

Southeastern Society of Parasitologists

An Affiliate of the American Society of Parasitologists

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Annual Meeting Summary

The Southeastern Society of Parasitologists held its annual meeting, April 20-22, 2023, at the [Richard A. Gillespie College of Veterinary Medicine](#). The meeting was hosted by Lincoln Memorial University faculty Barbara Shock, Vina and Charles Faulkner of the Local Arrangements Committee. Dr. Christopher Cleveland, President, presided over the Executive Committee. Dr. Elizabeth Gleim as President-elect served as Program Officer and organized the scientific program discussing a diverse spectrum of topics interesting to parasitologists ranging from cestodes in Mongolian shrews to cracking the genetic code of Sarcoptid mites in American Black Bear and everything in between. She also presided over the Business meeting as incoming President. Kristina Hill-Spanik, 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).

Approximately 70 people registered for the meeting that included 48 oral presentations and 8 posters of which 66% 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 Triet Truong, Auburn Univ, Auburn AL for his presentation entitled "*Description, life cycle of a new species of Proterometra (Digenea: Azygiidae) from the Cahaba River Alabama USA and phylogenetic analyses*". Zoe Von Holten, Middle Georgia State Univ, Macon GA received the Enrique "Rick" Ciordia-Bonner Stewart-Dale Porter Award for her presentation entitled "*Revealing diversity of the Diplostomidae (Digenea) parasites in kingfishers*". The Ciordia-Stewart-Porter Award honors their lifetime contributions in parasitology and support of the Southern Conference on Animal Parasites and Animal Disease Research Workers of the Southern States. Catherine Smith, Univ of Georgia, Athens was recognized with the *Poster Award for Abomasal parasites in white-tailed deer*.



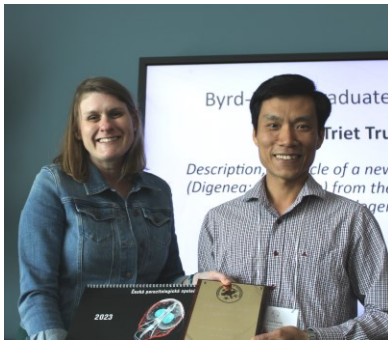
Dr. Sharon Patton (President SSP 1981, ASP 2002; SSP Meritorious Service Award 1996) received the "SSP President's Award" in recognition for her 32-year legacy of service, support, and mentorship to the Society and its membership. She is the 2nd recipient recognized with this prestigious award having previously been presented in 1986 to Dr. Mary C. Dunn, Charter Member and founding Secretary-Treasurer of SSP.

Dr. Sharon Patton (left) recipient of *SSP President's Award* for 32-year legacy of service, support and mentorship to society and membership.

The President's Annual Keynote Talk featured the presentation by Dr. Maarten P.M. Vanhove, Center for Environmental Sciences, Hasselt Univ, Belgium "*Fish parasitology in the African Great Lakes: from discovering species to proposing new markers for fisheries and ecosystem health*".

At the business meeting, 15 new and student members were recognized along with the passing of 3 members, Dr. Ken Corkum (SSP president 1980), Dr. Bill Font (SSP Byrd award 1975, SSP president 1992), and Dr. Robin Overstreet (SSP president 1996). Each was recognized with a moment of silence and brief vignettes memorializing their service and contributions to the Society and parasitology. Sponsorship for the annual meeting was provided by the Richard A. Gillespie College of Veterinary Medicine, Lincoln Memorial University and the American Heartworm Society. Officers of the society for 2023-24 are: President – Dr. Elizabeth "Liz" Gleim, Hollins Univ; President-elect and Program Officer – Stephen "Ash" Bullard, Auburn Univ; Vice President, and Student Awards - Dr. Kaitlyn Gallagher, Florida Southern Univ, and Secretary-Treasurer – Dr. Charles Faulkner, College of Veterinary Medicine, Lincoln Memorial Univ.

The annual meeting for 2024 will be held jointly with the Helminthological Society Washington in April at Virginia Military Institute, Lexington VA. Persons interested in submitting abstracts or obtaining other information about the meeting should contact Charles Faulkner, charles.faulkner@lmunet.edu.



Triet Truong, 2023 Byrd-Dunn Award Recipient w/ Kristina Hill-Spanik, SSP VP (left).



Zoe Von Holten, 2023 Ciordia-Stewart-Porter Award Recipient w/ Kristina Hill-Spanik, SSP VP (left).



Catherine Smith, 2023 Student Poster Award Recipient w/ Kristina Hill-Spanik, SSP VP (left).