is complete.

ASP members do not pay page charges for publishing in the *JP*. Open Access rates are $750 for members, and $1000 for non-members.

If you'd like to review for the Journal and have not already signed up to be a reviewer, please consider signing up here."

President's Corner cont'd

ghly recommend fellow ASP members actively participate in this event next year.

Several of our regional societies had their annual meetings and I had an opportunity to participate in several of them. The amount of great work and great talks done by our colleagues, especially, students, during a very challenging time, is very impressive. These meetings were as productive and vibrant as can be expected under the circumstances and set the stage for the national meeting. I cannot miss the chance to invite everyone to the AMCOP meeting which will be the first in-person meeting since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic which I see as the return to normalcy.

Various ASP committees have done and are doing a significant amount of work. I already mentioned the two awards committees, but others did their part, too. The education, membership and public relations committees were especially active. The Journal of Parasitology is going strong under the leadership of the Chief Editor Richard Clopton. It receives a substantial number of submissions and publishes under the model that is still quite new, but already proved its attractiveness for authors.

See everyone in the cyber space at the 2021 ASP meeting in July!

2021 ASP Annual Meeting Invitation

By Maria Castillo & Judith Humphries
Scientific Program Officers

The 2021 ASP-Conference Organizing Committee would like to invite you to join fellow parasitologists in the first (and possibly only) virtual Annual Meeting of The American Society of Parasitologists. This challenging year we are organizing a two-day meeting to be held on July 26-27 on the Accelevents Event Platform.

This meeting's program will include both synchronous (live) and asynchronous presentations, interactive posters, and student presentation awards. There will also be the opportunity to participate in a parasitology-teaching workshop, and you can expect to have a fabulous time during the annual auction and the many opportunities to network and connect with other fellow parasitologists.

Early registration ends on July 1st. Special registration discounts for qualifying participants are available.
Please visit the ASP website for more information: https://www.amsocparasit.org/

You can also visit the Accelevents FAQs page if you want to become more familiar with this platform before the meeting: https://www.accelevents.com/faqs/.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Scientific Program Officers: Judith Humphries (judith.humphries@lawrence.edu) and Maria Castillo (mcastill@nmsu.edu).

Student Rep's Corner

By Maggie Doolin
Student Representative to ASP Council 2020-2021

I hope that you are well and finding some light in this continuing pandemic. Outside of research commitments this semester, ASP has been a welcome diversion for me, both volunteering for Parasite Week and helping to plan the upcoming virtual ASP meeting. As a part of Council and the virtual meeting Organizing Committee, I can confidently say that ASP leadership has been hard at work to make sure we serve the interests of members to the best possible standard in a virtual setting.

For my part as Student Rep, I am planning the Student Symposium, focused on the theme of the "Trajectory of parasitology, and hot topics ahead." I am hopeful that hearing about parasitology past, present, and future will remind student members (and others!) about the exciting trajectory of our field, even if we have all been more isolated than usual over the past 13 months. If you have suggestions for speakers whom you would like to hear or think could give the current student members a solid look at the past and/or future of the field, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Stay well, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in July!

Other ASP News

The American Society of Parasitologists has an ongoing effort to further increase our diversity and become even more inclusive by recruiting colleagues, domestic and foreign, who for various reasons can not join ASP. Some cannot afford even the modest Associate Membership or online student dues. Others have political issues in foreign countries. We have instituted the Sponsor Membership category to help these colleagues become members. Members can also gift a membership to one of their students or a domestic colleague. A member can be a sponsor for any of the membership categories shown on the ASP Membership link which is on the ASP Home page. The most common category for foreign sponsorship is the Associate Membership. All sponsorships are tax deductible.

The current economic situation and restrictions have made it difficult for many members. But we hope you see the value of becoming a sponsor and will consider supporting a colleague if you can. These memberships have proven to be mutually beneficial. The person being sponsored has the full benefits of ASP membership. The sponsor has a new colleague who may have interesting and valuable experiences and expertise to share. These connections can lead to future collaborations. In addition, the sponsor has helped make ASP an even richer resource for parasitology. For this, both ASP and a new colleague will thank you.

