Greetings from the Department Head

Zoology is very fortunate indeed. Our students continue to perform at the highest level. The departmental undergraduates in the Zoology, Biological Science, and Physiology majors have received substantial national recognition including one who was just awarded a Udall scholarship. Zoology graduate students are also achieving at exceptional levels including two who have recently received National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships and another who was awarded an NSF postdoctoral fellowship. You can read much more about them in this newsletter. Our alumni and friends also continue to be very generous to the department. As you can see above Dr. Dan Dennehy has made a substantial estate gift while as described below Drs. Margaret and Sidney Ewing and Dr. Rex Stockard endowed two distinguished lecture series. These are the first in the department and will support cutting-edge seminars in Zoology in perpetuity. Have a great summer and please let us know by phone (405-744-5555) or by email (Loren.Smith@okstate.edu) if we can ever be of service.

Daniel C. Dennehy, M.D., Makes Estate Gift

Dr. Daniel Dennehy recently made a generous estate gift (valued at over $600,000) to the Department of Zoology. The funds will be used to retain and recruit the best faculty in Zoology and Physiology at OSU. Dr. Dennehy was born in 1950 in Oklahoma City and graduated from Northwest Classen High School in 1968. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology/premed from OSU in 1972. He minored in German studies and was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Delta Tau Delta. While at OSU he was on the President’s Honor Roll twice and Arts and Sciences Dean’s Honor Roll all semesters. He attended the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Oklahoma City and graduated in 1976. He was a U.S. Army physician on active duty from 1976-1979. He then completed a residency in Diagnostic Imaging (Radiology) in 1983 after which he was in private practice at St. John Medical Center in Tulsa until 2001. He is now Associate Clinical Professor, OU Med School-Tulsa. Dr. Dennehy has a son, Joe, who is 21.

Also in this issue of The Alumnidae:
- Two new endowed lectureship series
- New NSF funding in the Department of Zoology
- Graduate students receive NSF fellowships
- Student winners announced at the Annual Awards Banquet

Mark your calendars:
The 2011 Zoology Awards Banquet will be held on March 26, 2011-venue details will be announced in our fall newsletter.
Margaret S. Ewing Endowed Distinguished Lectureship Established

Drs. Margaret S. Ewing, Zoology Professor Emerita and Sidney A. Ewing, Veterinary Parasitology Professor Emeritus at Oklahoma State University established the first endowed lecture series in the Department of Zoology, “The Margaret S. Ewing Distinguished Lecture Series: Bridges Between Biology and the Arts and Humanities”, through their match of OSU Zoology Department Foundation funds. The purpose of the endowment is to support a lecture series that will address the relationships among the biological sciences and the arts and humanities. The Ewing endowment will allow a minimum of one prominent speaker to make a presentation in the relevant subject field at OSU each year. Interest from the endowment will be used to cover the travel expenses and an honorarium for the speaker. Dr. Margaret S. Ewing received an M.S. in 1964 and a Ph.D. in 1966, both in Zoology from Oklahoma State University. In her distinguished career in Zoology, she has published numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts and coauthored two books. Dr. Ewing has received noteworthy awards for teaching and other scholarly work, including the AMOCO Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award, the OSU Regents Distinguished Teaching Award, the American Fisheries Society Distinguished Service Award, and the Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Award, among others. The Zoology Graduate Student Society named their outstanding mentor award for her. Moreover, she has contributed to the Women’s Studies Program and has brought into the light issues related to support for women in science. Dr. Ewing was the first woman promoted to full professor in the Department of Zoology at OSU.

Dr. Rex Stockard Endowed Distinguished Lectureship Established

Dr. Rex Stockard, a retired MD in Stillwater, OK established an endowed lecture series in the Department of Zoology, “The Dr. Rex Stockard Distinguished Lecture Series in Anatomy and Physiology”, through his match of OSU Zoology Department Foundation funds. The purpose of the endowment is to support a lectureship series that will address topics related to anatomy and physiology. The Stockard endowment will allow a minimum of one distinguished speaker to make a presentation in the relevant subject field at OSU each year. Interest from the endowment will be used to cover the travel expenses and an honorarium for the speaker. 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 the University of Oklahoma Medical School in 1961 and graduated in 1965. He remained at the University of Oklahoma doing his Internship for 1 year. He then completed 3 years of Internal Medicine Residency and followed that with a Fellowship in cardiovascular 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 then entered private practice in Lawton, Oklahoma. He retired in December 2008 after 36 years. While in practice he served on the Executive Committee for 8 years at Comanche County Memorial, and was President of the Medical Staff for 2 years. He was 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 Medicine (Board Certification), Stewart Wolf Society, and Clinical Instructor in Medicine at OUHSC (36 years).

