

## Welcome!

Fall 2022 Newsletter Series

### Upcoming Events:

#### Departmental Seminars

*Dr. Tamra Mendelson – Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>*

- Grad student meeting TBD
- \*Dr. Kathleen Gilmour – Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>*
- Grad student meeting TBD

*\*Denotes In-Person Seminar*

#### Lunchtime Seminars

- *Alejandro Macillo - November 7<sup>th</sup>*
- *Neil Balchan – November 14<sup>th</sup>*
- *Desi Wilson – November 21<sup>st</sup>*
- *Dani Kirsch – November 28<sup>th</sup>*
- *Sneha Dharwadkar – December 5<sup>th</sup>*

#### ZoGSS Student Socials

- Most Friday's at 7pm there will be a ZoGSS social (hosted by Sam Miess). The location varies so make sure to join the facebook for updates!



# ZoGSS Newsletter

## November 2022

I hope everyone had a good Halloween! The semester is underway, and we have a lot of fun stuff underway for the remainder of the semester.



Are you already ready for Christmas? Or at least winter break?



## Outreach Committee Update

**Highland Park Elementary Science Club** is underway! It is a great group of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who love science! We will be meeting every Monday at 2:45 at the school (2:30 at LSW if you carpool) for 4 more weeks! Email Angela, Owen, or I (Desi) for information on how to still participate.

**November 7<sup>th</sup>:** Mammals

**November 14<sup>th</sup>:** Parasites







The **Great Pumpkin Decorating Competition** happened over homecoming week. ZoGSS entered two pumpkins and ... WE WON! Boo's Haunted House was a success. This is a great cause to support United Way of Payne County. Thank you to everyone who came over for the pumpkin painting day at my place, and special thanks to Victoria and Angela for painting the submission pumpkins.



**Into the Streets** happened this Saturday. For those who do not know, this event is to help members of the community get ready for winter that can't do so on their own. These activities include things like raking leaves, cleaning gutters, etc. ZoGSS was able to help with the event. Big thanks to those who participated in the event! If this interests, you look out for it next year!





## **Annual Department Picnic at Lake Carl Blackwell**

This past weekend was the department picnic. We are thankful for everyone that went out of their way to get this fun outdoor picnic a success: the department for funding, the ZoGSS Council members for organizing the event, everyone who brought in food for the potluck, and everyone for coming and having fun!

## **Graduate Student Departmental Speaker Nominations:**

The verdict is in, and the top three speaker nominations are as follows: 1st Corinne Kozlowski, 2nd Sinlan (Sheila) Poo, and 3rd Robert Poulin. Corinne unfortunately declined our offer due to her limited availability in the Spring. Sheila accepted and will be coming either March 24th or March 31st, pending schedule solidification. Thank you to all that voted for this speaker.

## **Lunchtime Seminar Sign Ups:**

Lunchtime seminars are getting started. Last Monday was Amita Chawla. Big thanks to kicking off these seminars. We have a full schedule of great talks for the remainder of the semester. These events are Monday's at 12:30 pm. Please attend these talks and support fellow graduate students.

## **Upcoming Conferences:**

Many conferences are starting to be in-person this year, but some have also moved to hybrid settings. 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).

**If you have another conference or information to add to future newsletters, please email one of the executive officers (Sam, Victoria, Desi, or Calvin).**



## The Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology

In person in Austin, Texas

January 3-7

[website](#)

This conference is focused on the understanding of living organisms from molecules and cells to ecology and evolution.

Making it a great fit for many students and faculty in the department! **If anyone is looking for roommates, email us so we can post in the ZoGSS listserv.**

### Graduate Student Spotlight:

**Nominate yourself or others for future spotlights!**

**Luberson Joseph**



Hello guys, I am Lu, and I am from the strikingly beautiful city of Les Cayes in the South of Haiti. I have a bachelor's degree in agriculture and Environment Sciences and a master's degree in Biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Through my MSc degree, I investigated the assemblages of fish in peripheral habitats of protected areas. Paper link ([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359327343\\_An\\_Assessment\\_of\\_Fish\\_Assemblages\\_in\\_Peripheral\\_Lotic\\_Habitats\\_of\\_the\\_Caroni\\_Swamp\\_Trinidad](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359327343_An_Assessment_of_Fish_Assemblages_in_Peripheral_Lotic_Habitats_of_the_Caroni_Swamp_Trinidad)). Through this study we showed that peripheral habitats surrounded Protected Areas are surprisingly biological rich and need to incorporate into future management plan of the Caroni Swamp- the second largest wetland and Trinidad and Tobago. I created a youth club in my home village (Association des Jeunes de Morency) in which the main goal is to preserve the environment. Through my action toward the perverting of the environment, I have won the distinguished community award as youth of the year in 2020 and 2021.

I am a PhD student in Dr. McCullagh Lab. My research interests center on question related to binaural hearing ability, physiology, anatomy, and behavior of small mammals, using wild rodents as model system. I as well

interested in understanding the biology of and ecology of aquatic organisms in particular fishes and work towards their preservation against climate change, pollution, invasive species, and habitats degradation. For my PhD research, I am looking at the influence of social behavior on binaural hearing ability and sound localization of small mammals across Oklahoma. I intend to study the role of hormones (Vasopressin and oxytocin) in influencing hearing capabilities of small mammals as well as investigating the effects of water dehydration on small mammals' behavior and sound localization.

## **New Graduate Student Spotlight:**

**Nominate yourself or other new students for future spotlights!**

**Jamaal Jacobs**



I was born and raised in South Carolina where I attended the University of South Carolina Columbia. I have always enjoyed learning more about biodiversity, primarily aquatic organisms, and evolution. I love research because it is a great experience to explore your questions and interests as well as, allows you to see new things and meet new people. On one project at Central Michigan University, I met Mitchell Nagel, a current graduate student in our department, while we were both undergraduates, only to be reunited here.

My current project is on how species abundance is affected by locomotion speed in fragmented habitats with Dr. Bo Zhang. I am using the model organism *C. elegans* to predict how we may see habitat fragmentation impact various species. I am also working with Sam Miess on a side project to see if my data is like what we are seeing in the field with invertebrates. I spend most of my time on campus managing my worms with the assistance of my undergraduate, Hariette Diarra, but I also enjoy learning about other people's projects and exploring the various labs in our department.



## Contact Us

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### Executive Committee:

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

### Fundraising Committee:

Sam Miess & AJ Hager

### Planning Committee:

Ryan Koch

### Seminar Committee:

Angela Riley

### Award Committee:

Dani Kirsch

### Technology Committee:

Alejandro Marcillo

### Graduate Committee:

Calvin Schaefer

### Lunchtime Seminars:

Jessica Hurd

### Faculty Council:

Sneha Dharwadkar, Kiley Cox, &  
 Benedicta Akaribo

### GPSGA:

Sabiha Alam, Casey Sergott

### 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, Michael Ellison

**Bruck lab** – Rachel Hamrock\*, Paige Stevens\*

**Cabrera-Guzmán lab** – Taylor Carlson\*

**Dzialowski lab** – Bobby Bowser, Samuel Miess, Meghan Martin, Mitchell Nagel

**Fox lab** – Taylor Carlson\*

**French lab** – Ethan Strange

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

**Jeyasingh lab** – Parna Ghosh, Yetkin Ipek

**Lovern lab** – Rachel Hamrock\*, Paige Stevens\*, Jay Walton

**Luttbeg lab** – Dani Kirsch, Olivia Aguiar

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

**McMurry lab** – Shauni Windle\*

**Minghetti lab** – Justin Scott, Stacey Herriage

**Moen lab** – Mitchell Aldridge

**Reichert lab** – Alejandro Marcillo, Himidu Pitigala, Jain PK, Bailee Augustino, Phoebe Will, Kaleb Banks

**Stephens lab** – Benedicta Akaribo

**Van Den Bussche lab** – Denise Thompson

**Waldman lab** – Samantha Garza, A.J. Hager, Ben LaFond, AJ Hager

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

**Wogan lab** – Sneha Dharwadkar, Calvin Schaefer, Desi Wilson, Neil Balchan, Katarina Mapes

**Zhang lab** – Owen Edwards, Jamaal Jacobs

*\*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.*