If you desire to establish a Sponsored Membership, you may do so by contacting ASP's membership administration office by phone (785-865-9405) or email (asp@allenpress.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Parasite Week 2021

By Christina Anaya

On March 4 each year we celebrate H.B. Ward's Birthday by sharing parasites with students. This year was the third annual event and the second event in which a full week of parasites was celebrated. As in previous years, it was a success and continues to grow!

During Parasite Week, members share parasites with elementary, middle school, and high school classrooms via online platforms, in-person, or telecast. We put a call out to teachers we have used in the past and new teachers in the same schools often join. We then match ASP members with classrooms based on their schedules. Members can also opt to reach out to schools in their local area. Each parasitologist spends 30-60 minutes exposing (without infecting!) students to the world of parasites either through their research or sharing general knowledge about some fascinating parasites!

Many thanks go to the 29 parasitologists this year who collaborated with 30 teachers in 49 classes to reach 1189 students! This does not include the countless students and members of the public who were exposed to parasites through Dr. Chuck Blend's "Science for kids with Dr. Blend: Parasite" on Corpus Christi's Action 10 News Coastal Living segment.

Member participation is key to the success of this program. Our goal is to grow this program to reach as many elementary and high school students as possible, but that is contingent on the number of members participating. The challenge is always making sure we have enough members to support the participating schools. Please consider joining us next year! We think you'll find the inquisitive nature of students, despite some yuck factors, is worth the time commitment!

Member Spotlight

Dr. Alyssia-Lois Gehman

Interview by Stephanie Rizzo
Photos by Keith Holmes, Alyssa-Lois Gehman, and Andy Tucker

For this Member Spotlight, I interviewed Dr. Alyssa-Lois Gehman, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of British Columbia and the Hakai Institute (working with Dr. Chris Harley). Dr. Gehman's most recent research involves symbiotic endolithic microbe alteration of host morphology and vulnerability to increasing temperatures.

Q: When did you become interested in studying parasites?

A: In undergraduate at Colorado College, I was lucky enough to sign up to take Parasitic Protozoa with Ron Hathaway. He was a phenomenal story teller, and I was quickly fascinated by parasites. It took me a while to realize I could combine my love of parasites with my love of marine invertebrate research, but once I did, I was hooked. I have kept in touch with Ron, once sending him a shipment of rhizocephalan infected shrimp that we had collected so that he and his students could use them in the scanning electron microscopy course he taught.

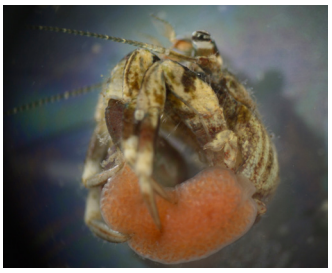
Q: What advice would you give to students that are interested in the study of parasites?

A: If you are in undergraduate, I recommend looking around to see if your university has any parasitology courses. The courses could be in a range of departments, from biology to veterinary and public health departments. I think taking courses in as wide a spread of different disciplines would be super helpful for deciding which type of parasitology interests you (wildlife, domestic animals, humans, public health?). It will also give you a broad base to think on throughout your career, because the underlying host-parasite relationship is somewhat similar no matter what the host you are considering, and seeing the similarities and differences between how the different disciplines consider the same topic could lead to amazing new insights.

If you are looking into graduate programs, I recommend finding an advisor who has worked with parasites in the past. It is not a requirement, but it will be easier to do your research and to get a broad understanding of the field. I did my PhD in the Odum School of Ecology, which I highly recommend.

Q: Your current research is primarily focused on rocky intertidal systems along the Pacific coast. What changes due to climate change have you seen or do you anticipate being of concern in relation to parasite communities and/or abundance?

A: This is a great question – I am really interested in how parasites will respond to climate change. From my work in Georgia, we found that parasitized crabs had altered thermal responses from their uninfected counterparts. In this case, we found that the infected crabs were more vulnerable to high temperature, and modeling predicts that the parasite would not survive a 2ºC temperature increase.



We are beginning to have information on how parasites respond to temperature, but I think we are a long way from knowing generally how infection alters parasitized host thermal performance. The evidence we have so far is that some parasites can increase host thermal tolerance, some reduce it, and some have no effect. My hope is that if we can increase the number of host-parasite pairs that have known thermal performance responses (never mind co-infected hosts), we could find some generalizations around what sort of response we might expect.

