



FALL 2012

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# "On The Move" Newsletter

## Leadership Change

By now you have probably heard that TIEHH and the Department of Environmental Toxicology have undergone a change in leadership effective June 1st. After 15 years as Director, Dr. Ron Kendall has accepted a position in the President's Office at Texas Tech as a Special Assistant. Ron was the founder of TIEHH and chair of the department. He has also been a member of SETAC since its inception. A national search has been initiated to find his replacement.



Based on discussions with TIEHH faculty, Texas Tech Provost Bob Smith appointed Dr. Todd Anderson as interim director. Todd will also serve as interim chair for the Department of Environmental Toxicology until a permanent chair is identified. At Texas Tech, Dr. Anderson has received the President's Excellence in Teaching Award and the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award. In 2005, he was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

## Graduate Program Review

The Department of Environmental Toxicology, the academic home for our faculty and students, underwent a Program Review by the Graduate School at Texas Tech; every six years, graduate programs at the University are reviewed. The review committee was chosen by the Graduate School and consisted of 3 internal members (Iris Rivero from Industrial Engineering, Greg Gellene from Chemistry, and Robin Lock from the College of Education) and 2 external members (Robert Roth from Michigan State University and David Buchwalter from North Carolina State University). In addition, the TIEHH Science Advisory Board (Tom Lacher, Anne Fairbrother, Elaine Dorward-King, Pat Guiney, and Joel Coats) visited this past summer as part of their scheduled review activities. The outcomes of both reviews were positive, with several suggestions for ways to improve the academic and research programs. We certainly appreciate the time and effort involved in conducting these assessments. Such input comes at a critical time in our program as we search for a new Chair for the department and a new director for TIEHH.

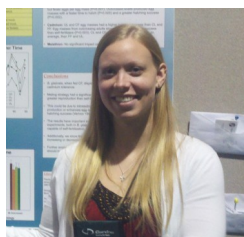
## Name Change??

We have no plans to change the name of the institute, but... In September, Jaclyn Cañas married Dr. John Carrell. Not to be outdone by our other hyphenated colleague in the department (Celine), Jaclyn will now be doing science (and publishing) under the name Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell. Congratulations Jaclyn!

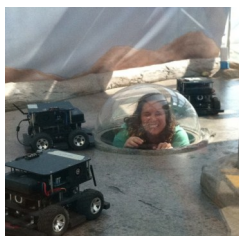


## New Students

While graduate enrollment across the University was slightly down this fall, our enrollment was up. The department welcomes our Fall 2012 class.



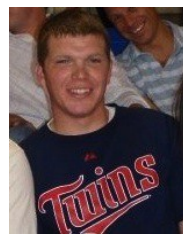
Meghan Funkhouser



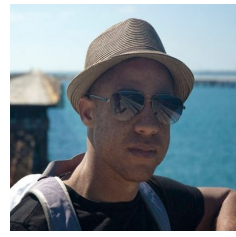
Sara Pappas



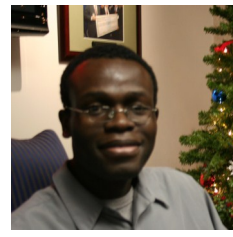
Prathap Kumar



Nick Dunham



Jordan Hunter



Francis Loko



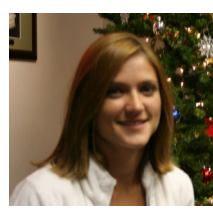
Amanda Parra



Meghan Cromie



Dan Dawson



Kayla Campasino



Jarrett Louder

## Student News

**Scott Weir** published an article in *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* entitled "Acute toxicity of herbicide formulations and chronic toxicity of technical-grade trifluralin to larval green frogs (*Lithobates clamitans*)". 31:2029-2034.



**Vinitkumar Singh** gave an invited oral presentation at the AATCC's Association of Textile, Apparel & Materials Professionals Materials international symposium in Atlanta in October. Vinit's presentation on soft body armor was co-authored by Arvind Purushothaman, Lohit Shastri, and Seshadri Ramkumar. Vinit received a travel award from the graduate school to attend the conference.

**Shuangying Yu** received a Study Abroad Scholarship for Texas Tech and a travel award from the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC).



**Vinitkumar Singh** and **Muralidhar Lalagiri** received the 2012 Don Williams Student Scholarship from the Industrial Fabrics Foundation (IFF). This year, the foundation offered only four scholarships, two of which were garnered by Texas Tech students.

## More Student News



**Carmen (Kautz) Emborski** published an article in *Ecotoxicology* on her M.S. research entitled “Effect of  $\beta$ -naphthoflavone on hepatic cytochrome P4501A activity in the scribbled rabbitfish (*Siganus spinus*) from tropical Indo-Pacific coral reefs”. 21:2153-2162.

**Kim Wooten’s** research on phthalates in dog bumpers and canine toys was highlighted in *Environmental Health News* (<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2012/dog-toys>).

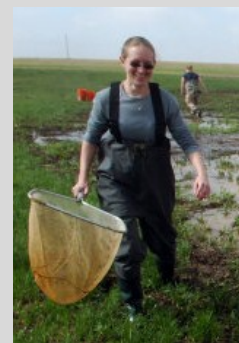
**Rebecca Pezdek** received a travel award from SETAC to attend the meeting in Long Beach, CA.

**Juliet Kinyua** published an article in *Journal of Forensic Sciences* on her M.S. research related to cocaine in wastewater as an estimate of community drug abuse. 57:1349-1353.

