

Preface

A book on black entomologists probably would have been a great source of inspiration for me 30 years ago. At the time, I had very limited knowledge of entomology as a profession. As an undergraduate student in the Department of Zoology at Howard University, I only knew one black entomologist, Dr. Margaret S. Collins, and only superficially at best. It was not until I began doctoral studies in the Department of Entomology at the University of California at Berkeley, where I met a few successful black entomologists (Mr. Marion Page and Dr. Carroll Williams), that I began to believe that a career in entomology was obtainable and worthwhile. In 1991, I began attending conferences of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), where I met other black scientists and graduate students, many of whom were firmly committed to the science of entomology. Seeing many of these same entomologists, and meeting others for the first time, has been a highlight of my participation in ESA conferences over the years. This book provides a glimpse into the lives of some of the entomologists that I have met over the years; many of them inspire me to “keep going.” I hope you will get to know some of them as you read their personal stories in these memoirs. I believe their memoirs will inspire you.

By Eric W. Riddick (Lead Editor)