

Welcome!

Spring 2021 Newsletter Series

Spring 2021 Meeting Dates

All meetings will occur on [Zoom](#) at **12:00pm** on the following dates:

- Friday, Apr. 30th

Upcoming Events:

- **Lunchtime Seminars:**
Mondays, 12:00 PM, Zoom
Apr. 5 – Emily Geest
- **Lunch with Speakers**
Fridays, 11:00 AM, Zoom
Open to all graduate students on weeks when we host a seminar speaker.
- **Departmental Seminars:**
Fridays, 3:30 PM, Zoom
Apr. 16 – Dr. Laura Stein



ZoGSS Newsletter

April 2021

We made it through March, everyone! Hopefully you all can find time to go outside and enjoy the spring weather. Don't forget that CEEC is April 9th and 10th – we hope to see you there!



The next ZoGSS meeting is **Friday, April 30th at 12:00 PM on Zoom**. Nominations for ZoGSS positions will occur virtually from **April 19th to the 23rd**.

ZoGSS Awards are open! Remember, you are not eligible for ZoGSS awards unless you have paid your dues!! Awards are due to David Berman (david.berman@okstate.edu) by midnight on Sunday, April 11th. More information is available in the email David sent out last week.

Feel free to submit poetry, art, or photos even if you are not submitting for an award!

Fundraising

Fundraising merchandise – 2 styles of caps are on sale for \$20.00 each! Contact Shauni (shauni.dna.windle@okstate.edu) for purchase.



Pint glasses are still available for \$8.00, mugs for \$12.00, and stickers for either \$1.50 or \$4.00!

Merchandise links will be up on the departmental website for purchase in the future.

Outreach

Into the Streets – Thanks to everyone who came out to help with the leaf-raking and window cleaning! The couple whose yard we spruced up was so appreciative of the help!



Ryan Koch, Angela Riley, Michael Ellison, Emily Geest, Jain PK, Dani Kirsch, Victoria Roper, Scott Goepfner, Jonathan Albers, & James Erdmann

Outreach GroupMe



Oklahoma State Science & Engineering Fair – A big thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to judge middle and high school science fair projects. It's encouraging to see so many kids excited about doing science!



Virtual BioBlitz! Oklahoma Activities

There is a virtual outreach opportunity doing the BioBlitz! Oklahoma. It is all free and you can choose what you would like to do throughout the month of April!

Here is a link with more information for those that are interested: <https://biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitzok/>

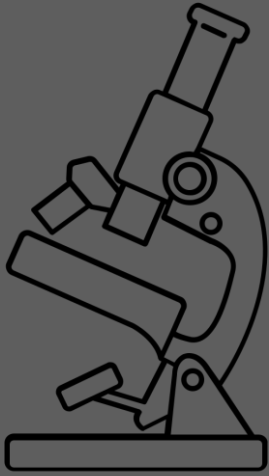
Upcoming Workshops

Remember that by attending workshops you are entered in a raffle to win one of three \$15 gift cards to local Stillwater businesses!

Writing in a Pandemic: April 3rd from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Safe Zone Training: April 19th from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM





Graduate Student Spotlight: Sierra Williams

*Sierra has been an anchor for the O'Colly since the beginning of this semester. In addition to her regular news anchor duties, she also started her own segment called **Covid Corner!***



Click on the following links to watch Covid Corner segments regarding [Misinfodemics & How We Get COVID-19 Variants](#), [A Comparison of COVID-19 Variants](#), & [COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Last semester, I took a virology class where we spoke at length about COVID-19, and I realized much of the information proliferating throughout social media and even among some mainstream media sources was either blatantly incorrect or portrayed in a way that was misleading. In addition to the pandemic, we also spoke about how effective vaccines can be used to eradicate viruses (look at smallpox) or virtually eradicate viruses (i.e. polio) but that the spread of misinformation in recent years has contributed to an increase in 'anti-vaxers' who subscribe to the false belief that vaccines contain harmful materials. Given how much weight was pressed on a vaccine to combat COVID-19 as opposed to slowing the spread through mask-wearing and social distancing, I was concerned that many individuals would not get the vaccine when it became available due to the spread of **misinfodemics** (misinformation about the pandemic) and the public mindset about vaccines and science policy. Thus, I set out to communicate scientific research related to COVID-19 and the vaccines in terms the general public could understand.

