We have just finished a very productive and busy spring semester. As you will see in this issue our undergraduate and graduate students have received more awards and accolades than ever! There is not enough space in the newsletter to mention each individual accomplishment but needless to say we are extremely proud of them. Along those lines, the spring awards celebration was a terrific success. We were able to provide more scholarships, fellowships, and awards than we have at any time in the past. This is all because of the tremendous generosity of our donors. Indeed as you can see above we awarded the first Dixon Scholarship at the Awards Celebration.

We also have a new scholarship that will be awarded at the 2016 Awards Celebration. This scholarship is being established by Dr. Ronald Austin. We will have a feature article on that scholarship in the next newsletter. Given the growth in the department we were able to hire an additional faculty member for this coming fall semester, Dr. Matteo Minghetti. He will be teaching and conducting research in the Toxicology discipline. As always if you are ever on campus please stop by 501 Life Sciences West. We always enjoy visiting with our alumni.

Loren M. Smith
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Department Head
Integrative Biology
Graduate Student Awards and Accolades

**Medhavi Ambardar** (left) and her advisor, Dr. Jennifer Grindstaff, received a prestigious NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG) for $18,750. They will use Eastern Bluebirds to explore how behavior and physiology, particularly testosterone production, impact telomere length, a trait that is important for longevity.

**Danielle Perryman** (below), a Masters student in the Grindstaff lab, received a How ard McCleary Student Research Award of $1,000 from the Southwestern Association of Naturalists and an OSU Women’s Faculty Council Research Award of $500. Both of these awards will support her research on the effects of supplemental feeding on the reproductive success and physiology of Eastern Bluebirds.

Ph.D. student **Cassondra Walker** (right), advised by Dr. Monica Papeş, was selected as one of the USFWS Directorate Resource Assistant Fellows for summer 2015. Cassondra will work with staff at Sequoia National Wildlife Refuge (OK) to analyze 20 years of bird banding data. The main goal of the study is to make habitat management recommendations for five species of concern: Bell’s Vireo, Painted Bunting, Kentucky Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo.

**Justin Agan**, a Ph.D. student working with Dr. Stan Fox, has been awarded an Honorable Mention for his application for the 2015 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. His research investigates whether sexual selection plays an important role in collared lizard fitness. Specifically, he is interested in how sexual selection can act on an individual prior to reaching reproductive maturity.

Ph.D. student **Ashley Love**, advised by Dr. Sarah DuRant, received a $2,500 American Ornithological Union Grant. Ashley is investigating how changes in maternal physiology and behavior impact offspring variation in immune responses and ultimately, offspring susceptibility to infectious agents.
Karen L. Smith Undergraduate Research Symposium

On 16 April 2015, the Integrative Biology Department held the 6th Karen L. Smith Undergraduate Research Symposium. Karen, who passed away on 2 November 2012, was the senior academic counselor in the Department of Zoology. The symposium was established in November 2012 in recognition of Karen’s tireless efforts to enhance the undergraduate experience, especially those in the Department of Integrative Biology. The symposium provides professional development opportunities for undergraduates in the department. For the Spring symposium, there were 12 poster presentations by undergraduates working in the Integrative Biology Department and 1 poster by a student working at the OSU Health Sciences Center. Cara Stephens (right) is the recipient of the Karen L. Smith Undergraduate Research Excellence Award for her research with Michael Moore, a Ph.D. student who is advised by Dr. Don French. This award, given for the best student presentation at the symposium, includes $250 and is made possible by the Karen L. Smith Undergraduate Research Symposium Fund.

Noah Allen (left) collaborated with Dr. Jason Bruck and Dr. Polly Campbell on species level differences in path integration between 2 species of house mice.

Sydnee Homeyer (right) presented results of her work with undergraduate Kelsey Anderson and Dr. Jennifer Shaw on the effect of hydrogen sulfide on PLGF secretion by human vascular cells.
2015 Annual Integrative Biology Awards Celebration

The 2015 Annual Integrative Biology Awards Celebration was held in Click Hall at the Conoco Phillips Alumni Center on 16 April 2015. The banquet was well attended by our generous donors, award winners, department members and their families. Award winners are listed below and on the following page.

### Integrative Biology Department Undergraduate Student Awards

*Outstanding Sophomore:* Stephen Tinker  
*Outstanding Junior:* Kelsey Anderson  
*Outstanding Biological Science Senior:* Suzanne Coveley  
*Outstanding Physiology Senior:* Clara Telford  
*Outstanding Zoology Senior:* Jimmy Lovett  
*Edwin Chappabitty, Jr. MD Scholarship:*  
  Dakota Jones and Michael Munkirs  
*Dr. G. Michael Steelman Scholarship:* Carlie McKay Pearson  
*Dr. Raymond Dixon Scholarship:* Rachel Reisch

Left to right: Dr. Edwin Chappabitty, Jr. M.D. and Dakota Jones, physiology major. Dakota received the Edwin Chappabitty, Jr. M.D. Scholarship.

Left to right: Stephen Tinker and Dr. Kristen Baum, chair of the Undergraduate Committee. Stephen was presented the Outstanding Sophomore award.

### Integrative Biology Department Graduate Student Awards

*Outstanding Integrative Biology Masters Student:* Shannon L. Andreoli  
*Outstanding Integrative Biology Doctoral Student:* Heather Ashley Stigge  
*Wilhm Teaching Assistant - Masters:* Stephanie L. Borel  
*Wilhm Teaching Assistant - Doctoral:* Jessica Magana  
*Waters Grant-in-Aid of Research:* Patrick Cusaac  
*Wilhm Graduate Student Travel Award:* William E. Mausbach  
*S. L. “Bud” Burks Memorial Graduate Research Award:* Lynne E. Beaty  
*Bryan P. Glass Scholarship:* Allison Loveless
Student and Faculty Award Winners
2015 Annual Integrative Biology Awards

Left to right: Patrick Cusaac and Luann Waters. Patrick, a Ph.D. student advised by Dr. Scott Mc-Murry received the Waters Grant-in-Aid of Research Award. He was also recognized by the Zoology Graduate Student Society for presenting the Best Lunchtime Seminar for the Fall 2014 semester.

Zoology Graduate Student Society Awards
Outstanding Masters Student: Shannon L. Andreoli
Outstanding Doctoral Student: Madeleine Naylor
Best Lunchtime Seminar Presentation:
    Fall - Patrick Cusaac
    Spring - Iulian Gherghel

Margaret S. Ewing Outstanding Mentor Award:
    Dr. Jennifer Shaw

Left to right: Shannon L. Andreoli and her advisor, Dr. Kristen Baum. Shannon received the Outstanding Zoology Masters Student Award and the Zoology Graduate Student Society Outstanding Masters Student Award.

Left to right: Taylor Neighbors and Gertie Mulder. As you can see the annual Integrative Biology Department awards celebration was a tremendous success. This is due to the efforts of Gertie Mulder and Taylor Neighbors who work tirelessly each year, months in advance, preparing for this event. Thank you!

Congratulations Gertie!

Gertie Mulder (left) received the 2014 OSU Distinguished Service Award from the Staff Advisory Council.
The Alumnidae

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