



MSA STUDENT AND POSTDOC SECTION

Mycological Society of America



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General Announcements

Student and Postdoc Section Executive Board Election Ballot 2022-2023

It is the time of the year where we select the new MSA Student and Postdoc Section.

Learn more about the nominees and the positions they are applying for, [HERE](#)

Voting closes: July 2nd, 2023

CAST YOUR VOTE

MSA Student Spotlight

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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General Announcements

Intro to Spalted Wood (ONLINE), Dr. Seri Robinson

Driftless Folk School ~ August 20, 2023 1pm - 3pm

SPS & Friends Discount: enter code **MSASTU5** for \$5 off registration

The technique of using pigments of wood decaying fungi (spalting fungi) has a long history in woodcraft. Spalted wood use has been traced back as far as the 1400s, but is also prevalent in modern woodwork and is experiencing a surge in renewed popularity. The pigments themselves have potential as thin films for photovoltaic cells, textile dyes, and much more. Join Dr. Spalting on a journey tracing spalted wood through cultures, time, art, and science, and learn how you too can work with this dynamic art form. [Register here.](#)

| TICKETS | |
|------------------|----------------|
| | COST |
| Supported | \$15.00 |
| Sustainer | \$25.00 |
| Supporter | \$35.00 |



03



MSA 2023 Annual Meeting

FLAGSTAFF, AZ

MSA JULY 2023



ELEVATING MYCOLOGY

We are looking forward to connecting with you at the 2023 MSA annual meeting Elevating Mycology in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Registration for the conference is now open! Register online by 5/31 to get a discounted registration.

STUDENT & POSTDOC SECTION EXCLUSIVE

Get a **FREE** meeting t-shirt!

Register as "Early In-Person MSA Student Member w/ T-shirt" and enter the code **23MTGSHIRT**



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Student Spotlight

Tyler Hacking

Where did you grow up?

Utah

Current research location

University of Utah

Current adviser

Dr. Eddy Cadet

Current project description

Bioaccumulation of trace metals in the fungal genus *Morchella*.

The purpose of this research is to contrast trace metal composition of morel mushrooms to the trace metal composition of the surrounding soil substrate in the canyonlands of Utah where soil geochemical composition can vary based on altitude and geophysical location. We hypothesize that by analyzing the trace metal composition of morel mushrooms and their surrounding soil substrate we can determine if morel mushrooms absorb and concentrate trace metals from their habitat. This is important because these data will determine if there is a health risk for humans and animals who consume morel mushrooms from different locations.



Awards you'd like to brag about

So many! I guess URSCA grant
Primary Investigator: Water Variable
Effects on Plant Biomass.

What is your favorite fungus?

Morchella, because they are both
delicious and mysterious.

What is your favorite fungus fact?

I admire their capacity for adaptation
and biosynthesis.



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Student Spotlight

Tyler Hacking

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

I am currently applying to PhD mycology programs at universities in the United states.

Any great stories from field work (funny/interesting/something that stuck out to you)?

I could not find morels for years, then a professor of mine gave me a tip and since then I have found thousands and shared that experience with over 100 people by hosting morel mushroom hunt events.

What do you like to do in your free time? What are your hobbies?

I create educational content focused on fungi. Mentor college students in how to use fungi in composting. Host events for organizations like the mushroom society of Utah, the boy scouts of America and teach classes for the UVU community education department. On weekends, I bring professors, students and citizen scientists to the mountains for mycological research.

Who is your mycology role model?

Alan Rockafellar

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

I was working on my botany degree when I started to realize how fundamentally critical fungi are to vascular plants. The more I learned the more fascinated I became. Now fungi are my favorite taxa, I focus now on how plants, fungi and their environmental chemistry interact.

Anything else you'd like to talk about?

I am a scientist, a chef and a photographer. I enjoy documenting my scientific research and culinary creations. To me botany, mycology and environmental chemistry are the same topic. These sciences can be combined to improve the quality of life on earth by transforming soil quality in agricultural and natural habitats.



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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

