

Promoting Entomophagy in American Universities

Marianne Shockley Robinette, Ph.D.

Department of Entomology

University of Georgia

Background and Perspective

- Born and raised in Madison, GA on a horse and cattle farm with four siblings, grew up eating bugs for fun
- B.A. Biology, Georgia College and State University, 1997
- M.S. Entomology, University of Georgia, 2001
Thesis – “Effects of algae on the efficacy of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) against larval black flies (*Simulium Vittatum*)”
- Ph.D. Entomology, University of Georgia, 2009
Dissertation – Developing, Implementing, Assessing and Evaluating Service-Learning in Entomology
Tuition Remission Program (Full time Staff & Part time Ph.D.)

Service-Learning

- **Experiential Education**
- **Community Partners**
- **Mutually Beneficial**
- **Reflective**
- **Sustainable**
- **Connected to the curriculum**

Service-Learning in Entomology

- **Developed two service-learning courses**
 - **Entomology Outreach and Service-Learning**
 - 30 hours of outreach in the community for 20 students each semester = 600 hours of insect outreach
 - **Insect and Bird Natural History in Costa Rica**
 - Service-learning projects while abroad (teaching entomology in Costa Rican school, donating insect collections, bring K-12 teachers each year (12 total) and recent high school graduates doing entomology internships or service-learning (4 total))

Entomophagy at UGA

- **As part of courses**
 - **Insects and the Environment (Lecture)**
 - **Entomology Outreach and Service-Learning (partner with the H.O. Lund Entomology Club)**
 - **Fall Insectival ~1500 people**
 - **Spring Insect Zoo ~ 700 people**
 - **Students prepare and bake insect cookies, pizza, brittle, etc. and serve to participants**

Entomophagy in the Curriculum in American Universities

- **Entomology Departments Surveyed**
 - **~50 Departments and units total**
 - **As part of courses (Lecture)**
 - **Insects and People, Insects: Friends and Foe, Insects and Society, Insects and Human Culture, Insects and Human Society, Insects: An Introduction to Entomology, Insects in the Environment, Bugs and People**
 - **As part of an outreach program or local museum**
 - **Cal Day, Insectival, Insect Zoo, Insectapalooza, Bug Bowl, Insectarium, etc.**

American Entomology Departments

- **50% have an entomophagy lecture in a course or annual outreach event**
 - **Auburn, UC Berkley, Florida, Georgia, Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign, Montana State University, Purdue, Iowa State, Kentucky, Louisiana State, Tennessee, Wisconsin-Madison, Texas A&M, and Cornell**

American Entomophagy Courses

- **Stand Alone Courses**
 - **UC Davis – Insects as Food**
 - **University of Connecticut – Insects, Food and Culture**
 - **University of Minnesota (Department of Anthropology) – Anthropology of Food**
 - **University of Montana – Health, Agriculture and Poverty**

Perceptions

- **Children**
- **University Students**
- **Community Members**

The Future of Entomophagy

- Cross-linked interdisciplinary entomophagy courses (entomology, anthropology, food sciences, nutrition)
- Professional development opportunities
- Incorporating service-learning (or field experience) into the curriculum of American universities
- Incorporate entomophagy into more department, professional society events as the “norm”