Q: You have done some work with the Rhizocephalan barnacle parasite (*Loxothylacus panopasi*), which you lovingly refer to as the "Neuterator". What, in your opinion, is the most interesting thing about this parasite?

A: Wow, I forgot that I had called them that, good work finding that quote. I think Rhizocephalans are absolutely fascinating. I think one draw for me is that their lifecycle seems so unlikely, and yet there are many of them.

Member Spotlight cont'd

Rhizocephalan larvae have separate sexes, so not only does the female have to find and infect a susceptible host, but the male then has to find a host that has already been infected by a female parasite. Generally, the unknown is what drives my curiosity, and I think there remains so much to find out about Rhizocephalan ecology.

Q: What are your thoughts on utilizing parasites as bioindicators (ecosystem health, toxins, pollutants, etc.) in marine systems? Why do you feel marine parasite ecology research is important?

A: We are in an era of persistent change, and I think that how climate change will alter the balance of host-parasite interactions is one of the biggest unknowns. Parasites are important parts of their communities and ecosystems, and we are just beginning to understand how they fit in to that bigger picture.

I think our need to know more about marine parasites can come from multiple angles; as climate change alters host abundance and distribution, it may also be altering their parasites distributions, and we might lose parasites we never even knew about in the process. Conversely, changes in the environment could favor a parasite in a way that could lead to high levels of mortality of their host, leading to an unexpected loss of the host species.

Q: In your research with endolithic parasites and California mussels, you suggest that the parasite may be helping the mussel endure higher temperatures than they are normally used to. How often do you think parasites are having these beneficial, but so far mostly overlooked effects?

A: I think this is a super interesting question that we need to know more about. The definition of a 'parasite' has likely influenced our ability to think about this kind of question, since by definition a parasite should have a negative effect on their host. I was lucky enough to share a lab with Eugene Kozloff when I was in graduate school and when I think about this question my conversations with him come to mind. He was insistent that we should consider all parasites (and mutualists) symbionts, with a range of possible positive, neutral or negative effects. There are examples of classical parasites that appear to have positive effects, and one way that can happen is through parasite-parasite interactions within a host. I think as we start studying co-infection the experiments are going to reveal interesting interactions. I'm not sure how widespread I think the combination of positive and negative effects are, but I do think that it will be a fruitful direction for research for a while yet.
Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: Community is important to me, so I make sure to spend time with family and friends. As for hobbies, I am a bit of a hobby collector, so the answer to this question could be long. I love to be physically active, which can take the form of skiing, hiking, mountain biking, acroyoga and/or various other circus arts. Because of the current pandemic I am spending much more time at home, so I have been voraciously reading, knitting, learning to play ukulele and have taken up an 'at home' yoga practice.

Do you have an story you want to share for a field note or want to suggest a member for us to spotlight? Then please send an email to: Weinersmith@Rice.edu.

Field Notes: Adventures in Australia

By Eric Pulis, Commentary by Michael Andres
Edited by Kelly Weinersmith
First published on ASP's Blog on 10 May 2021

In the spring of 2010, Michael Andres and I had an opportunity to travel to Australia to collect fishes for our dissertations. That trip was our first real experience on an international expedition where we took care of the travel, collecting logistics, and permitting. We were working (still are) on the taxonomy of the Haploporidae, a family found mainly in mullets, but many other fishes as well. While traveling across Western Australia, Northern Territory, and Queensland we collected plenty of worms and learned the local host fishes quite well.

Mike: *This was far and away one of the best experiences of my life. "WA" in particular was a blast to travel up and down the coast, particularly because we never went south*

Austrailia cont'd

of Carnarvon and traveled during the off-season (spoiler - it was darn hot, we both were quite white, and needed boat loads of sunscreen) so there were not many people around the places we stopped. It was also awesome and frustrating to be around such large tidal amplitudes (I have spent most of my life now along the Gulf Coast).

Our usual schedule involved cast netting mullet at high tides during day light hours, and retreating to a hotel room for dissections. Most of the motels had strict "No Cleaning Fish on Premises" policies. Unsure of how examination of fishes for intestinal heliminths fit into that policy, all dissections were clandestine in nature. The only time we almost got into trouble was when Mike forgot a mullet in his pocket. The house keeping staff noticed a strange smell in the room, and became worried about our hygiene.

