

## Candidate Statements

### Running for Student Council Member (6 candidates for 1 position)

#### **Sangwook (Micky) Ahn**

I am a PhD candidate studying parasite ecology at the University of Calgary, receiving numerous scholarships to support my research with experience working on peer-reviewed manuscripts across a variety of disciplines. Along with my academic experiences, I am actively involved in contributing to my communities. These activities include launching a campus-wide Styrofoam recycling program and developing a native pollinator citizen science initiative (through leading various sustainability-focused working groups), planning academic meetings and public outreach events (as a member of the Entomological Society of Alberta, Host-Parasite Interactions Research Network, the Global Parasitologist Coalition, and University of Calgary Graduate College), and encouraging safer communities through organizing EDI-oriented workshops, book clubs, and experiential learning opportunities. I am privileged to have received awards in recognition of my leadership and community service. If provided the opportunity to join the CSEE Council as a graduate student member, I will channel my passions for sustainability, outreach, and inclusivity towards creating new initiatives and strengthening existing programs within the CSEE.



#### **Juliana Balluffi-Fry**

PhD Student, University of Alberta. From Quebec to Newfoundland, Alberta to the Yukon, I have been lucky to study ecology in various regions of Canada. At my core, I am driven by basic ecological research. CSEE has been my professional community since my MSc, and its meetings and members have shaped my desire to be and to advocate for inter-disciplinarity in ecology and evolution. With this sentiment in mind, I am currently studying snowshoe hare nutritional ecology, and I am deeply passionate for how ecology and evolution inform fields like agricultural or human health sciences. Many ecology students graduate with widely applicable skillsets and knowledge, so I ask: how can we support students who want to influence other fields, and vice versa, how can we attract scientists from related fields to CSEE? I would like to formally give back and work with the society to create more discussion and action around interdisciplinary ecological research, training, and recruitment.



### **Raven Barbera**

As a Master's student at Simon Fraser University, I am currently researching the physiology and survival rates of local populations of European starlings. Being named after a bird, perhaps it's of little surprise that I now study them! Seeing how my goals align with the missions of CSEE, I would love the opportunity to serve as the Graduate Student Councillor for this community.

During my undergrad, I held the position of Design Coordinator for The Wildlife Society's University of California, Davis Student Chapter. This position gave me experience collaborating with a team, supporting students, and planning community events. I even helped host the club's first-ever annual Wildlife Professional Development Conference, bringing in over 100 attendees.

I am confident that I would be a great candidate to join the CSEE team given my experience in ecology and my passion for accessible science. If elected, I would aim to help current and recent students be better prepared for their plans after graduation, whether that be further schooling or beginning their fledgling careers.



### **Rachel Derbyshire**

My name is Rachael Derbyshire (PhD Candidate, Trent University), and I am interested in running for the position of Graduate Student Councillor on your CSEE council. My current PhD position comes on the heels of three post-secondary degrees/diplomas in wildlife ecology (BSc in Wildlife Biology, University of Guelph; MSc in Ecology, University of Guelph; Post-Graduate Diploma in Endangered Species Recovery, University of Kent). When completing the latter, I travelled to the island nation of Mauritius for 7 months to work directly with conservation professionals around the world. I believe that I would bring a diversity of experience to the table at CSEE through the skills I have developed both internationally and at home in Canada.

I have been a member of CSEE periodically since 2013, and I have been continually impressed with the Society. Not only has CSEE helped me to grow academically, but the clear importance placed on diversity and inclusion, personal growth, and excellent mentorship has helped to shape me into the scientist I am today. Now, I wish to give back to the society through service to the council and would be honoured to serve such a role.



