

**Texas A&M University Department of Entomology**  
**2011 Fourteenth Annual Graduate Student Forum**  
**Thursday, August 25, 2011**  
**Minnie Belle Heep Center, Rm. 103**



- 9:00 Welcome, Dr. Raul Medina, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology, TAMU
- 9:10 Opening Remarks, Dr. David Ragsdale, Professor & Head, Department of Entomology, TAMU
- 9:20 Keynote Speaker, Dr. Mariana Mateos, Assistant Professor, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, TAMU
- 10:20 Coffee Break, 1st Floor Atrium
- 10:30 Alison Bockoven "Influence of genetic variation on colony-level foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*)"
- 10:45 Edwin Bellota - Feeding and oviposition performances of corn leafhopper (*Dalbulus maidis*) along maize's domestication and selection gradients
- 11:00 Kevin Deitz - "Genetic Isolation between Populations of the West-African Malaria Vector *Anopheles melas*"
- 11:15 Justin Fiene - "Leaf orientation and biomechanical properties do not explain Western Flower Thrips preference for feeding on the undersides of leaves"
- 11:30 Loriann Garcia - "Herbivores as plant mutualists: A budding potential for herbivores to increase plant fitness"
- 11:45 Lunch (On your own)
- 1:00 Joseph Hancock - "Aquaporin Identification and Analysis in the Asian Citrus Psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*)"
- 1:15 Johnny Johnson - "Identifying native ants for use in field studies on fire ants"
- 1:30 Michael Johanson - "Identification of CTCF binding sites in *Anopheles gambiae*"
- 1:45 Melissa K. Layton - "Trophobiotic relationship between *Solenopsis invicta* and Rhodesgrass mealybug: Implications for fire ant management in grassland habitats"
- 2:00 *Coffee Break*, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Atrium
- 2:15 Hyeogsun Kwon - "Silencing the calcitonin receptor-like receptor 1 (AegGPRCAL1) directly affects urination of female mosquitoes *Aedes aegypti* (Diptera: Culicidae)"
- 2:30 Marion Le Gall - "Nutrient-allelochemical interactions: metabolic effects on a generalist insect herbivore"
- 2:45 Collin McMichael - "Plant, ants and herbivores: untangling the complexities of ant attraction in non-myrmecophilous plants"
- 3:00 Warren Sconiers - "The effects of pulsed plant stress on herbivore abundance and plant defense"
- 3:15 Lauren Ashley Ward - "*Bellopius* (Braconidae) parasitoids of fruit-infesting Tephritidae (Diptera)"
- 3:30 Coffee and Cookies Reception
- 4:00 Award Ceremony
- 4:30 Adjourn