Mike: Look, pocket fish happen. When you are wading through mangrove swamps and have moved too far away from your bucket/livewell, swim trunk pockets make great portable livewells. They even have little holes at the bottom to help with water exchange. That being said, sometimes I am forgetful, and do not always remember just how many fish are in my pocket. My wife has found a few in our dyer.

As we travelled across the country, not only did we get to catch and examine a lot of great fishes, I was also able to see many species of birds. Mike was probably annoyed with my stops to check new boxes on my birder's Life List. While not anti-bird, Mike is defiantly not probird. At one location, I made him stalk up the side of a small mountain, covered in thorny brush while we waited on the tide to see brush turkey. I had previously learned about brush turkey and their incubation mounds on the BBC, and it was a real treat to see one in the wild. We finally got a good enough look at the bird to positively identify it, and went on our way to catch some fish. Mike was unimpressed. Upon arriving at the park where we would walk down to the tidal creek, there were several brush turkeys milling around. Mike remained unimpressed.

Mike: I am not necessarily on the "Birds aren't real" spectrum, but I certainly am way more #TeamFish. The climb was not so bad up the mountain, or maybe I blocked out the thorns. I even had to just now look-up what a brush turkey was. I was certainly a bit more interested in "collecting" the different beers across Australia for our evenings in the hotel.

Throughout our adventure, we had been warned by everyone to watch out for the potentially dangerous fauna. We kept vinegar in the vehicle to combat jellyfish stings - never needed it. We always wore shoes in the water to avoid stepping on octopuses and other venomous things. All snakes were assumed to be venomous. Each new collecting spot came with its own warning about the particular things to watch out for from the locals.

Mike: Not to mention the apprehension of wading in certain areas where you couldn't see the bottom because of the potential of saltwater crocs…

Near the end of the trip, we were near Yeppoon, Queensland catching scatophagids and mullets in a small drain. When cleaning my cast-net for the next throw, I did not see the few small stonefish in the net as I flopped them against my legs.

It hurt real bad.

Stonefish were one of the species that we had been warned about many times. In fact, the signs at the beach warned that stonefish stings could be fatal. I let Mike know what had happened. Mike, being the better ichthyologist than I, confirmed they were in fact stonefish. We knew we were supposed to put hot water on the sting site and get to a hospital - so we headed to the truck. The first stop we made was to a gas station to pour scalding hot tea water over the affected area. That part hurt worse than the actual 'sting'. (Luckily the attendant did not charge us for the water, in exchange for not dying on the premises.) Then we headed off to a clinic that would hopefully know what the next step should be. At the hospital they gave me a bed and put some hot towels on the spot where the stonefish poked me, and kept track of vitals. Between the shallowness of the spine pokes and the relatively fast addition of heat, there were no serious complications.

Mike: I was perhaps more worried than Eric once I saw the stonefish. I was a fair distance away and had no idea how bad the stings were. I drove quite quickly to the gas station and fairly frantically explained to the attendant (and one local) why I was stealing hot water from them. I am almost certain they just dismissed me for being a crazy Yank. Everyone at the hospital was great!

I do not recall if Mike checked the stonefish for worms.

Regional Society News

Annual Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists (AMCOP)
By Robert Sorenson

Greetings AMCOP members, previous AMCOP attendees, and fans of parasitology.The opportunity to interact with and support our fellow parasitology nerds at the annual AMCOP meeting in 2020 passed us by like so many things that year.

The AMCOP Organizing Committee, especially Dr. Anindo Choudhury, has developed plans to host an on-campus in-person meeting on July 29-31, 2021 at St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, barring unforeseen COVID-related circumstances. The meeting will be quite affordable.Details for abstract submission and meeting registration will be available on the AMCOP website (amcop.org) and through the AMCOP email list. The local organizers look forward to welcoming old and new members to AMCOP 2021 in DePere, WI!

Southern California Society of Parasitologists (SCSP)
By Danny Tang

The SCSP Fall 2020 Meeting was held on Dec. 9, 2020 via Zoom. Topics discussed included: (1) Presentation on the Orange County Sanitation District's Ocean Monitoring Program by Danny Tang; (2) Spring meeting with the Southern California Academy of Sciences (SCAS); (3) ASP Student Travel Grant Status; (4) SCSP logo development; (5) An update from members on ongoing research.The SCSP Annual Meeting will be held on May 7, 2021 in conjunction with the SCAS 2021 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be virtual.

