

Welcome!

Fall 2021 Newsletter Series

Upcoming Events:

Departmental Seminars

Fridays at 3:30 PM on Zoom

- Dec. 3 – Dr. Michael Pecka
Grad student speaker meeting
- Dec. 3 at 2:00 PM

Karen L. Smith Symposium

Friday, Dec. 3 at 2:00 PM on Zoom

Lunchtime Seminars

Mondays at 12:00 PM on Zoom

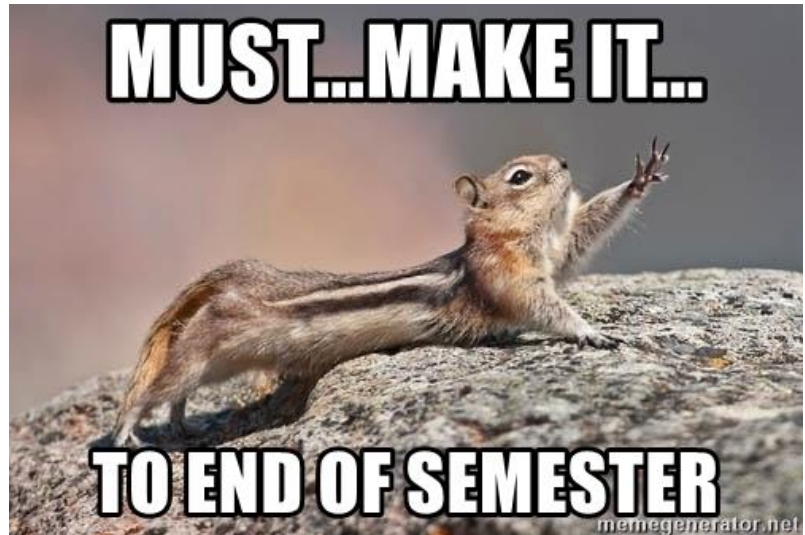
- Dec. 6 – Angela Riley



ZoGSS Newsletter

December 2021

We've almost arrived at the end of the semester, but there are still several events and deadlines to keep in mind!



Make sure you submit your proof of COVID-19 vaccination or request an accommodation on the **OSU Employee Vaccine Portal** ([found here](#)). This applies *even if you were vaccinated at UHS or have uploaded your vaccination card to UHS*. Be sure to complete this by **January 4, 2022**.

Spring 2022 GSSI Tuition Waivers for GRAs and GTAs are open now and due by **Friday, January 14, 2022**. You can fill them out [here](#).

Annual reviews are due at the beginning of the spring semester, and you can find the template with departmental forms [here](#).



Speaker Meetings & Seminar Attendance

It's worth emphasizing that your research doesn't need to be closely related to a seminar speaker's talk topic, nor do you need to know much (or anything) about their research field in order to benefit from attending seminars and speaker meetings!

You might gain some insight on career paths, get advice on how to navigate publishing or mentoring, and even discover a new research avenue for your own projects you never considered. We're all burnt out on Zoom, but please be respectful of the time the speakers have taken from their schedules to meet with grad students and give talks by trying to attend at least a few seminars and meetings each semester.

With that in mind, we are welcoming [Dr. Michael Pecka](#) for a seminar and grad student meeting this Friday, December 3rd.

Pay your ZoGSS dues!

You are only eligible for ZoGSS awards if you are a dues-paying member. **You can still pay your dues, but the cost has increased to \$15.00.** Pay your dues to Taylor Carlson (see the August meeting minutes for more information).

Fundraising Committee Update

Stay tuned for a sign-up sheet to work a finals drink & snack booth in the LSW lobby next Tuesday!

Merchandise will be up on the departmental website for purchase soon.

Outreach Committee Update

Use the QR code to the left to join the Outreach GroupMe and receive information regarding upcoming outreach events. ***Feel free to email the Outreach Committee (Teri Cocke, Michael Ellison, and Victoria Roper) with any other outreach ideas.***

Thank you to everyone who helped at Into the Streets last month and keep an eye out for events in the spring!

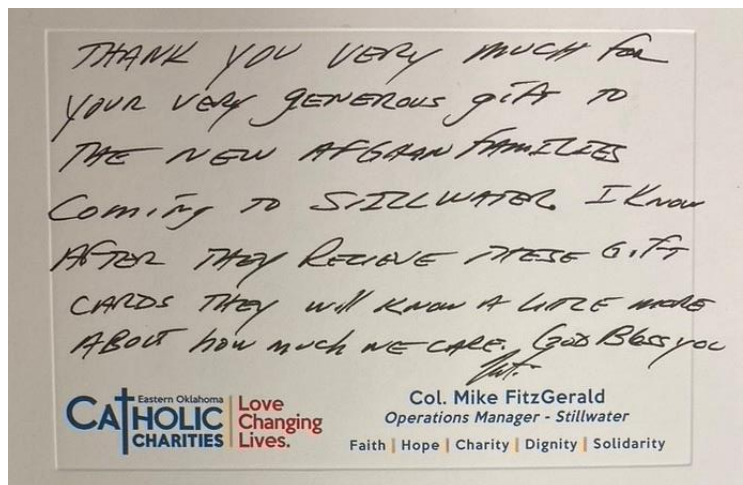
Outreach GroupMe





Thank you to everyone who donated to the Afghan Family Project!

