



MSA STUDENT AND POSTDOC SECTION

Mycological Society of America



Geastrum spp., Photo Diana Vargas-Hernandez

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General Announcements

Are you a Postdoc in MSA?

Let's connect!
Tell us about
yourself

Complete the survey.



MSA Student Spotlight Nominations

We are accepting nominations for our

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Get featured in our monthly
newsletter - it is free and open
to everyone!



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"HONORING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS
OF WOMEN IN
SCIENCE"



WOMEN HISTORY MONTH PANEL



Cristy Portales-Reyes
Assistant Professor at
Saint Louis University



Friday, March 29th
10 AM (PST)/ 1 PM (EST)
Register to get zoom link

Melinda Guzman
Lab director at Agromillora
Quality Assurance Lab

**SCAN
ME**





2024 DIGITAL ART CONTEST

Your design could be this year's 2024
MSA SPS design!

You can participate in any of these categories:

- MSA-SPS – Expanding networks
- MSA-SPS – 10th anniversary*
 - MSA-SPS & DEI: Importance of students and diversity to mycological society

Prizes:

1. \$50 award or your design on a product of your choice
2. Winner Bio will be published in a 2024 Inoculum issue
3. *Special prize* for the category of MSA-SPS 10th anniversary design

Submission open from January 15th to March 31st, 2024



More information



Submit your artwork

For questions email: Lluvia Vargas * vargasgl@oregonstate.edu*

*myc
society*

Fungal photo Contest

Theme: Expanding
networks

**Contest
deadline**

March 31, 2024

**Winners
announced**

April 30, 2024

Prize

\$50 or the equivalent value on
MSA merchandise of their
choice



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Spotlight: Pedro Santos



Where did you grow up?

Rio de Janeiro Brazil

Where are you currently doing research?

Louisiana State University

Who are you working with?

Vinson Doyle, Jonathan Richards and Sara Thomas-Sharma



*"In my research project, my focus is on delving into the complexities of *Cercospora cf. flagellaris*, a pivotal player in *Cercospora* leaf blight (CLB) disease in soybeans. With a host range which extends from agriculture to non-agricultural plants, *C. cf. flagellaris* challenges conventional notions of host specificity. My investigation comprises two primary objectives: firstly, conducting a comprehensive analysis of the pathogen's dispersal dynamics and population structure. This involves strategic sampling across soybean-producing states and utilizing whole-genome sequencing to unravel genetic diversity and adaptation strategies. Secondly, I aim to explore the genomic signatures of adaptation within *C. cf. flagellaris*. This includes creating annotated reference genomes from diverse host species to identify candidate genes associated with virulence and pathogenicity. Through this research, I aim to deepen our understanding of the pathogen's responses, contributing crucial insights for effective disease management in soybean production"*

Pedro Santos (cont.)

What are your career goals after you're done with your current position?

My career goal is to establish myself as a Professor/Researcher, aspiring not only to make significant scientific contributions but also to play a pivotal role in cultivating the next generation of scientists. I am driven by the passion to foster a learning environment where budding researchers not only ask insightful questions but also gain the expertise to navigate the intricate process of developing those questions into impactful research projects. My vision extends beyond personal accomplishments to encompass the mentorship and guidance of emerging talents, equipping them with the skills and mindset essential for advancing scientific knowledge and making meaningful contributions to their respective fields.

What is something inspiring or useful that you learned from your experiences in mycology?

From my journey in mycology, I've gleaned not only knowledge about fungi but also a profound appreciation for the interconnectedness of scientific disciplines. My initiation into mycology marked my foray into the realm of science, serving as a gateway to diverse fields such as bioinformatics and plant breeding. What captivates me is the versatility of fungi, their ability to heal, decompose, cause damage and diseases. Mycology has instilled in me a keen sense of observation, emphasizing the importance of scrutinizing details with precision. This skill, akin to looking through an accurate lens, has proven invaluable in shaping my approach as a scientist, enabling me to delve deeper into various scientific domains with a discerning eye.



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**IT'S TIME TO ELECT THE
NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD
FOR THE 2024-2025 MSA -
STUDENT & POSTDOC
SECTION!**



**Nominate yourself or
someone else by May 1st,
2024, 11:59 PM PST**

**Questions? Reach out to
students.msa@gmail.com**

Resources

Mycological Society of America

[MSA membership portal and renewal](#)

[MSA awards](#)

Student and Postdoc Section

[Mycology colloquium signup form](#)

[Student spotlight signup form](#)

[Mycology group spotlight signup form](#)

[Musings and Mycologists \(MnMs\) nomination form](#)

[Photos of the month submission form](#)

[MSA SPS swag](#)

[Check out our new merch here!](#)



MSA SPS Social Media



MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