Southwestern Association of Parasitologists (SWAP)
By Joanna Cielocha

The 54th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Parasitologists was held virtually via Zoom on April 23rd, 2021. Twenty-one undergraduate and graduate students presented their work to the society. Award winners include: Emma Martinez (Rockhurst University), Undergraduate Honorable Mention, Allison Bryant (Oklahoma State University), Graduate Honorable Mention, Isabel Pen (University of Kansas), Dresden Award, and Kaylee Herzog (University of Kansas), Becker Award for Best Student Paper. Shea Sera (Creighton University) was awarded the SWAP Student Research Grant. Elections were held and the following officers will serve the society for the upcoming term: Joanna Cielocha, President; John Shea, President-Elect/Program Officer; Autumn Smith-Herron, Secretary-Treasurer; Deb Clopton, SWAP Representative to ASP Council.

Helminthological Society of Washington (HelmSoc)
By Kelly Weinersmith

The 725th meeting of The Helminthological Society of Washington was held virtually on May 1, 2021. We enjoyed 13 oral presentations, and a poster presentation. Approximately thirty participants joined us, and the virtual format allowed us to enjoy the company of folks from as far away as Mexico, Algeria, Norway, and Colombia. We are hoping that our fall Anniversary Meeting will be in person, and are thinking about how we could make this meeting hybrid (i.e., part in-person and part virtual) so we can continue to enjoy the company of non-Washington D.C.-based parasitologists.

During our Business Meeting, Corresponding Secretary Treasurer Ashleigh Smythe let us know that we're in good financial standing, and that you can now choose the Helminthological Society of Washington as your charity of choice on Amazon Smile. To support HelmSoc, go to smile.amazon.com, click "Supporting:" on the top left corner, and search for "Helminthological Society of Washington" (we are, not surprisingly, the only charity with the word "helminth" in their name).

Sherman Hendrix then gave his In Memoriam report, and we shared a moment of silence for past HelmSoc members Drs. John Mackiewicz, John Richard ("Dick") Seed, and Robert Goldstein.
President John Hawdon also reported that we are submitting paperwork to the IRS to make two of our grant initiatives tax-free for the recipients.
Our first set of grants are student travel grants, in which the student can choose to either get a $100 grant to support their attendance at a HelmSoc meeting, or an ~$250 grant to offset their registration for the annual ASP meeting. For the former option, the student needs to present at the HelmSoc meeting, and for the latter the student needs to give an oral presentation at both the HelmSoc and ASP meeting.

Our second set of grants are The Helminthological Society of Washington's Underrepresented Minority Research Grants. We anticipate giving out $5,000 in grant funds each year, with ~$1,000 going to an undergraduate researcher and ~$4,000 going to a graduate researcher.

We voted at the Executive Committee meeting to place $25,000 in an endowment, which we hope will eventually support both of these grant initiatives each year. In the meantime, we will be funding these grants through pre-existing income revenues. We hope both grants will increase student participation and diversity in HelmSoc and the ASP.

Regional Societies cont'd

Finally, in lieu of our tradition of having participants sign the "Green Book", we had everyone sign a virtual whiteboard. A few artists stepped up to spruce up the whiteboard with some parasite artwork.

A great time was had by all! Many thanks to Drs. Anne Vardo-Zalik and Michael Zimmermann for organizing and running the meeting!

Southeastern Society of Parasitologists (SSP)

Update By Charles Faulkner

The Southeastern Society of Parasitologists held its annual meeting virtually using the Symposium by ForagerOne platform on April 7-9, 2021. The meeting was planned and executed by John Stokes, President elect who served as program officer and co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee with Dr. Reg Blaylock (Gulf Coast Research Laboratory). Dr. Gabriel Langford, President, presided over the Executive Committee and Business meetings. Dr. Elizabeth Gleim, Vice President and Chair of Student Awards Committee organized judges and oversaw the assessments that resulted in awards for best Graduate Student Presentation (Byrd-Dunn), best Undergraduate Student Presentation (Ciordia-Stewart-Porter), and best Poster. Approximately 69 people registered for the meeting that included 35 presentations or posters, of which 69% were presented by students. The Byrd-Dunn Award named in honor of founding members of the Society, Elon E. Byrd (Univ of GA) and Mary C. Dunn (Middle TN State Univ) was presented to Tyler Achatz, Univ North Dakota, Grand Forks ND for his presentation entitled "Walking with dinosaurs: Phylogeny and systematics of proterodiplostmid digeneans parasitic in crocodilians". Marisa Fonseca, Florida Southern College, Lakeland FL received the Enrique "Rick" Ciordia-Bonner Stewart-Dale Porter Award honoring their lifetime contributions in parasitology and support of the Southern Conference on Animal Parasites and Animal Disease Research Workers of the Southern States for her presentation entitled "Invasive parasites: A survey of endoparasites from *Salvator merinae* populations in Florida". The annual Poster Award was presented to Sara Linehan, Univ Central Florida, Orlando FL for her poster entitled "Natural history and ecological underpinnings of zombie ant graveyards in Central Florida".

