



SPRING 2015

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"On The Move" Newsletter

Presley Selected for Governor's Task Force

Based on the recommendation of Robert Duncan, Vice President for Research, Dr. Steve Presley was selected for the Governor's Texas Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response. Dr. Presley will be part of a working group charged with educating a broad range of health care professionals, emergency responders, and public leadership on the identification and reporting of Ebola and other serious emerging infectious diseases.



Visiting Scientists

We are hosting 2 visiting scientists during 2014-2015. Dr. Qian Wang is from The Jiangsu Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Nanjing, China. He is working with Weimin Gao's lab on lung cancer treatment using Chinese herbal medicine. Dr. Etem Osma is from Erzincan University in Turkey. He is working with Todd Anderson's lab on pharmaceuticals and personal care products.



New Faces

We are proud to add some new members to our scientific staff: Sabrina Hock, Dr. Whitney Kistler (Ph.D. from the University of Georgia), and Dr. Beatrice Hernout (Ph.D. from the University of York) have joined Ron Kendall's lab, Dr. Roger Vaughan (Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico) has been working with Chad Paton's group, Dr. Seenivasan "Seeni" Subbiah is our new analytical instruments manager, and Dr. Grant Sorensen (Ph.D. from Texas Tech) is working with Steve Presley's group.



We have also added some new talent to the TIEHH staff: Analisa Guevara is our new receptionist and Jerry Cowen is our new building maintenance foreman.

Student News

December 2014 Ph.D. graduate **Morgan Wilming**, from Jonathan Maul's lab, was selected for an EPA Postdoc Fellowship. Morgan will be working with Dr. Mace Barron of the Gulf Ecology Division, Gulf Breeze, FL.

Ph.D. student **Cait Ryan** has accepted a job offer from Second Genome in San Francisco as a molecular microbial ecologist.



Kayla Campasino, a December 2014 M.S. graduate from Céline Godard-Codding's lab, was awarded a 2014 SETAC poster award (3rd Place in the M.S. category) at the Vancouver meeting.



Evelyn "Evy" Reategui recently presented her research at the National SACNAS (Society for the Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) Conference in Los Angeles, CA. Evy received an award for her presentation. She is also a scholarship recipient from the Hispanic Association of Women in Lubbock.

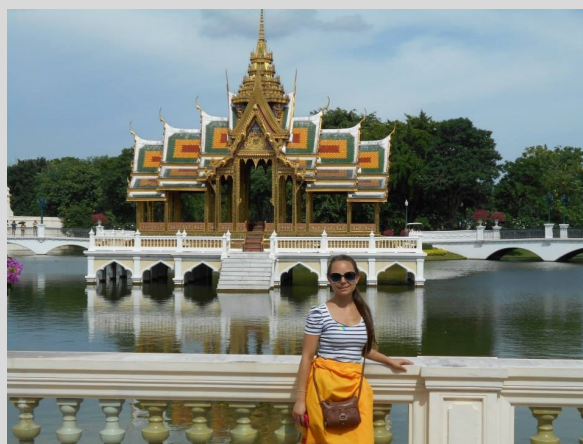
The TIEHH Student Association had an active fall semester. They participated in the U-Can-Share Food Drive, had a completely full blood drive to support United Blood Services, and had over a dozen people volunteer at the Food Bank. The semester was highlighted by inviting 80 middle-school children to the campus for a Hands-On-Science Day.

Logeswari Ponnusamy received the International Federation of University Women-Daphne Purvis Grant.



Prathap Kumar, a Ph.D. student in K.P. Singh's lab, received a travel grant from the Society of Toxicology (SOT) to attend the 54th annual meeting in San Diego in March. Prathap also received recertification approval from the American Board of Toxicology (ABT) as a Diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology (DABT).

Meghan Cromie received funding from the TTU Graduate School to present a poster at the SOT Meeting in San Diego. Meghan will also be organizing the 3rd Annual Tox ShowDown at the meeting as the Graduate Student Leadership Committee Secretary for the national organization.



