

The Alumnidae

Fall 2009

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Department of Zoology, Life Sciences West 501

<http://zoology.okstate.edu>

405-744-5555

Rex E. Stockard, M.D. Makes Estate Gift



Dr. Rex Stockard recently made an estate property gift to the Zoology Department. The property is in Stillwater and is currently valued at \$250,000. The department greatly appreciates Dr. Stockard's generosity and support of zoology programs. Dr. Stockard was born and raised in Stillwater and graduated from Stillwater High School in 1957. He entered Oklahoma State University and graduated with a BS (Zoology) in 1961. Dr. Stockard is a Lifetime member of OSU Alumni Association. He entered University of Oklahoma Medical School in 1961 and graduated in 1965. After a 1 year internship at the University of Oklahoma he completed 3 years of Internal Medicine Residency and followed that with a Fellowship in cardio-vascular disease for 1 year. Dr. Stockard served two years in the U.S. Army at Fort Hood, Texas and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was Chief of Medicine at both bases. He was honorably discharged in 1972 and entered private practice in Lawton, Oklahoma. He retired in December 2008 after 36 years. While in practice he served on the Executive Committee at Comanche County Memorial, was President of the Medical Staff for 2 years, and chairman of the Department of Medicine for 4 years. While in practice he was a member of the AMA, OSMA (lifetime member), Comanche County Medical Society, American College of Physicians (Board Certification), Stewart Wolf Society, and Clinical Instructor in Medicine at OUHSC (36 years).

Greetings from the Department Head

So many things have happened since our spring 2009 newsletter that we decided to issue another this fall. Let's see, where to begin? There were notable increases in the departmental major disciplines this year. Although overall university enrollment was only up by 0.32%, our Zoology majors increased by 12% (110 to 124), Physiology majors by 16% (60 to 70), and Biology majors were close to the university average at 0.45% (223 to 224). This is largely the result of the dedicated recruiting efforts by our departmental undergraduate advisor Melissa Gentry. You have read above about an estate gift of \$250,000 by our alum Dr. Rex Stockard. I cannot over emphasize the importance of this donation to the competitiveness of our program and also our appreciation to Dr. Stockard. Zoology also recently secured a \$500,000 agreement with the Grand River Dam Authority to provide two graduate student fellowships for the next 10 years. Students will be studying various aspects of the Grand Lake ecosystem and its watershed. Numerous other student, faculty, and staff accomplishments and awards are also detailed in the newsletter so please continue reading. By the time you are reading this, we should have the departmental main offices moved upstairs to Life Sciences West 501. Zoology is now the sole occupant of the entire build-



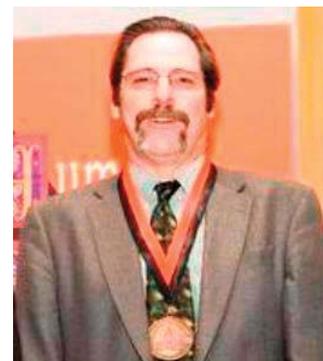
ing. We encourage our alums to stop by and visit any time. I am happy to give visitors a tour and our terrific office staff Gertie Mulder, Marsha Flasch, and Mylissa Minyard are always here to help. Have a great holiday season and if I don't see you before then, I will look forward to seeing you at the annual awards banquet on April 10, 2010.

Faculty and Staff Highlights

Echelle named to Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame- Dr. Tony Echelle, Regents Professor in Zoology was one of eight educators from across the state who were inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame on Oct. 27. Tony has been a member of the Zoology faculty since 1980 and was named Regents Professor in 2004. He is an authority on the conservation and evolution of desert fishes and has published more than 100 papers and book chapters on the topic. The graduate students Tony has trained over the years have gone on to key positions in state and federal natural resource agencies and academia.



