



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 18-20, 2024, at the [Virginia Military Institute, Lexington VA](#). The meeting was held jointly with The Helminthological Society of Washington and co-hosted by Ashleigh Smythe (VMI) and Liz Gleim (Hollins University, Roanoke VA). Dr. Elizabeth Gleim, President, presided over the Executive Committee, and annual Business Meeting. Dr. Steven “Ash” Bullard as President-elect served as Program Officer and organized the scientific program discussing a diverse spectrum of topics interesting to parasitologists ranging from new species of trematodes in electric eels to the *otterly* diverse array of *Dracunculus* species infecting North American river otters and everything in between.. Dr. Kaitlin Gallagher, 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 90 people registered for the meeting that included 47 oral presentations and 16 posters of which 81% 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 John Brule, Auburn Univ, Auburn AL for his presentation entitled (*Monogenoidea: Axinidae Monticelli, 1903*): *new observations of type specimens, description of a putative innominate species, and (finally) a tree that includes an axinid sequence*“. Catherine Smith, Univ of Georgia, Athens received the Enrique “Rick” Ciordia-Bonner Stewart-Dale Porter Award for her presentation entitled “*Exploring phylogenetic relationships between Ostertagia nematodes*“. 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. Molly Kennedy, Florida Southern College, Lakeland was recognized with the *Poster Award* for “*You Are What You Eat: Using molecular tools to study tapeworm life cycles in Young-of-the-year Bull Sharks, Carcharhinus leucas*“.

The President’s Annual Keynote Talk featured the presentation by Dr. Holly Gaff, Old Dominion Univ, Norfolk VA “The challenging and complex ecology of ticks in Southeastern Virginia”.

At the business meeting, 23 new and student members were recognized. The *In Memoria* Committee was pleased to report that they were unaware of any SSP members who had passed in the previous year. Sponsorship for the annual meeting was provided by the Virginia Military Institute and Hollins University. Officers of the society for 2024-25 are: President – Dr. Elizabeth “Liz” Gleim, Hollins Univ; President-elect and Program Officer – Stephen “Ash” Bullard, Auburn Univ; Vice President and Student Awards - Dr. Kaitlin Gallagher, Florida Southern Univ, and Secretary-Treasurer – Dr. Charles Faulkner, College of Veterinary Medicine, Lincoln Memorial Univ., and Ms. Kamila Cajiao-Mora, Auburn Univ., Student Representative.

The annual meeting for 2025 will be held in April at the [E.W. Shell Fisheries Center, Auburn University, Auburn AL](https://www.auburn.edu/ewshellfisheriescenter/). Persons interested in submitting abstracts or obtaining other information about the meeting should contact Charles Faulkner, charles.faulkner@lmunet.edu.



John Brule, 2024 Byrd-Dunn Award Recipient w/ Kaitlin Gallagher SSP VP, and Liz Gleim SSP-Pres (right).



Molly Kennedy, 2024 Student Poster Award Recipient w/ Kaitlin Gallagher SSP VP, and Liz Gleim SSP-Pres (right).



SSP membership present at the 2024 Annual Business Meeting, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia. April 20, 2024.