### **Victoria Marie Glynn**

I am a third-year PhD candidate in Biology at McGill University. I am a passionate advocate of STEM outreach and mentorship, as I would not be where I am today without mentors who believed in me and showed me that I belonged in STEM. As an Environmental Sciences undergraduate, I pursued a Science and Math Education minor to hone my science communication skills. I taught over 300 hours of K-12 science to underrepresented youth, empowering them to critically assess our environmental impact and inspiring them to explore careers in STEM. As a graduate student, I have continued this work as a Science Education Fellow in the Office of Science Education, the Redpath Museum's Graduate Public Programming Representative, and one of the leads for STEMM Diversity at McGill's Mentorship Program. My research is uncovering how climate change is endangering coral reefs, and communicating this is key to raising awareness and demystifying what is science and inspiring the next generation. I would warmly welcome the opportunity to work with CSEE to partake in programs that aim to dismantle systemic barriers in STEM and more equitably explore science communication.



### **Animesh Ghose**

I am a Ph.D. student at McGill conducting research focused on the impact of human activities on the biodiversity-ecosystem Function (BEF) across different spatial and temporal scales. I also work with an independent research group devoted to understanding the carnivore and reptile ecology in Bangladesh. I began my journey with a passion for the herpetofauna conservation in Bangladesh which extended into mammalian ecology before I moved to Canada for my second masters program. Since this time, I realized I should expand my domain to contribute on the biodiversity conservation at global scale. I now work with Professor Andrew Gonzalez (McGill University) and Professor Elise Filotas (TELUQ) to address some exciting research problems of Landscape ecology.



As CSEE is the largest platform for ecologists in Canada, contributing as a member of council would help me to connect with ecologists across provinces. Also, getting involved with the student community will help to exchange experiences and knowledge that will broaden our understanding of ecological problems at global and local scales. My interested in serving as a graduate student councillor was triggered during the last annual meeting. I envisioned the potential of a student network to make it as a 'solution' hub for our 'problematic' world!

## Running for Regular Council Member (6 candidates for 2 positions)

### Adam Algar

I joined Lakehead as an Associate Professor in 2021, having spent 10 years at the University of Nottingham (UK), after a post-doc at Harvard and PhD at U Ottawa. As a kid, chasing after birds, I never imagined that my fascination with the natural world could be turned into a career that would allow me to work and live in three countries and do fieldwork on three continents. Along the way, I've learned the importance of scientific thinking for understanding the world, the power of statistical models for testing ecological theory, and that field ecology and natural history are crucial to ensure that our models remain connected with reality. However, the most important thing I've learned is that being friendly, respectful, open, and fair is far more important than impact factors. I have always found the most rewarding part of my job is mentoring early career scientists and this will be a priority for me as a CSEE councillor.



### Emily Austen

Hello! My name is Emily Austen, and I'm a plant evolutionary ecologist and Assistant Professor at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. My research interests include plant-pollinator interactions, phenology, and natural selection. In addition to my research, I am passionate about undergraduate teaching and mentorship. It is undeniably exciting to help people embark on what might become a life-long pursuit of science! And working with undergraduates provides an opportunity (and responsibility) to foster an appreciation for basic science, a value for biodiversity, and an understanding of important concepts including the social construction of human races, and the distinction between biological sex and gender.



I'm running for CSEE Regular Councillor because I want to give back to the Society that first made me feel at "home" in science. If given the opportunity to serve on council, I would be particularly interested in leading undergraduate- and teaching-focused initiatives. These could include developing programs to bring more undergraduate researchers into CSEE; bridging connections between CSEE's government, NGO, and industry members and undergraduate researchers; and proposing a new undergraduate- and teaching-focused CSEE Section as a hub for members to share resources and learn from one another's experiences.