The President's Historical Lecture was conceived and organized by President-elect John Stokes and featured the presentation by Dr. David Peterson, Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases, Univ of Georgia, Athens GA "Malaria: From: Marsh Miasma to Elimination ". At the business meeting, 36 individuals were approved for full or student membership. The passing of 3 members, Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Esch, Wake Forest Univ, Dr. John Richard "Dick" Seed, Univ of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Dr. Leon Duobinis-Gray, Murray State Univ, was recognized with a moment of silence and brief vignettes memorializing their service to the Society and parasitology. Sponsorship for the annual meeting was provided by the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, University of Southern Mississippi. Officers of the society for 2021-23 are: President – John Stokes, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State Univ; President-elect and Program Officer - Dr. Elisabeth "Liz" Gleim, Hollins Univ; Vice President and Student Awards – Dr. Christopher Cleveland, Univ of GA; and Secretary-Treasurer – Dr. Charles Faulkner, College of Veterinary Medicine, Lincoln Memorial University.

The annual meeting for 2022 will be held April 7-9 and hosted by Berry College, Mt Berry GA. Persons interested in

Regional Societies cont'd

submitting abstracts or obtaining other information about the meeting should contact Charles Faulkner, charles.faulkner@lmunet.edu.

Northern California Parasitologists

By Mike Moser

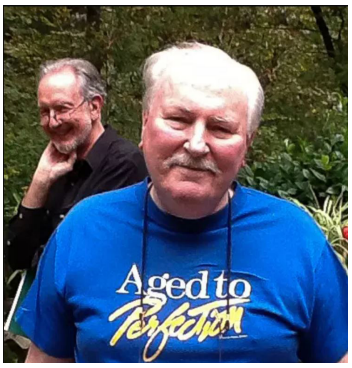
The Northern California Parasitologists held a virtual 2021 Spring Meeting on May 1. This virtual meeting was shared with the Southern California Society of Parasitologists, the Southern California Academy of Sciences and colleagues in Mexico and the Middle East. We welcome our international colleagues to share with us their comments and research interests.

Our guest speakers were Roland Gosling, PhD, MD and Allison Tatarsky, BS, MPH, Global Health Group, University of California, San Francisco. The title of their presentation was "Malaria research in Africa and the Malaria Elimination Initiative and Action Tank model".

The speakers in the Student Competition were: Sharon I Brummitt,"Assessment of physician knowledge, attitudes, and practice for Lyme disease in a low endemic state," University of California, Davis; Sophie Zhu, "Oocysts, oceans, and otters: *Toxoplasma gondii* in feral cats," School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis; Kyle Yomogida,"Assessing relationships between human *R. typhi* infections and environmental variables," University of California, Davis; Aoife Nora Galvin,"Little Effect of Blood Parasites on Avian Movement Patterns," San Francisco State University; Emry Cohenour, "Does mic 18 contribute to bradyzoite-specific virulence of *Toxoplasma gondii*," California State University, East Bay; Avraj Bal, "Understanding Transcriptional Regulation of *Toxoplasma gondii* Developmental Differentiation and Virulence," California State University, East Bay; Marie Victoria Lilly, "Are birds an understudied host in *Borrelia burgdorferi* transmission on the West Coast?" San Francisco State University; Edres Babacarkhial, "Contribution of Developmentally Regulated Metabolic Enzymes to Stage Conversion During T*oxoplasma* Pathogenesis," California State University, East Bay; Grace Shaw, "The influence of complex patch dynamics on Lyme disease ecology in the western United States,"San Francisco State University. Awards were as follows: First Place—Marie Victoria Lilly; Second Place—Sophie Zhu; Honorable Mention—Edres Babacarkhial.