Faculty and Staff Highlights

Dr. Kristen Baum received the Sigma Xi Young Investigator Award for 2010 at the spring Sigma Xi banquet and Dr. Karen McBee received a 2010 Regents Teaching Award- Congratulations Kristen and Karen!
Bolek Awarded National Science Foundation Grant

Horsehair worms are one of the most poorly studied animal groups and their relationships and diversity are currently unknown. Freshwater hairworms, commonly called Gordian worms, can be up to 3 meters long and seem to appear suddenly in domestic sources of water (swimming pools, toilets, pet bowls, etc.), thus making human interactions with them quite common. These encounters have led to unnecessary panic and trips to doctors and veterinarians. Hairworms are parasites of insects, but are free-living in aquatic environments as adults. Insects become infected with hairworms when they ingest cyst stages which infect most aquatic invertebrates. Previous studies on the relationship of this group of parasites have been hindered by the lack of reliable ways to collect and differentiate horsehair worms. Dr. Matt Bolek, an assistant professor in zoology at Oklahoma State University, along with Principal Investigator Ben Hanelt, a research assistant professor of biology at the University of New Mexico, and Andres Schmidt-Rhaesa, a curator at the Zoological Museum at the University of Hamburg in Germany, have received a grant from the National Science Foundation to examine the diversity and relationships of horsehair worms by collecting the most common life stage in the environment, the cyst, and use modern DNA fingerprinting techniques to match these cysts to the adult worms. The study is the first of its kind and will give us an insight into how many species of horsehair worms are really out there and provide data on their relationships. Additional information on hairworms is available on the website Matt and his colleagues have developed: http://www.nematomorpha.net/

Parasitic hairworms emerging from a cricket host
Graduate Student Accomplishments Continued

In addition to our NSF Fellowship recipients, a number of other graduate students in Zoology have recently received funding and/or recognition. These students include:

- Arielle Shanahan, a doctoral student working with Dr. Jen Grindstaff, received grants-in-aid of research from both the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology and Sigma Xi to support her work on the effects of the interaction between maternal antibodies and offspring immune challenges in zebra finches.
- Andrea Acevedo, a doctoral student working with Dr. Stanley Fox, also received a Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research and a grant from the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists to study mate choice strategies and sexual selection in collared lizards.
- Dana Lee, a doctoral student in Dr. Ron Van Den Bussche’s laboratory received a Howard McCarley Research Award from the Southwestern Association of Naturalists to help fund a project that will document historical shifts in bat species composition using DNA in bat guano.
- Amie Robison, a Masters student in Dr. Joe Bidwell’s laboratory, received a Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research for her studies on the influence of predation-based chemical cues on contaminant sensitivity of fathead minnows.
- Heather Tracy, a Masters student in Dr. Matt Bolek’s laboratory received a graduate student honorable mention for her talk entitled “Helmith and leech community structure in two species of sympatric larval amphibians from western Nebraska” at the Southwestern Association of Parasitologists annual meeting at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station in April.
- Dana Lee and Masters student Jay Burtka (Grindstaff Lab) both received College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards for 2010.

Undergraduate Accolades

Alesia Hallmark, a Junior Zoology/Botany double major has received a highly-competitive Udall Scholarship. The Udall Scholarship program was established by Congress in 1992 to enhance the education of young Americans who are focused on problems related to the environment and Native American issues. Approximately 80 awards are made each year in a nationwide, merit-based competition. Alesia has been a Freshman Scholar, a 2-time Wentz Scholar, a Niblack Scholar, and an OK-LSAMP Scholar. She is mentored by Drs. Karen McBee and Jennifer Grindstaff. Alesia will continue to conduct research on bone density and morphometrics of Mexican free-tailed bats from areas of historically high DDT application during her year as a Udall Scholar.

