



**Bethany Ann Walker Willett**

Thesis Defense

College of Science and

Engineering Technology

Department of Biological Sciences

MS Biology

**The Seasonal Diptera Larval Species Richness  
During Decomposition and Comparisons to  
Current Successional Models**

Forensic entomology is the study of insects and related arthropods as applied to legal court cases. The first documented case using forensic entomology was reported in the 13th century in “The Washing Away of Wrongs” by Sung Tzu, a Chinese lawyer. It wasn’t until the 19th century during exhumations in France, that the important role maggots play in decomposition was discovered. This study examines the Diptera larval successional models in the Pineywoods Ecoregion during the Summer and Winter and compares these results to current adult successional models.

Event Information

March 29, 2023

1:30PM

LSB 103A/B

Committee Members

Dr. Sibyl Bucheli

Dr. Aaron Lynne

Dr. Jerry Cook



**Sam Houston State University**

**PUBLIC DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT**