

Welcome!

Spring 2022 Newsletter Series



Stay tuned for any emails or Facebook posts about summer events, either through ZoGSS or other organizations!



ZoGSS Newsletter

May 2022

As is typical of the end of the semester, we have a lot of people to recognize for a variety of awards and accomplishments! **More recognitions will come later in this newsletter, but we wanted to make sure to extend our congratulations to Brooke, Austin, Scott, and Jamie for their successful defenses!** We wish you the best of luck in whatever comes next!

when it's the end of semester and you close your 3652 tabs and shut your laptop down for the first time in 14 weeks



:funny.com

Don't forget to fill out your Summer 2022 GSSI Tuition Waiver if you are enrolled for summer credits!

Due June 10th and found here:

<https://grad.okstate.edu/register/tuitionwaiver>



Ben LaFond Fundraiser & Assistance

Fellow grad student Ben Lafond is in need of help as he battles hepatocellular adenoma and waits for a liver transplant. Below are several ways you can help:



Donate Money:

<https://helphopelive.org/campaign/19735/>

Please share this link even if you can't donate.



Donate Meals: Join the meal train to provide Ben with pre-made meals. He has several dietary restrictions and aversions, which are listed on the sign-up sheet Taylor shared.



Donate Time: Offer to give Ben a ride to doctor's appointments, pick up groceries, etc.

Coordinate with **Taylor** (taylor.carlson11@okstate.edu) or **Sneha** (sneha.dharwadkar@okstate.edu).

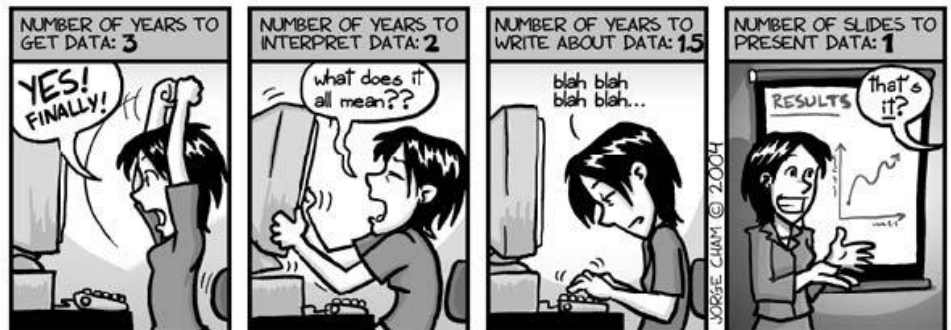
Outreach GroupMe



Outreach Committee Update

Use the QR code to the left to join the Outreach GroupMe and receive information regarding upcoming outreach events.

DATA: BY THE NUMBERS



www.phdcomics.com



Upcoming Conferences:

Many conferences are still being held online, but some have also moved to hybrid or in-person this year. Please consider attending/presenting at those which best fit your interests/research. There also may be opportunities to carpool and/or share housing with other grad students (COVID protocols and comfort levels permitting).

Animal Behavior Society (ABS)

San Jose, Costa Rica on July 20-23

[click here for website](#)

Travel grants are available. Participants may do oral presentations or present a poster.

Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH)

July 27-31 in Spokane, Washington

[click here for website](#)

This meeting is focused on all things herps and fish. Travel grants and research awards are available to attendees. Present your research as a talk or poster.

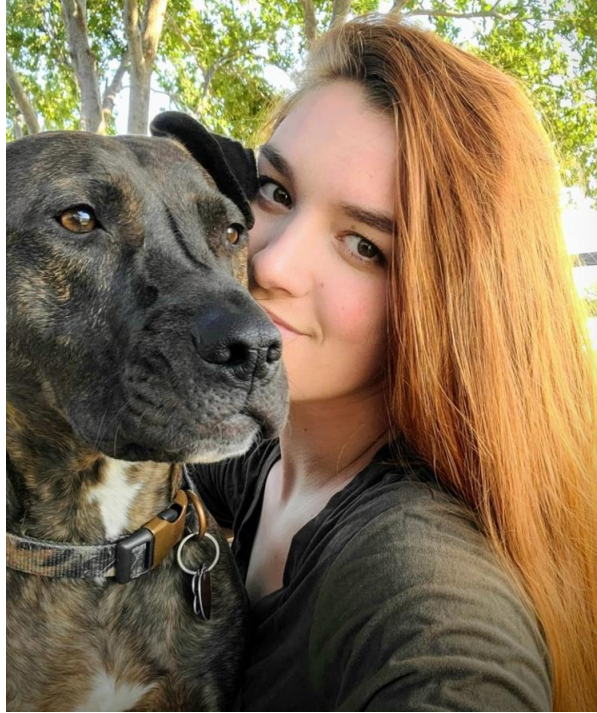
National Diversity in STEM Conference (NDiSTEM)

October 27-29 in San Juan, Puerto Rico

[click here for website](#)



Graduate Student Spotlight #1: Jess Hurd



Jess was recently accepted into the G-RISE program!

The goal of the NIH funded Graduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (G-RISE) program is to develop a diverse pool of scientists earning a Ph.D., who have the skills to successfully transition into careers in the biomedical research workforce. Currently, OSU is one of only eight institutions in the nation to have been awarded a G-RISE grant. The selected trainees receive a tuition and fee waiver, a 12-month stipend, travel support, career development, and membership in an NIH biomedical training cohort, renewable for up to 3 years.

Research blurb:

“My research focuses on the intersection of neurobiology, neuroendocrinology, and reproduction in social mammals, using prairie voles as a model organism. In males, I examine the relationship between the process of pair bonding and changes in the animals’ reproductive physiology. In females, I examine the neuroendocrine changes that occur during pregnancy and early motherhood, with emphasis on the development and prevention of postpartum depression.”





Graduate Student Spotlight #2: Ryan Koch



Ryan was recently awarded a Robberson Summer Dissertation Fellowship!

The Robberson Summer Dissertation Fellowship is a one-time award intended to support a post-candidacy PhD student with their dissertation research at OSU.

“One chapter of my dissertation is to examine the histopathology of acanthocephalan parasites in turtle intestines. Based on my turtle surveys, nearly 80% of red-eared sliders in Oklahoma are infected with acanthocephalans, with an average of several hundred worms per turtle. One might hypothesize that the parasite’s attachment to the turtle intestine can result in destruction of the lining of the intestine, leading to direct pathology or secondary infections. More interesting is that I found four species of turtle acanthocephalans during my survey, which will allow me to compare pathology between multiple parasite species in the same genus. This fellowship will allow me to answer these exciting questions.”





Recent Grad Student Publications

Md Ibrahim:

Ibrahim, M. and Minghetti, M. (2022). Effect of chloride concentration on the cytotoxicity, bioavailability, and bioreactivity of copper and silver in the rainbow trout gut cell line, RTgutGC. *Ecotoxicology*, online ahead of print, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10646-022-02543-5>

Austin Leone:

Jenkins, K.P., Mead, L., Baum, D.A., Daniel, K.L., Bucklin, C.J., **Leone, E.A.**, Gibson, J.P., & Naegle, E. (2022). Developing the BETTSI: A tree-thinking diagnostic tool to assess individual elements of representational competence. *Evolution*, 76(4), 708-721. <https://doi.org/10.1111/evo.14458>

Luberson Joseph:

Joseph, Luberson, Ryan S. Mohammed, Rakesh Bhukal, and Amy E. Deacon. 2022. An Assessment of Fish Assemblages in Peripheral Lotic Habitats of the Caroni Swamp, Trinidad. *Caribbean Naturalist* 85:1-21.

Recent Grad Student Presentations

Bobby Bowser:

A Blooming Mess: How Human Impacts Lead to Harmful Algal Blooms. National Science Teaching Association's National Conference 2022. Houston, Texas

Sarah Hileman:

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon and Metal Contamination in Urban Playground Soils throughout Oklahoma City. 2022 Annual Interdisciplinary Toxicology Symposium. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

Md Ibrahim:

Measurements of toxicity and bioavailability of Ag - Cu mixtures in the rainbow trout gut cell line (RTgutGC). Annual Interdisciplinary Toxicology Symposium (virtual), Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

Austin Leone:

Evaluating science identity, communication efficacy, value, and skills gained from a Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE). Paper presented at the National Science Teacher Association conference. Houston, TX.





