**Minutes from the 548th Meeting of the Connecticut**

 **Entomological Society**

 **February 15, 2019**

University of Connecticut Biophysics building room 130

Dinner was at Willington pizza house prior to the meeting

**Business meeting:** President Ray Simpson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:50pm

**Reports:**

Secretary minutes will be posted on the website.

The treasurer’s report was read by President Ray Simpson. Many members have not yet paid dues, but T-shirt sales have been a good additional source of income.

**Old Business**:

* Announcements from the society are being blocked by some email services, please add ctentsoc@gmail.org to your contact to avoid the spam filter.
* A new job has posted on the caterpillar lab website
* From February 16 - 18 the Peabody museum is hosting a ‘tropical vacation’ event

**New Business:**

* Next meeting is the student symposium. Interested students should contact Diler to be added to the program

**Announcements:**

* None

**Exhibits:**

* None

**Evening Presentation:**

Dr. Cera Fisher

Biologists are entranced with the diversity of the natural world--the "endless forms most beautiful" that set Darwin on his life's work. In light of evolution by natural selection, which can only operate on existing variation, where do all these diverse forms come from? Understanding morphological diversity requires understanding the origin of novelty. In our lab, we have been investigating the origins of novelty using enigmatic little bugs called treehoppers. What differentiates treehoppers from their closest relatives is their helmet: a 3-dimensional outgrowth of their dorsal body wall which has been molded by natural selection to aid in all manner of predator evasion. In our quest to understand how treehopper development has changed to give rise to this fascinating structure, we employ cutting edge sequencing technologies and comparative gene function analyses. Using these methods we have uncovered evidence that a change in gene expression allows the treehopper to re-use wing-patterning genes to build its novel helmet.

**Note: corrections and additions to the minutes are welcomed. Please email** **ctentsoc@gmail.com****.**