



MSA STUDENT AND POSTDOC SECTION

Mycological Society of America



Panaeolus foenisecii, Photo: Thomas Roehl

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General Announcements

MSA 2024 Abstracts Due 3/15

MSA 2024 Conference

Abstracts Due Mar. 15, 2024

Submit your
abstract today!



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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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*

Amity
Stetson

Fungal photo Contest

Theme: Expanding
networks

**Contest
deadline**

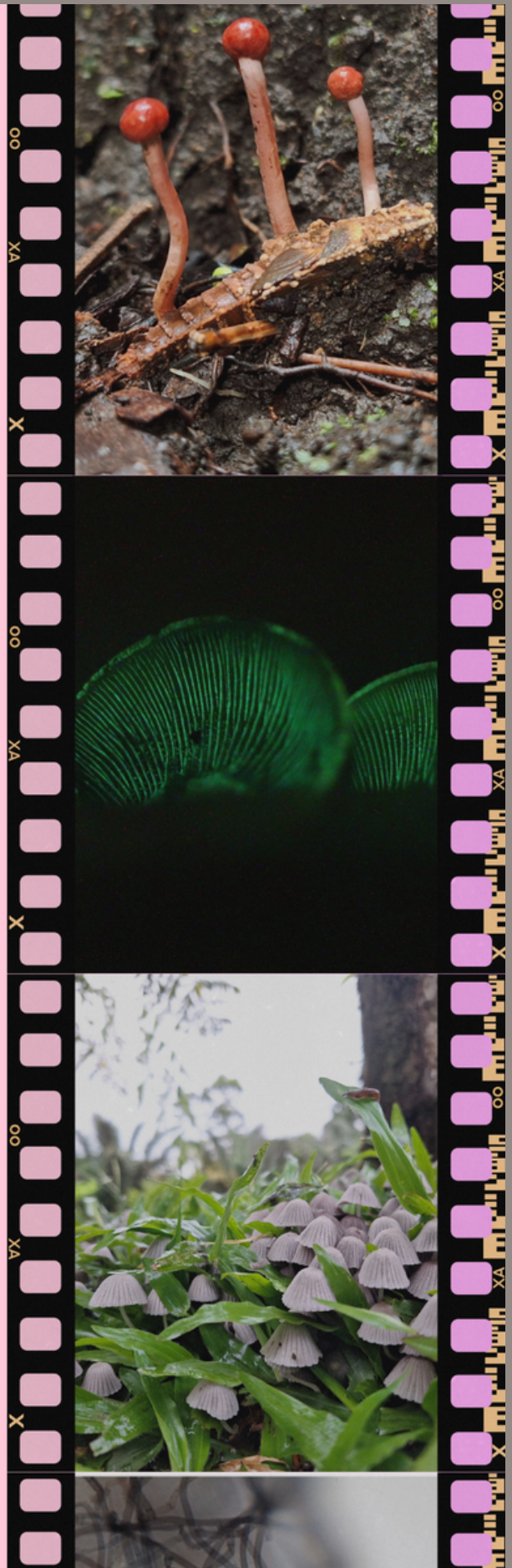
March 31, 2024

**Winners
announced**

April 30, 2024

Prize

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



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Are you a
Postdoc in MSA?

Let's connect!
Tell us about
yourself



Complete the
survey.



05



Spotlight: Denise Caldwell



Where did you grow up?

Monticello, Indiana

Where are you currently doing research?

Purdue University

Who is your advisor?

Dr. Anjali Iyer-Pascuzzi

Tell us about your project!

I have been working on uncovering how *Phyllachora maydis* colonizes maize leaf tissue.

Which awards would you like to brag about?

The one in which I am the proudest is the Purdue University College of Agriculture Mentoring Award.



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

I am waiting to see what avenues open up to me once that time gets closer.



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Denise Caldwell (cont.)

What is your favorite fungus and why?

Phyllachora maydis, undoubtedly! While my usual focus is on bacteria, the moment I observed the meticulous arrangement within what I initially perceived as a cluster of dead leaf tissue under the microscope, it left me utterly amazed. Complex reproductive structures unfolded within the lesion, an intriguing manifestation of *Phyllachora maydis*'s remarkable adaptability and biological ingenuity.

What is your favorite fact/thing about fungi?

In the remarkable adaptability of fungi lies a valuable lesson for us—a reminder that, just like these organisms, we too should embrace and learn from the art of adaptation.

Who is your mycology role model?

Dr. Catherine Aime

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

Despite my outward appearance of chaos, a hidden layer of highly organized structure lies beneath.

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

I like to spend time with my family.



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

