

Featured Speakers



Dr. Zac Lamas

Zac is a postdoctoral researcher under Jay Evans at the Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, MD. He focuses on how Varroa feeding behavior drives viral transmission in a honeybee colony. His current work uncovered how varroa are actively feeding and switching from one adult bee to another, and that relatively few mites are responsible for a majority of parasitized bees. During his PhD he was the recipient of the Pam-Costco award where he studied the vectorial capacity of Varroa destructor. He actively speaks at bee clubs and professional conferences, largely sharing information on beekeeping management. Zac previously worked for Michael Palmer at French Hill Apiaries in Saint Albans, Vermont. On the side Zac is the owner and operator of RockStar Queens. He produces quality nucleus colonies and queens in central Maryland.

Dr. Juliana Rangel-Posada

Born in Colombia, South America, Juliana Rangel, Ph. D. is Associate Professor of Apiculture in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University (TAMU) in College Station, TX. Her research program focuses on the biological and environmental factors that affect the reproductive quality of honey bee queens and drones, the behavioral ecology and population genetics of unmanaged honey bees, and the quality and diversity of honey bee nutrition in a changing landscape. She has garnered over \$1.9 million in extramural funding for her research program. She is an active member of the Texas Beekeepers Association and has spoken to dozens of beekeeping associations across the USA and internationally.



Dr. Tonya F. Shepherd

Dr. Tonya F. Shepherd received her B.S. from the University of Evansville (2009) in biochemistry and received her Ph.D. in Medical Science from Texas A&M University (2016), College of Medicine, Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology department. In 2017, she joined Dr. Juliana Rangel's Honey Bee Lab in the Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University, as a Senior Research Associate. Her duties include managing the molecular lab, providing training, and helping students on their research projects. Tonya is also an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Entomology where she teaches Honey Bee Biology (Ento 320) online and in person. Additionally, Tonya is a part-time lecturer at Blinn College where she teaches Biology and Microbiology.

