

## I. Personal Information

---

Graduate Research Assistant  
Rollins Urban & Structural Entomology Facility  
Department of Entomology  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX 77843

Email: alex93@tamu.edu  
Phone: 951-532-0000

## II. Education

---

### Doctor of Philosophy

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

May 2022

Major: Entomology

GPA: 4.0

Advisor: Dr. Ed Vargo

### Bachelor of Science

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

March 2016

Major: Environmental Science & Resource Management

Minor: Quantitative Science

GPA: 3.45

## III. Research Experience

---

### Graduate Research Assistant

August 2017 – Present

Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University

- Dr. Ed Vargo's laboratory
- Colony structure analyses of the odorous house ant *Tapinoma sessile* in contrasting environments.
- Next-generation sequencing to analyze population structure in various social insects (termites, ants).

### Undergraduate Research Assistant

August 2015 – March 2016

School of Environmental & Forest Science, University of Washington

- Dr. Patrick Tobin's laboratory
- Modeled and elucidated factors that enable invasive species to thrive in nonnative environments.

## IV. Publications

---

1. Eyer P.A., Blumenfeld A.J. & Vargo E.L. (*In press*). Sexually antagonistic selection maintains genetic diversity in an invasive ant. *PNAS*.
2. Eyer P.A., Espinoza E., Blumenfeld A.J., Vargo E.L. (*In review*). The underdog invader: breeding system and colony genetic structure of the dark rover ant (*Brachymyrmex patagonicus* Mayr). *Ecology and Evolution*.

## V. Presentations

---

Presenting speaker:

1. **Blumenfeld A.J.**, Eyer P.A. & Vargo E.L. **(2019, April)**. *Colony structure of the odorous house ant (*Tapinoma sessile*), a native urban invader*. 2019 ESA Southwestern Branch Meeting, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
2. **Blumenfeld A.J.** & Vargo E.L. **(2018, November)**. *Opportunities for termite invasions: Introductions of exotic termites to the USA based on port-of-entry data*. 2018 ESA, ESC, and ESBC Joint Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada.
3. **Blumenfeld A.J.** & Vargo E.L. **(2018, October)**. *Termite invasion patterns: Introductions of exotic termites to the US and Texas based on port-of-entry data*. 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Invasive Plant & Pest Conference, Austin, TX.
4. **Blumenfeld A.J.** & Tobin P. **(2016, March)**. *Drivers of impact: Modelling the drivers of invasion in North American non-native insects*. University of Washington School of Environmental & Forest Science Departmental Seminar, Seattle, WA.

Co-author of presented talk:

1. Eyer P.A., **Blumenfeld A.J.** & Vargo E.L. **(2019, July)**. *Sexually antagonistic selection maintains genetic diversity in an invasive ant*. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Texas Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics Conference, College Station, TX.

## VI. Awards/Grants/Scholarships

---

Texas A&M Department of Entomology, Dr. Roger E. Gold Endowed Graduate Scholarship **(2019) - \$2,000**  
Pi Chi Omega, Dr. Austin Frishman Scholarship **(2019) - \$2,000**  
Texas A&M OGAPS, Graduate Student Presentation Travel Grant **(2019) - \$500**  
OHP Inc. Grant-in-aid of research **(2018)** – Honorable mention (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)  
Texas Invasive Plant & Pest Conference, Student Presentation Award, 1<sup>st</sup> Place **(2018) – \$100**  
Texas Invasive Plant & Pest Council, Student Travel Grant **(2018) – \$375**  
Texas A&M College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Excellence Fellowship **(2017) – \$13,860**  
University of Washington, Scan | Design Foundation Fellowship **(2014) – \$10,000**

## VII. Workshops

---

Exploiting the Dynamism of R Software to Help Entomologists Adapt to a Changing World: Crossing the Border from R Admirer to R User **(November 2018)**

- Student volunteer – assisted troubleshooting problems for attendees of the workshop.

## VIII. Outreach

---

**Texas Science & Engineering Fair judge (March 2019)**

Texas A&M University

- Animal Science senior category judge (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades)

**Project Pipeline tutor (April 2014 – April 2015)**

University of Washington

- Travelled to elementary and high schools within Seattle to tutor English, science and math.

**Dream Project mentor (March 2013 – March 2014)**

University of Washington

- Travelled to a high school in Seattle to assist students on the college application process, focusing specifically on underrepresented students.

**VIX. Professional Affiliations**

---

Entomological Society of America

International Union for the Study of Social Insects, North American Section