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!

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:  
[link](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](mailto:taylor.carlson11@okstate.edu)) or Sneha ([sneha.dharwadkar@okstate.edu](mailto:sneha.dharwadkar@okstate.edu)).

Outreach Committee Update

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

Austin Leone:

Luberson Joseph:

Recent Grad Student Presentations

Bobby Bowser:

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 Goeppner

Third ZorroBucks Scholar Announced

![Third ZorroBucks Scholar Announcement](image)

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

Don’t forget to join our Facebook page “OSU Zoology Graduate Student Society” for more day-to-day updates.
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 Goeppner, Dani Kirsch, Jamie Najar

**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

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**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.