In Memoriam: Dr. Jon Richard ("Dick") Seed

By Dr. John Oaks



Long time ASP member, John Richard ("Dick") Seed, Ph.D., former President of the Society (1992) and Henry Baldwin Award Medalist (1976), died on December 12, 2020 at 83 year of age. After serving as U.S. Army parasitologist, he became a faculty member in Tulane University's Department of Biology, where he and former ASP members Dick Lumsden and Franklin Sogandares founded the Laboratory of Parasitology. His research laboratory focused upon Trypanosomiasis and the protozoan ability to evade the host's immune system. The many students he influenced with his teaching went on to careers in leading educational institutions, academia, and major governmental scientific departments in the United States and all over the world. As the Laboratory of Parasitology dispersed, Dick moved first to Texas A&M University and then The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. In addition to ASP, he was a member of the Southwest Association of Parasitologists, Society of Immunology, Southeastern Society of Parasitologists, and attended the annual Fancy Gap meeting during his career.

Like every student in the Laboratory of Parasitology during the late 1960's, I learned three things about research from Dr. Seed. Number one, there are situations that will make you very angry. Number two, it pays to be a pragmatist. One morning, Dick discovered that the -70C freezer in which he had, for years, been storing serum collected monthly (weekly?) from a colony of Trypanosome infected rabbits (to eventually examine trypanosome surface antigen changes) had been pulled, and the serums were ruined! A janitor had pulled the freezer plug for his electric floor scrubber, and sadly had not plugged in the freezer when he finished. After the explosion of surprise followed by anger from Dick, his pragmatism took over. The experiment was scrubbed and other research continued. Number three, check your equipment frequent-

In Memoriam cont'd

ly. There was always a coffee pot full of hot and strong chicory-laced coffee on a table next to the -70C freezer, and from the day the serum was lost, all coffee drinkers checked the freezer plug as they filled their mugs.

After his retirement from UNC, Dick remained connected to ASP, writing a series of tongue-in-cheek letters to the Editor Jerry Esch concerning suggestions for a tranquil retirement for parasitologists, which were then published in this Newsletter. He also was a continuous supporter of the ASP Student Auction with donations of his uniquely carved wooden canes and duck decoys created in his garage and studio, and serving now and again as an auctioneer and assistant.

Editor's Note: Dr. Oaks was kind enough to dig out the old ASP Newsletters in which "The Dick and John Column" appeared. They're hilarious!

Their motto: "Our motto is "you are never too young to consider retirement." We are only here to help you over those retirement hurdles. Write us if you have problems. The Dick and John Retirement Consults, Inc. are only here to serve you."

They included suggestions for what what to do if you're an old parasitologist who has to decide what to do with filing cabinets full of pre-prints. Dick and John suggest, for example, shredding it, and "have the reprint fodder blown into the walls of your home. This way you can be warmed all year long by being surrounded by classic and important data!". Or, if you find yourself with binders full of paper and/or binder clips, Dick and John suggest making jewelry, and even included a photographed example, complete with cute pink star beads!

Here are the Newsletters which include the Dick and John Columns. Enjoy!

Volume 28, No 3 (Fall 2006)
Volume 29, No 1 (Spring 2007)
Volume 29, No 2 (Summer 2007)
Volume 29, No 3 (Fall 2007)
Volume 30, No 1 (Winter/Spring 2008)
Volume 30, No 3 (Fall 2008)
Volume 30, No 4 (Winter 2008)
Volume 31, No 1 (Spring 2009)
Volume 31, No 2 (Summer 2009)
Volume 32, No 1-2 (Spring - Summer 2010)

Support the ASP

Support ASP by shopping through AmazonSmile. Go to smile.amazon.com, pick "American Society of Parasitologists Inc A New Mexico Nonprofit Corpo" as the group you're supporting, and we'll get 0.5% the cost of your eligible purchases.

Keep in Touch

Twitter @amsocparasit
Facebook
Instagram
ASP's blog for more
Field Notes, Member Spotlights, and ASP News
Join our ASP Listserv
Journal of Parasitology YouTube page (with video interviews with prominent members)