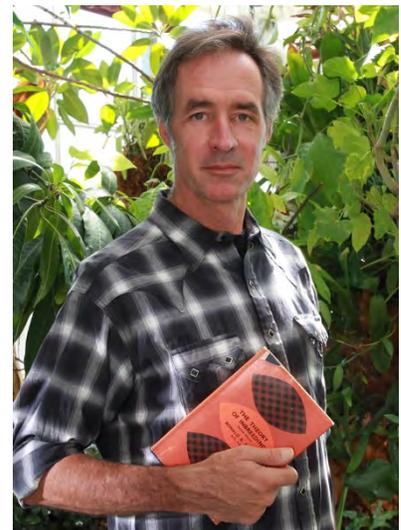
### **Anne Bruneau**

I am a plant systematist whose research focuses on the large, economically and ecologically important Leguminosae (or Fabaceae). In my lab we reconstruct phylogenies and use them as a framework for understanding morphological, biographical and ecological evolution, and for developing stable classification systems. Ultimately we aim to better understand plant biodiversity in space and time. I am responsible for the [Canadensys](#) network, which publishes specimen data from natural history collections in Canada, as well as biodiversity observations, and contributes the information to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). As a CSEE council member I am interested in promoting exchange to better understand, monitor and preserve biodiversity, to address issues about access to existing biodiversity data and infrastructures, to encourage the development of new approaches for assessing biodiversity and for sharing of information, and to foster collaboration between the CSEE and other scientific societies in Canada.



### **Chris Eckert**

Raised in the biodiversity hotspot of downtown Toronto, I became fascinated with evolutionary ecology during my undergrad at Western University. Work as an itinerate field biologist, an MSc in behavioural ecology, a stint as an environmental educator, and a PhD in evolutionary botany took me to Queen's U where I've been since the mid 1990s. My students and I investigate adaptation, with a particular focus on the ecology and evolution of reproductive systems and species' range limits. Our research is based on fieldwork that combines manipulative field experiments with genetic analysis. The CSEE has done a great job of promoting a sense of community among researchers across Canada. The annual meetings provide an enjoyable and inclusive forum for reporting and discussing scientific progress. I was a CSEE councillor and edited the CSEE newsletter from 2016-2019. I would like to return to the council to work on ensuring effective liaison between the CSEE and NSERC, productive partnerships with the Canadian Institute for Ecology & Evolution (CIEE), and the continued role of the CSEE in enhancing equity, diversity and the success of researchers in the early stages of their careers.



### **Adam Ford**

Adam Ford is an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Wildlife Restoration Ecology at UBC-Okanagan in Kelowna, BC, Canada. Adam is a member of two IUCN Species Survival Groups (“Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group” and “Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group”), the British Columbia Minister’s Wildlife Advisory Council, a co-Director at Biodiversity Pathways, faculty advisor for 2 student conservation clubs, and is an Associate Editor at *Ecological Applications*, *Ecological Monographs*, *Restoration Ecology*, and *Conservation Science and Practice*.



Adam’s research group, the Wildlife Restoration

Ecology [WiRE] Lab, works to restore important relationships in nature’s food webs, including those between people and wildlife. This work tends to center on large terrestrial mammals, including studies on food web ecology, landscape connectivity, and applied questions on road ecology, diseases, conflicts, and harvest in changing environments. Adam and other members of the WiRE Lab are ardent supporters of Indigenous-led conservation efforts.

With the UN Decade on Ecological Restoration underway, and calls to accelerate reconciliation in Canadian scientific practice, one of Adam’s intended roles as a Regular Councillor will be to help support CSEE engage with policy makers and community leaders to build confidence in the ecological sciences and the use of evidence in decision making.

### **Judith Mogouong**

Postdoctoral associate, Cornell University (NY, USA). Through my education and work in sciences, I have come to describe myself as a microbial ecologist willing to be significantly involved in environmental issues.

I hold a PhD in Biology from Institut National de Recherche Scientifique (Montreal, Quebec), a Master’s in “Food sciences and Management” and a Bachelor’s in Life science from Université La Rochelle (La Rochelle, France). I taught environmental sciences, biochemistry, biostatistics and quality assurance in high school for several years before becoming involved in scientific research. In my spare time, I volunteer as an active member for *Blue Dot movement* (movement promoting the right of each Canadian to a healthy environment), and as a Quality Manager and First Aid for *St John Ambulance Canada*.



Interest statement for CSEE:

I am a relatively new CSEE member (joined in February 2021), but I would be honoured to be nominated for the regular council position. That will give me the opportunity to help the Society in promoting the importance of Ecology and evolution in Canada, and in advancing the purposes of the CSEE.