We would like to take the next couple pages to recognize all of the recent award-winners among our peers!



Integrative Biology Departmental Awards

Outstanding M.S.

Allison Bryant

Outstanding Ph.D.

Austin Leone

Wilhm TA Award M.S.

Bailee Augustino

Wilhm TA Award Ph.D.

Victoria Roper

Waters Research Award

Sam Miess

Burks Research Award

Parna Ghosh

Dr. Bryan P. Glass Fellowship

Ryan Koch, Calvin Schaefer, & Mitchell Aldridge

Wilhm Travel Award

Bobby Bowser & Paige Stevens

ZoGSS Awards

Research Award

Sabiha Alam, Teri Cocke, & Jessica Hurd

Travel Award

Sam Miess

Ph.D. Science Communication & Outreach Award

Sneha Dharwadkar

Fall Lunchtime Seminar Award

Ryan Koch

Spring Lunchtime Seminar Award

Scott Goepfner

Third ZorroBucks Scholar Announced



Winner: Dani Kirsch

“ZorroBucks is primarily to have fun and to help all the graduate students be included in the department like the important component that they are. Plus, it awards real money, which is always welcome. Please be sure to include all awards won in your CV. Susana and I are trying to help with CV-building as well. The frequency and amount of the awards are unpredictable and irregular. This promotes cybernetic alacrity and perspicacity.”

– **Stanley “El Zorro” Fox**



Congrats to New ZoGSS Officers & Committee Chairs!

President

Sam Miess

Vice President

Victoria Roper

Secretary

Desi Wilson

Treasurer

Calvin Schaefer

Fundraising Committee

Sam Miess & A.J. Hager

Planning Committee

Ryan Koch

Seminar Committee

Angela Riley

Award Committee

Dani Kirsch

Technology Committee

Alejandro Marcillo Lara

Graduate Committee

Calvin Schaefer

Lunchtime Seminar

Jessica Hurd

Faculty Council

Sneha Dharwadkar, Benedicta Akaribo, & Kiley Cox

GPSGA

Sabiha Alam & Himidu Pitigala

Outreach Committee

Desi Wilson, Owen Edwards, & Angela Riley

Workshop Committee

Sneha Dharwadkar



How to survive: always surround yourself with lies



Source: memes-and-medicine on Tumgir



Source: professorx on imgflip



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

Contact Us

Executive Committee:

Sam Miess – *President*
 Victoria Roper – *Vice President*
 Desi Wilson – *Secretary*
 Calvin Schaefer – *Treasurer*

Fundraising Committee:

Sam Miess & A.J. Hager

Planning Committee:

Ryan Koch

Seminar Committee:

Angela Riley

Award Committee:

Dani Kirsch

Technology Committee:

Alejandro Marcillo Lara

Graduate Committee:

Calvin Schaefer

Lunchtime Seminars:

Jessica Hurd

Faculty Council:

Sneha Dharwadkar, Benedicta Akaribo, & Kiley Cox

GPSGA:

Sabiha Alam & Himidu Pitigala

Outreach Committee:

Desi Wilson, Owen Edwards, & Angela Riley

Workshop Committee:

Sneha Dharwadkar

Meet Your Peers

Baum lab – David Berman, Teri Cocke, Carrie Klase*, Ashley Knoch, Tyler Spresser*

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

Bolek lab – Allison Bryant, Ryan Koch, Ryan Shannon

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

Luttbeg lab – Scott Goepfner, Dani Kirsch, Jamie Najjar

McCullagh lab – Sabiha Alam, Amita Chawla, Andrea Gensky, Jessica Hurd, Luberson Joseph

McMurry lab – Shauni Windle*

Minghetti lab – MD Ibrahim, Justin Scott

Moen lab – Mitchell Aldridge

Reichert lab – James Erdmann, Alejandro Marcillo Lara, Himidu Pitigala, Jain PK

Stephens lab – Benedicta Akaribo

Van Den Bussche lab – Denise Thompson

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

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

Wogan lab – Sneha Dharwadkar, Calvin Schaefer, Desi Wilson

Zhang lab – Owen Edwards

**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.