The goal of "Covid Corner" is exactly what I said in the first segment: "To prevent the further spread of misinfodemics by curtailing misconceptions, providing a basic understanding of the virus itself, [and] breaking down jargon-heavy COVID-19 research."





3rd ANNUAL

CENTRAL ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION CONFERENCE

"A conference for students, by students"


WHEN: April 9-10th

WHERE: Virtual via Zoom



COST: \$20 before March 8th

Meeting highlights

- For undergrads, grad students, and post-grads
- Present in a friendly environment
- 5 or 15 minute presentation option
- Plenary and keynote speakers
- Networking events and workshops
- Trivia and social hour
- Have your presentation critiqued by peers
- Hosted by Oklahoma State University 

FIND US!

 @CentralEcoEvo



 @CEEC2021



centralecoevoconference@gmail.com

Register and submit abstracts here:

<https://centralecoevo.wixsite.com/home/registration>

Central Ecology & Evolution Conference: April 9-10th

A research conference by students, for students, co-hosted by ZoGSS and the NREM Graduate Student Society! The conference website link is:

<https://centralecoevo.wixsite.com/home>

The abstract submission period has closed, but registration is still open at \$30





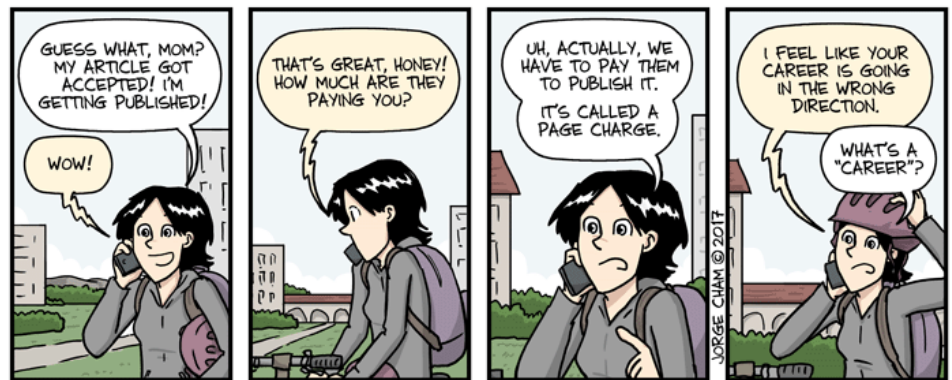
Toxicology Symposium: April 21st & 22nd

This research symposium is open to both graduate and undergraduate students and will be virtual.

Help us decorate the 1st floor lobby display case

Do you have aesthetically pleasing lab or field photos? Random old lab equipment that looks kinda cool? Biology-related artwork? We will be turning the first floor display case into an artsy “Reflections of Our Department.”

Reach out to Carrie (carrie.klase@okstate.edu) to donate items and artwork! Open to undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff.



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Recent Publications

Sarah Elzay – Elzay, S.D., Baum, K.A. 2021. Landscape characteristics predict body sizes in wild bees: implications for pollination services and foraging range. *Journal of Insect Conservation*.

Emily Geest – Geest, E.A., Baum, K.A. 2021. Environmental variables influencing five *Speyeria* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) species' potential distributions of suitable habitat in the Eastern United States. *Environmental Entomology*.

Dani Kirsch – Kirsch, D.R., S.M. Fix, J.R. Davenport, K.C. Cecala, and J.R. Ennen. 2021. Body size is related to temperature preference in *Hyla chrysoscelis* tadpoles. *Journal of Herpetology* 55(1): 21-25.





Departmental Award Winners

Please congratulate this year's winners of the departmental awards!