We were also extremely pleased to have John (Jack) Laurent, a senior physiology major, named the College of Arts and Sciences Gonfalonier (Orange Gown Graduate). This honor entailed Jack wearing a special orange cap and gown, carrying the College of Arts and Sciences gonfalon, and leading the A&S graduate processional into Gallagher-Iba Arena on graduation day. Jack was also individually recognized as the first A&S graduate of the day.

In addition, Erin Roberts, also an OSU Niblack Research Scholar, won third place in the research intensive category for her work on hormone influence at the 15th Annual Research Day held recently at the Capitol. Twenty-one undergraduate students presented competitive research during the annual event, which is sponsored by Oklahoma EPScoR, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and The National Science Foundation. Erin is a Niblack Research Scholar mentored by Dr. Stanley Fox and doctoral student Andrea Acevedo. The project is precocial sexual signaling in collared lizard hatchlings.
Alumni Updates

Featured alum: Dr. Edwin Chappabitty, Jr.

Dr. Edwin Chappabitty, Jr., MD graduated from OSU in 1967 with a BS in Zoology. He spent the next five years in the Army as a Field Artillery Officer. He served in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970, where he received numerous awards for valor. He left the Army in 1972 to attend Dartmouth College and received his medical degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in 1980. He then completed an internship and residency in Family Practice at the University of New Mexico hospitals in 1983. In the summer of 1983, Dr. Chappabitty was commissioned in the U.S. Public Health Service and assigned to the hospital in which he was born, the Lawton Indian Hospital. For the next twenty-five years he served as a Family Practice physician at Anadarko hospital and Lawton, and three-time Department Chairman at Lawton. He also served as Chief of Staff three times and Clinical Director for three years at Lawton, in addition to serving on the Executive Committee on the National Council of Clinical Directors. He retired from the Indian Health Service in 2008 and he is currently in his second career as the first medical director to the Comanche Nation in Lawton, OK.

Dr. Chappabitty appeared in the award winning KFOR TV (OKC) documentary – Strangers in Their Own Land in 1993. In 1996, he was honored by the Association of American Indian Physicians as “Physician of the Year.” He received the “Hero Award” of the Journal of Minority Medical Students in 1997. He appeared in the Oklahoma Today article of May/June 1999 titled The New Medicine Men. In 2002, he was selected as the “OSU Distinguished Alumnus”, and was recently mentioned in the book Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, A Guide in 2009. Dr. Chappabitty has long advocated for Native American students to receive educations and to pursue health careers.

Student and Faculty Award Winners from the 2010 Annual Zoology Awards Banquet

Undergraduate Students:

Outstanding Zoology Sophomore: Laura M. Hodges  
Outstanding Zoology Junior: Wyatt V. Sharber  
Outstanding Zoology Senior: Maverick T. Woodbridge  
Outstanding Physiology Junior: Michelle C. Hotte  
Outstanding Physiology Senior: John Patrick Laurent  
Dr. G. Michael Steelman Scholarship: Alesia J. Hallmark

Graduate Students:

Outstanding Zoology Masters Student: Daniel A. Dvorett (Bidwell Lab)  
Outstanding Zoology Doctoral Student: Justin B. Lack (Van Den Bussche Lab)  
Outstanding Wilhm Teaching Assistant- Masters: Dustin T. Lynch (Echelle Lab)  
Outstanding Wilhm Teaching Assistant- Doctoral: Anna C. Hiatt (French Lab)  
S.L. “Bud” Burks Memorial Graduate Research Award: Reid L. Morehouse (Bidwell Lab)  
Waters Grant-in-Aid of Research: April L. Bagwill (McMurry Lab)  
Bob and Julia Bollinger Field Research Grant: Jennifer L. Burtka (Grindstaff Lab)  
Zoology Graduate Student Association Conference Travel Grant: Chad J. Boeckman (Bidwell Lab)

Faculty:

Zoology Graduate Student Association Outstanding Graduate Mentor: Dr. Matt Bolek
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/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)
☐ Wilhelm Teaching Assistant Award (228230)
☐ Scholarships for Zoology Students (224550)
☐ Burks Student Award (223590)
☐ Dr. Michael Steelman Scholarship (229830)
☐ Collection of Vertebrates
☐ Other: _______________________________________________

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3. OPTIONS
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4. CONTACT INFORMATION
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☐ Please contact me regarding additional gift opportunities.

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