## Running for Vice-President (4 candidates)

### Julia Baum

I am a Professor at UVic, where I have the privilege of leading a wonderful team of students and post-docs working on the ecological impacts of ocean climate change and natural climate change solutions (<https://juliakbaum.org>). I served on the Chief Scientist of Canada's first Independent Expert Panel, on the Global Young Academy's Executive Committee, and as a Delegate to COP26. Reflecting my commitment to the Canadian research community, I led a 2017 report on the importance of fundamental research funding, and currently serve as the UVic NSERC Leader, on the Banting PDF Selection Committee, and on the Discovery Grant External Advisory Committee. At UVic, I serve on two EDI committees and as a climate change advisor for the new strategic plan.



CSEE is well-respected, and an active network for our research community of which I am proud to be a part. My interest in serving as Vice-President stems from a desire to contribute to advancing efforts key areas: 1) EDI—increasing opportunities and addressing inequities for scholars from underrepresented groups; 2) science communication; 3) connections with NSERC; 4) climate change—the society is well-positioned to play a national leadership role by contributing expert knowledge to the public and policy makers.

### Marco Festa-Bianchet

I am a population, behavioral and conservation ecologist. Most of my research has been on large mammals. I was a member of the CSEE Council in 2006-2009, I am a life member. I have supervised or co-supervised 68 grad students and postdocs, can misspeak both official languages, sat in an NSERC Discovery grant selection committee, was chair of COSEWIC for 4 years. I believe the CSEE/SCÉÉ plays an important role in Canadian science and that ecologists and evolutionary biologists must make a fundamental contribution to society. I am interested in continuing the dialogue with NSERC and other science funders, promoting conservation, supporting science-based policies and furthering EDI in science. I also believe science is under threat and its value to society needs to be defended.



### **Gracielle Higino**

I am a researcher in Ecology and Evolution dedicated to building open movements within academia. I have been working with the Living Data Project since 2021 as a community manager, mentor, facilitator, and reviewer. I have training in open mentorship and leadership, and experience with project management, federated design, and science communication (training, production and execution). Among other roles, I am also a freelance open science mentor and consultant. I want to bring these experiences and practices to CSEE, especially focusing on community engagement (by bringing ECRs to the decision table), open science practices (especially working to implement the UNESCO recommendations within our community), and reshaping conferences and meetings into a more diverse, inclusive and impactful experience. I believe that the changes we want to see in academia are born within scientific societies and I hope that my role as vice-president can help us shape a better future.



### **Sam Yeaman**

I am an associate professor at the University of Calgary, where I study the evolution of local adaptation using theory and studies of genomic variation in natural populations. I am running for VP because I believe CSEE plays an important role in fostering our scientific community, and I am eager to contribute my part. A major issue facing science in Canada is funding: graduate stipends fall short of cost of living, presenting a barrier to access for many students, and overall funding is stagnating. Expanding our ongoing advocacy to improve funding would be one of my primary goals. As a grateful previous recipient of the CSEE Early Career Award, I feel that recognizing the achievements of our scientists is another important area of focus. Generally, I would make sure that the priorities of CSEE continue to reflect the goals of its members, and would be open to new ideas while maintaining the core operations that have worked so well.



## **Appointed as Treasurer (uncontested)**

### **Megan Frederickson**

I am a Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto, where I study plant-animal and host-microbe mutualisms. I grew up in the suburbs of Vancouver, but I have lived in Hong Kong, Minneapolis, Boston, California, and Peru, before settling in Toronto. I've been lucky to study ecology and biodiversity in all of those places (and more), which has given me a deep appreciation for the diversity of nature, science, and scientists on this beautiful planet. In addition to my primary research on mutualism and symbiosis, I have also written popular and scientific articles on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in science, and I actively contribute to ongoing EDI discussions and policy improvements at multiple levels. As CSEE Treasurer, I hope to provide good financial stewardship for the society that is my intellectual 'home' in Canada and that has done so much to support my students over the years. I will also work with the CSEE Executive to: 1) advocate for greater support (e.g., from NSERC) for grad students, postdocs, and early career scientists in Canada, 2) develop new initiatives related to open science and science communication, and 3) further improve EDI and accessibility at upcoming meetings and within other CSEE programs.