Van Den Bussche named Regents Professor- Dr. Ron Van Den Bussche, Professor of Zoology and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Arts and Sciences was named a University Regents Professor during the Fall 2009 Convocation. Ron joined the Zoology Department faculty in 1995, served as interim department head from 2005 to 2006, and became Associate Dean for Research in 2006. Ron has authored approximately 100 peer-reviewed papers and is an internationally-recognized expert on the evolutionary relationships of bats and integrating molecular techniques in conservation biology and management.



Geographic information specialist joins the zoology team-

The Department of Zoology and Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV.ORG), an organization dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats have entered into an agreement to house a scientist and collaborate on research projects. Megan McLachlan a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist moved into the Life Sciences West community in July. Megan earned a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University and she received a Master's degree in Rangeland Ecology and a GIS certificate from Oklahoma State University. Megan's work focuses on designing spatially explicit conservation tools, with collaboration from other conservation entities, aimed at determining how to more efficiently and effectively target wetland conservation efforts.

Annual Awards Celebration!!!!

This upcoming year our awards celebration will be held on April 10, 2010 at Meditations banquet facility in Stillwater, Oklahoma. We welcome all of our alumni to join us as we recognize and congratulate our top graduate and undergraduate students. If you would like to join us this year, please contact our office to ensure you receive an invitation: 405-744-5555 or marsha.flasch@okstate.edu.

Research in the Department

Zoology Departments at OSU and OU Collaborate on \$780,000 grant from the National Science Foundation



Puni Jeyasingh, OSU Zoology, and Lawrence Weider, OU Zoology, received a \$780,000 grant (OSU portion \$414,000) from the National Science Foundation to examine the effects of long-term pollution on lake ecosystems. The two investigators will be examining how invertebrates in lakes evolve and adapt to the effects of the major nutrient pollution. They will be studying sediments from lakes in Canada and Minnesota and examining how phosphorus loading is affecting newer and older generations of invertebrates hatched from the sediments. This project is not only examining the effects of long-term pollution on aquatic ecosystems it is providing valuable information on how organisms evolve in natural environments. This project is an example of how expertise at different Oklahoma universities can unite and solve complex scientific questions.

OSU, OU and GRDA team up on new research facility and student fellowship program

Graduate students from Oklahoma State Zoology and the University of Oklahoma will soon be working side by side in the new Grand River Dam Authority Ecosystems & Education Research Laboratory at Langley, OK, thanks to a recently implemented partnership between the universities and GRDA. Under the agreement both schools will provide laboratory equipment and supplies to support research at the laboratory while GRDA will provide funding for student research fellowships at OSU and OU. The research foci of the OSU fellowships will include Grand Lake limnology, contaminants, watershed/landscape issues, and ecosystem services.

The newly constructed GRDA Ecosystems & Education Research Laboratory on Grand Lake will include laboratory space to support research projects conducted by Zoology faculty and graduate students.



Graduate Student Research



Rabbits-foot mussels from the Verdigris River in Oklahoma

Graduate student's research indicates improved status of rare freshwater mussel species

In a time when population numbers of many species appear to be in decline, Chad Boeckman, a doctoral student in Dr. Joe Bidwell's laboratory, has found a reason for guarded optimism. During recent surveys of freshwater mussels in rivers of northern Oklahoma, Chad has found that numbers of the rabbits-foot mussel, a species under consideration for listing as federally-endangered, are actually on the increase in the Verdigris River. Mussels from the Verdigris will be used to reintroduce the species in areas in their historic range that they have been eliminated from.

Undergraduate Accolades

Students inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

The Department of Zoology congratulates our undergraduate students who joined the OSU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi this fall. The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and most selective honor society recognizing top-ranking students from all academic disciplines. This year there were 37 students from the College of Arts and Sciences selected to join. Of those, nine of them are part of Zoology. We are pleased to recognize them:

Clay Algeo (Zoology), Samantha Caudle (Biological Science), Jerra Clifton (Biological Science), Kevin Cosby (Zoology second major), Alyssa Emory (Biological Science), Brent Harkrider (Biological Science), Jessica Strain (Zoology), Jaron Soulek (Physiology), Grant Tinsley (Physiology).