Wilhm Graduate Student Travel Award

Adriana Townsend, Rachel Hamrock, & Austin Leone

Wilhm Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for a Master's Student

Courtney Byrd

Wilhm Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for a Doctoral Student

Dani Kirsch

Waters Grant-in-Aid of Research

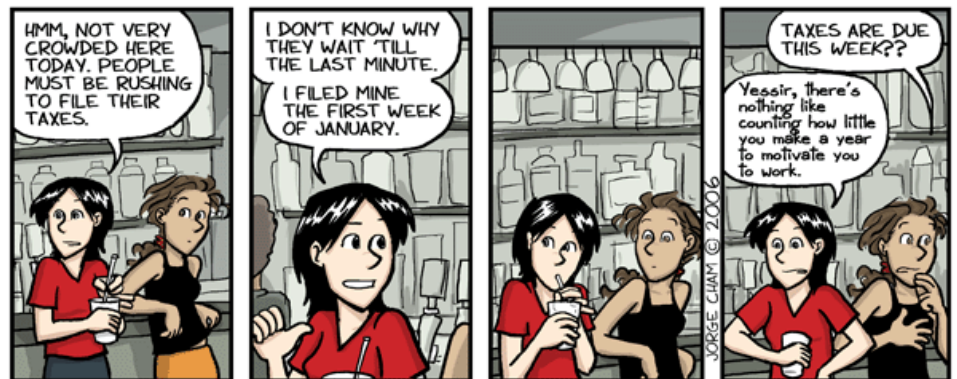
Victoria Roper

Outstanding Master's Student

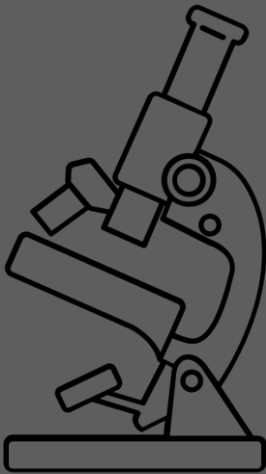
Jonathan Albers

Outstanding Doctoral Student

Sarah Elzay



www.phdcomics.com



Don't forget to join our Facebook page "OSU Zoology Graduate Student Society" for more day-to-day updates.

Contact Us

Executive Committee:

Austin Leone – *President*
 James Erdmann – *Vice President*
 Dani Kirsch – *Secretary*
 Taylor Carlson – *Treasurer*

Fundraising Committee:

Shauni Windle & Adriana Townsend

Planning Committee:

Carrie Klase

Seminar Committee:

Taylor Carlson

Award Committee:

David Berman

Technology Committee:

Emily Geest

Graduate Committee:

Scott Goepner

Lunchtime Seminars:

Jonathan Albers

Faculty Council:

Ryan Koch, Sarah Hileman, &
 Adriana Townsend

GPSGA:

James Erdmann & Jonathan Albers

Outreach Committee:

Teri Cocke, Emily Geest, & James
 Erdmann

Workshop Committee:

Angela Riley

Meet Your Peers

Baum lab – David Berman, Teri Cocke, Eric Duell*, Sarah Elzay, Emily Geest, Carrie Klase*, Ashley Knoch, Tyler Spresser*

Belden lab – Sarah Hileman, Carrie Klase*, Will Mimbs, Adriana Townsend, Ryan Grewe, Shauni Windle*

Bolek lab – Ryan Koch, Ryan Shannon, Allison Bryant

Bruck lab – Rachel Hamrock*, Paige Stevens*

Cabrera-Guzmán lab – Taylor Carlson*

Dzialowski lab – Bobby Bowser, Brian Eachus

Fox lab – Justin Agan, Taylor Carlson*

French lab – Austin Leone, Kyley Moore

Grindstaff lab – Angela Riley, Sierra Williams, Victoria Roper

Jeyasingh lab – Yetkin Ipek

Lovern lab – Brooke Hoover, Jay Walton, Rachel Hamrock*, Paige Stevens*

Luttbeg lab – Scott Goepner, Dani Kirsch, Jamie Najjar

McCullagh lab – Racheal Brodsky, Amita Chawla

McMurry lab – Shauni Windle*

Minghetti lab – MD Ibrahim, Justin Scott

Moen lab – Jack Spicer

Reichert lab – Jonathan Albers, Courtney Byrd, James Erdmann, Jain PK

Van Den Bussche lab – Denise Thompson

Waldman lab – Michael Ellison, Samantha Garza, Bailee Augustino, Sourjya Nath

Wilder lab – Jacob Reeves, Tyler Spresser*, Colton Herzog

**indicates co-advised grad students*



ZoGSS serves as the representative organization and voice of the graduate student body of the Department of Integrative Biology at Oklahoma State University. Our mission is to provide professional and social opportunities for the graduate students in our department.
