



**Entomological Foundation
9332 Annapolis Road, Suite 210; Lanham, MD 20706**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: April Gower, (301) 459-9083 or April@entfdn.org

**The Entomological Foundation Announces the winner of the
Entomological Society of America's President's Prize in Outstanding Achievement in
Secondary Education**

Lanham, MD, October 5, 2009 – The Entomological Foundation announces Ms. Emily Torlak of Palm Bay, Florida as the winner of the Entomological Society of America's President's Prize in Outstanding Achievement in Secondary Education.

The President's Prize in Outstanding Achievement in Secondary Education award recognizes educators who have gone beyond the traditional teaching methods by using insects as educational tools to teach science education. The recipient receives a donation made payable to the winner's school to purchase teaching materials to expand the use of insects as teaching tools; and a check paid to the winner for expenses associated with travel to present a paper or poster on the use of insects in educational programs at a peer professional venue of their choosing; and gratis registration, reimbursed airfare, complimentary hotel accommodations, and a per diem allowance to attend the Entomological Society of America's annual meeting in December 2009.

Emily Torlak is a biology teacher at Eau Gallie High School in Melbourne, Florida. While discussing insects during a unit on invertebrates, she found that she and the students had very little knowledge of insects. When the students began asking questions, she started offering extra credit to the student asking the question if they could find the answer to their question before she could. The more research that was done, the more fascinated she and the students became of insects. This interest led Emily to earn a Master of Science degree from the University of Florida in Entomology while teaching full time. One of her lesson plans, Repellency Lab, is geared to grades 9-12. In this lab, the students become familiar with the difference between repellents and insecticides. The students become more familiar with lab report writing and understanding the importance of including a control in an experiment. In another lesson plan, Insect Trap, in an inquiry activity to design and test a successful insect monitoring trap. The traps are designed to lure or entrap insects using lights, pheromones, sticky materials and by trap placement. Emily hopes to start an entomology class for high school aged students or an insect club in the near future.

The Entomological Society of America (ESA) serves the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and people in related disciplines. Founded in 1889, ESA today has more than 5,700 members affiliated with educational institutions, health agencies, private industry, and government agencies. ESA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit professional society located in Lanham, MD, whose vision is to be recognized by peer associations, the scientific community, and the public as the best forum for scientific exchange of entomological knowledge, leading to a record of positive influence within public and private institutions where this information is essential.

The Entomological Foundation is a not-for-profit educational organization that uses private and public resources to excite young people about science through insects to build a future for entomology.

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