**Richie Erickson’s** modeling research on dengue was featured in a recent issue of TTU Discoveries (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/vpr/discoveries/Fall-2012/dengue.php>)

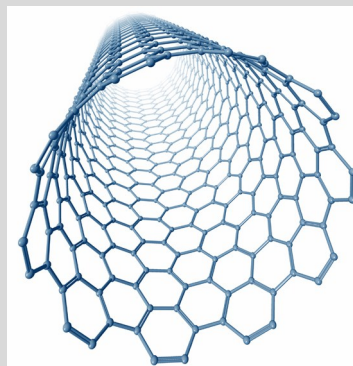
**Sarah Webb** received the SETAC 2012 Mark Smith Memorial Travel Award.

**Stephanie Plautz** gave 2 presentations at the 33rd Annual SETAC Meeting in Long Beach, CA.



## Nanomaterial Research

In 2011, the National Science Foundation funded a collaborative research project between Dr. Micah Green (Chemical Engineering), Mohammed Saed (Electrical Engineering) and Dr. Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell. The goal of the research was to develop a microwave-induced heating method for the detection of carbon nanotubes in plants. Research progress on the project has been excellent. The group recently published an article in *Carbon* entitled “Detection of carbon nanotubes in plants through microwave-induced heating”. 50:4441-4449. In addition, the group has a patent pending on the process. An upcoming feature in TTU Discoveries magazine will also include a video highlight of the collaborative research.





## New Faculty

The department welcomed Dr. David Klein to the faculty effective September 1st. David has a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Hawaii. For the past 20 years he has worked for the State of Texas in various capacities. From 1993 to 2006, he was a manager of an Environmental Contaminants Laboratory for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. From 2006 to 2012 he was the Chemical Terrorism Response Laboratory Team Leader for the Texas Department of State Health Services. David has a variety of analytical chemistry experience, in particular GC-MS, LC-MS, and ICP instrumentation. He likes to ride motorcycles and bikes, among other activities.



## Faculty News

**K.P. Singh** was invited to present on his research at the Ninth International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research sponsored by Jackson State University.

**Steve Presley** is serving as the Chair of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). In conjunction with federal guidelines, TTU has established the IBC to act on its behalf in ensuring that recombinant DNA molecules are used in a manner consistent with the guidelines issued by the National Institutes of Health as published in the Federal Register.

**Jonathan Maul** is hosting a visiting scientist from Brazil this semester. Rafael Botelho from the University of Sao Paulo is working on the affect of daily temperature patterns on pesticide toxicity to spadefoot toad tadpoles.



Rafael Botelho

**Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell** was named one of six Associate Directors of the newly created Texas Tech United STEM Center. She is one of two Associate Directors representing the College of Arts & Sciences.

**Phil Smith** has joined the editorial board of Elsevier's *ATHENA Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences* as the section editor for Environmental Health.

**Seshadri Ramkumar** was invited by the Government of Karnataka, India to lecture on "Technical Textiles" at the Global Investors Meet in Bangalore this past Summer. He also delivered an invited talk on "Nonwovens" at the TechTextil India Symposium in Mumbai, India in October. Ram was re-elected as the Chairman of the Material Interest Group and to the Board of Directors of the Association of Textile, Apparel & Materials Professionals (AATCC) for 2013-14. Additionally, he was elected for a three year term to the Governing Board of Safety & Technical Products Division of Industrial Fabrics Association International, USA.

## More Faculty News

**Celine Godard-Coddig** and her collaborators have published an article in the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management* on Cetacean sightings and acoustic detections during monsoon seasons. 12:227-234.

**Christopher Salice** has been asked to join the editorial board of *PLOS ONE*. He is also now the chair of a SETAC workgroup aimed at advancing the use of reptiles and amphibians in ecological risk assessment.

**Ernest Smith** is hosting a visiting scientist this fall. Dr. Bachir Sarr from NSR Consulting in Ottawa, Canada is working with Ernest on plant natural products. Bachir was a colleague of Ernest's from grad school days back at one of those other universities in Texas.



Dr. Bachir Sarr

## Institute News

Dr. Christine Bishop of Environment Canada visited TIEHH in September. Christine discussed some of her research on reptiles during a seminar presentation.



TIEHH now has an animal facility! Some of us old-timers will recall the promise made by Texas Tech of an animal facility at TIEHH. Well, that promise has finally come to fruition. And while there are still a few growing pains with the new facility, several folks are looking forward to fewer trips to campus to work with animals.

Dr. David Klein has facilitated 2 significant instrument donations this fall. Thermo Fisher has donated an ion trap LC-MS to our department. In addition, David's old employer (TDSHS) donated several pieces of equipment including an Agilent ICP-MS.

Renovation of Lab 115 (affectionately known as the unfinished lab) is underway for the new BSL-3 Lab. Construction is expected to be finished in February 2013. When completed, the lab will facilitate research involving biological agents requiring containment. Additionally, the lab will be known as the Bioterrorism Response Laboratory (BRL) and will be part of the CDC's Laboratory Response Network. The BRL will be responsible for rapidly responding to acts of bioterrorism, infectious diseases, and public health threats.





ENTX students engage in a variety of outreach activities (Are you paying attention NSF and EPA?). In November, students volunteered at the South Plains Food Bank.

## Graduates

August and December 2012

Student	Degree	Advisor
Derek Faust	M.S.	Phil Smith
Sam Hawkins	M.S.	Steve Presley
Tamara Luna	M.S.	Chris Salice
Lisa Arneson	M.S.	Todd Anderson
Shibin Li	Ph.D.	Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell
Kim Wooten	M.S.	Phil Smith
Babina Shrestha	Ph.D.	Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell



Reese Center has changed in the 15+ years that TIEHH has been a tenant, but it is still pretty rural out our way.

The Institute of Environmental and Human  
Health (TIEHH)  
and  
Department of Environmental Toxicology

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*"to be the premiere center for environmental  
research, teaching, and service."*

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