We were able to donate 40 sets of brooms, dustpans, and clothespins in addition to 5 \$50 gift cards to Walmart and Himalaya Grocery.



Photos courtesy of James Erdmann



Spring 2022 Workshops

Stay tuned for more information on the following workshops!

- R workshop
- Spider workshop
- Science Policy workshop
- COV workshop

Recent Publications

Austin Leone:

Leone, E. A. & French, D. P. (Accepted). A mixed-methods study of a poster presentation activity, students' science identity, and science communication self-efficacy under remote teaching conditions. *Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education*, 23(1).

Jenkins, K., Mead, L., Baum, D., Daniel, K. L., Bucklin, C. J., **Leone, E. A.**, Gibson, J. P. & Naegle, E. (Accepted). Developing the BETTSI: A Tree-Thinking Diagnostic Tool to Assess Individual Elements of Representational Competence. *Evolution*, 75(12).

Recent Defenses

Emily Geest – Ph.D. defense – Effects of land use and management practices on grassland butterfly communities

Eric Duell – Ph.D. defense – Ecological and evolutionary insights into *Asclepias*: from soil symbionts to disturbances

Jonathan Albers – M.S. defense – Individual variation and learning in crickets



Graduate Student Spotlight: Dr. Eric Duell

NSF-EPSCoR Postdoctoral Researcher



I am joining the lab of Dr. Jim Bever at the University of Kansas. He is a faculty member in the department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and is jointly appointed as a Senior Scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey (KBS). Work in his lab covers a broad array of topics, from plant-soil feedbacks and restoration ecology to genetics and evolution, with all research in the lab unified under the common theme of arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi.

Grassland soils have long been recognized as key players in mitigating climate change, largely due to their ability to sequester tremendous amounts of carbon. What we don't know is the degree to which carbon storage is influenced by belowground microbial communities, namely AM fungi, and how this is affected by climate legacies. I will be working through KBS on a large project that broadly assesses the effects of global change and soil microbial communities on terrestrial ecosystem functioning (e.g. carbon cycling). Using eight sites across Kansas to capture the state's dramatic precipitation gradient, my research will assess microbial legacy effects of climate and land use histories on soil carbon storage. I will also be examining the relative and interactive effects of aboveground (plant community) and belowground (AM fungal community) diversity on ecosystem functioning, again with a primary focus on carbon cycling. Current models suggest more frequent and intense climate perturbations, and exploration of aboveground-belowground linkages will provide critical insight into the role of native plant communities and associated microbial communities in broader ecosystem functioning under changing climates.

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



Contact Us

Executive Committee:

James Erdmann – *President*
 Shauni Windle – *Vice President*
 Dani Kirsch – *Secretary*
 Taylor Carlson – *Treasurer*

Fundraising Committee:

Shauni Windle & Victoria Roper

Planning Committee:

Ryan Koch

Seminar Committee:

Taylor Carlson

Award Committee:

Austin Leone

Technology Committee:

Emily Geest

Graduate Committee:

Michael Ellison

Lunchtime Seminars:

Bailee Augustino

Faculty Council:

Angela Riley, Taylor Carlson, &
 Colton Herzog

GPSGA:

Victoria Roper & Colton Herzog

Outreach Committee:

Teri Cocke, Michael Ellison, &
 Victoria Roper

Workshop Committee:

Victoria Roper

Meet Your Peers

Baum lab – David Berman, Teri Cocke, Eric Duell*, 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, Samuel Miess

Fox lab – Taylor Carlson*

French lab – Austin Leone

Grindstaff lab – Kiley Cox, Angela Riley, Victoria Roper, Sierra Williams

Jeyasingh lab – Parna Ghosh, Yetkin Ipek

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

Luttbeg lab – Scott Goepfner, Dani Kirsch, Jamie Najjar

McCullagh lab – Sabiha Alam, Rachael Brodsky, Amita Chawla, Jessica Hurd, Luberson Joseph

McMurry lab – Shauni Windle*

Minghetti lab – MD Ibrahim, Justin Scott

Moen lab – Mitchell Aldridge

Reichert lab – Jonathan Albers, James Erdmann, Himidu Himansi, Alejandro Marcillo, Jain PK

Van Den Bussche lab – Denise Thompson

Waldman lab – Bailee Augustino, Michael Ellison, Samantha Garza, A.J. Hager, Ben LaFond, Sourjya Nath

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

Wogan Lab – Sneha Dharwadkar, Calvin Schaefer, Desi Wilson

**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.