M.S. student **Beth Buckner** received a scholarship from the Deer Breeders Corporation.

Faculty News

An upcoming issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* will contain the results of a collaborative study (<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1408555/>) between **Dr. Greg Mayer's** lab, **Dr. Phil Smith's** lab, and scientists from Research and Testing Laboratory in Lubbock on antibiotics, bacteria, and antibiotic resistant genes on particulate matter derived from cattle feedlots. A news release from Texas Tech can be found here: <http://today.ttu.edu/2015/01/environmental-scientists-find-antibiotics-bacteria-resistance-genes-in-feedlot-dust/>.

The November/December issue of *AATCC Review* featured some of **Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar's** research in an article entitled "Mopping up Disasters: Textiles Protect People and the Planet".

Dr. Ernest Smith accepted an invitation from the Deer Breeders Corporation to meet with and update State Senator Charles Perry on the White-Tailed Deer and Cervid Research Program at Texas Tech.



Dr. Chad Paton attended an NIH workshop on Epigenetics in Bethesda, MD in December. This month, Dr. Paton is attending an Army class on leadership. Chad is a Captain in the Army Reserve.



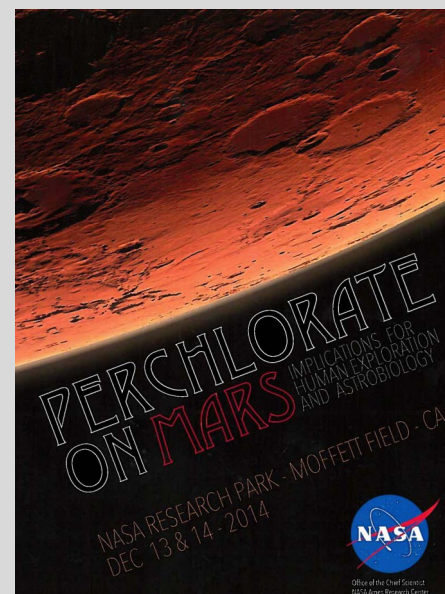
Dr. Jonathan Maul has been tasked by the TCEQ to evaluate published temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) toxicity data for fish, amphibian, and invertebrate species endemic to Texas in order to re-evaluate current temperature variation and DO presumptions for TCEQ's surface water quality criteria. Dr. Maul is also part of an Environmental Health and Toxicology Workgroup within the Texas Department of State Health Services that is examining Texas' current fish consumption advisories and bans related to dioxin and mercury.



Dr. Weimin Gao has begun service on the editorial board for the *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*.

In January, **Dr. Ron Kendall** gave a keynote speech on eyeworms in Texas quail at the Dallas Safari Club.

In December, the Office of the Chief Scientist at the NASA Ames Research Center held a workshop entitled "Perchlorate on Mars: Implications for Human Exploration and Astrobiology". **Dr. Todd Anderson** was an invited speaker at the workshop.



TIEHH News

Congratulations to Misty Moriarty and Kevan Athanasiou upon being designated as Fully Certified Analysts by the Policy, Standards and Quality Assurance, Milk Division of the Texas Department of State Health Services. Misty and Kevan are analysts in the Milk Regulatory Testing Laboratory at TIEHH.

Congratulations to Dr. Anna Gibson (*pictured*), Lab Manager and BT Coordinator for the Biological Threat Research Laboratory, on successfully completing the recertification inspection by the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendments (CLIA) Program of the Texas Department of State Health Services.



Recent Graduates

Congratulations to our six graduates from the December 2014 ceremony.

Kayla Campasino, M.S.

Aaron Conti, M.S.

Sarah Webb, Ph.D.

Morgan Wilming, Ph.D.

Vinit Singh, Ph.D.

Uday Turaga, Ph.D.



Spring Banquet

The annual TIEHH Spring Banquet will be Friday, May 1st at the Spirit Ranch. Dr. Kevin Reynolds, ENTX alum (Ph.D. 2004), will be the guest speaker. Dr. Reynolds is the U.S. Department of the Interior's case manager and one of the lead federal scientists for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA).

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