

## ESA Certification Corporation Names Winners of 2016 Certification Awards

Annapolis, MD; June 28, 2016 -- The Entomological Society of America Certification Corporation (ESACC) is proud to name the winners of the 2016 Certification Awards. These include one professional award, and one student award. The winners will be recognized at the 2016 International Congress of Entomology in Orlando, Florida, which will be held September 25-30, 2016.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO THE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM** - This award encourages, recognizes, and rewards outstanding contributions to the ESA Certification Program and the professionalism of entomology. **Harold Harlan** was the fifth son of a poor tenant farmer in Ohio. Supported by scholarships, loans, and part-time jobs, he earned a B.S. and an M.S. in entomology, and married his high school sweetheart before entering the U.S. Army in 1969. He earned a Ph.D. in 1984 from Ohio State, studying Rocky Mountain spotted fever. He served 25 years as an active-duty Army medical entomologist, including tours to Vietnam and Desert Storm. An ESA member since 1967, he has been Board Certified in medical and veterinary entomology since 1973, and in urban entomology since 1999. Harold has authored or co-authored 39 scientific articles and book chapters on disease vectors, ectoparasites, and biology and control of ticks, mosquitoes, and bed bugs. He was senior entomologist for the National Pest Management Association for nine years and for the Armed Forces Pest Management Board for eight years. He has been honored with a number of military and civilian awards, observed and collected wild vampire bats and Onychophorans, joined MENSA, had two arthropod species named in his honor, and raised a lot of bed bugs. Over the past 48 years, he has provided a considerable amount of technical material and information to many other applied and academic entomologists. He concurrently actively supported ESA, BCE, other scientific organizations, charities, service organizations, and the Boy Scouts by donating his own materials, funds, and time.

**STUDENT CERTIFICATION AWARD** - Sponsored by PestWest Environmental Science, this award recognizes and encourages outstanding entomology graduate students with interest in the mission of the ESA certification program, and to promote the understanding and importance of the program. **Dr. David Wangila** recently received his doctorate in entomology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, working on resistance management of western corn rootworm (*Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* LeConte), to transgenic *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn in Nebraska, advised by Dr. Lance Meinke. As part of his dissertation research, Dr. Wangila documented field-evolved resistance in some populations of western corn rootworm to several Cry-proteins. He completed his M.S. degree at Louisiana State University where he worked in Dr. Fangneng Huang's lab on the impact of transgenic corn traits on the sugarcane borer, *Diatraea saccharalis* (F.).

Dr. Wangila's work has been transferred to various clientele through research and extension outlets contributing to the knowledge base needed to effectively mitigate resistance. He published two refereed journal articles from his M.S. research and was co-author on three other journal articles. To date, he has one refereed journal article published and one in press from his dissertation. In 2012, his M.S. research was featured by ISAAA in the weekly summary of world developments in agri-biotech for developing countries. In 2013 his dissertation research was featured on National Public Radio, highlighting resistance-monitoring studies of western corn rootworm to Bt corn in Nebraska.

Since 2014, Dr. Wangila has been a Board Certified Entomologist specializing in plant-related entomology. His certification has bolstered his professional experience and increased opportunities in

entomology. Dr. Wangila has maintained active student membership in ESA since 2010, participating in ESA meetings as a presenter and a volunteer in a number of capacities.

The Entomological Society of America is the largest organization in the world serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and people in related disciplines. Founded in 1889, ESA today has nearly 7,000 members. ESA operates two certification programs: The BCE program, which supports the work of professional and degreed entomologists, and the ACE program, which is targeted toward those whose entomological learning has been more hands-on. The BCE program, which had formerly been known as the American Registry of Professional Entomologists, was acquired by ESA in the 1970's and currently has over 430 certified individuals. The ACE program was started in 2004 and has grown dramatically since that time with over 780 individuals currently certified. An international version of the ACE program will launch later this year.

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