OSU Chapter of National Biological Honors Society Established

An OSU Chapter of Beta Beta Beta, National Biological Honors Society, was officially established this fall. The Induction Ceremony, conducted by Dr. Terry Cluck, representative of the national office, was held on October 20, 2009. The student club received financial and personnel support from the Department of Zoology which has greatly contributed to its establishment. Thirty-nine past and present OSU students were inducted into membership, most of which major in one of the life science degrees offered through Zoology. Tri-Beta aims to promote undergraduate research and to create a sense of community among life science students and faculty at OSU. Dr. Donald French, Professor in Zoology, serves as the chapter's advisor. For more information, e-mail him at Donald.french@okstate.edu.



Dr. Terry Cluck from the national office of Tri-Beta inducts students into the newly established OSU chapter of the honor society.

Alumni Updates

Featured alum: Dr. Timothy Geib

Dr. Timothy Geib is president of the OSU College of Arts and Science Alumni Board. He is an orthopedic surgeon with the Oklahoma Sports and Orthopedic Institute in Edmond. He graduated from Edmond Memorial High School in 1994 and was the valedictorian of his class. He earned a bachelor of science degree in biological sciences in 1998 from OSU where he was Suma Cum Laude. At OSU, he was president of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council, a member of the President's Leadership Council, a Top Ten Freshman, and a Top 10 Arts and Sciences Senior. In 2002, he earned a medical doctorate degree with special distinction from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. From 2002 to 2007, he completed an orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center. Following residency, he completed a sports medicine fellowship at the Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center in Jackson, MS.



Featured alum: Dr. Jay Clark



Jay Clark's career path since earning his doctorate in wildlife ecology from OSU Zoology in 2003 has been somewhat different than most. In addition to conducting post-doctoral research on black bear populations in the Great Smokey Mountains, Jay's reputation as a singer-songwriter has grown significantly. Since graduation, Jay has released three CDs comprised mostly of his original songs. Jay is currently on tour with fellow singer-songwriter Jimmy Davis and has performance dates in Oklahoma, Texas, and Mississippi. He recently played a house concert in Stillwater to an audience of OSU faculty, graduate students and friends. Jay currently lives with his wife Stacy outside of Knoxville, TN. Additional information on Jay's music is available on his website jayclarkmusic.com

Join your OSU Alumni Association today!

Membership in the OSU Alumni Association supports alumni news, alumni chapter events, networking opportunities, athletic watch parties, student recruitment, alumni discounts, the greatest Homecoming celebration in the country, and much more! To learn more visit orangeconnection.org or contact Lorene Roberson Hickey, media and alumni relations for the College of Arts and Sciences at OSU, at (405) 744-7497 or lorene.hickey@okstate.edu.

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Keep in Touch and Help Us Grow Stronger

We hope you enjoy The Alumnidae, and we hope to hear from you about future issues. To be sure that you continue to receive the newsletter, please update address and email information with the OSU Alumni Association at [http://www.orangeconnection.org/ng/UPDATEYOUR INFORMATION/tabid/958/Default.aspx](http://www.orangeconnection.org/ng/UPDATEYOURINFORMATION/tabid/958/Default.aspx).

If you have comments, questions, or contributions for The Alumnidae send them directly to joe.bidwell@okstate.edu

YES! I want to support the ZOOLOGY DEPARTMENT at Oklahoma State University!

1. DESIGNATION

- Zoology Excellence Fund (223750)
- Wilhm Teaching Assistant Award (228230)
- Scholarships for Zoology Students (224550)
- Burks Student Award (223590)
- Collection of Vertebrates
- Other: _____

2. AMOUNT \$ _____

3. OPTIONS

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