



SUMMER 2015

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"On The Move" Newsletter

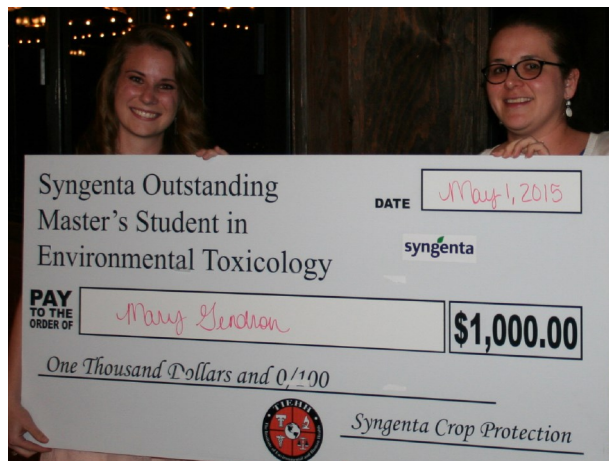
100 Inspiring Women in STEM

Logeswari Ponnusamy, a Ph.D. student in Dr. KP Singh's lab, has received a 100 Inspiring Women in STEM Award presented by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. The award recognizes the work by individuals in STEM and who serve as inspirations to others.

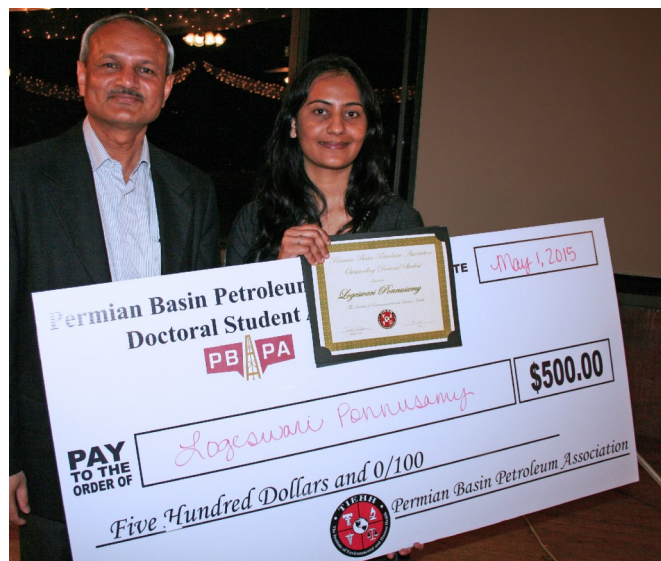
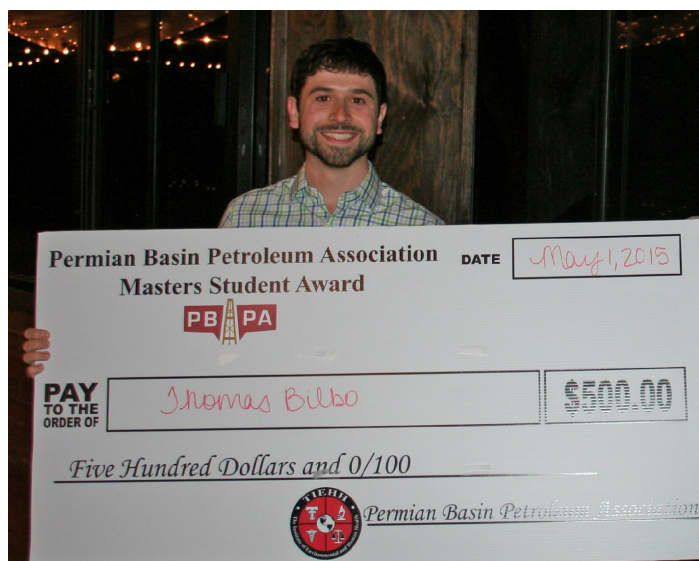


Spring Awards Banquet

The annual banquet was held on May 1st at the Spirit Ranch. Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell, ENTX Graduate Officer, made the student award presentations. The Syngenta outstanding M.S. and Ph.D. student awards went to Mary Gendron and Meghan Cromie, respectively.



A special thanks to Ben Shepperd and the Permian Basin Petroleum Association (PBPA) for also supporting M.S. and Ph.D. awards this year. The PBPA outstanding M.S. and Ph.D. student awards went to Tommy Bilbo and Logeswari Ponnusamy, respectively.



TIEHH News

In May, our LE-SETAC student group hosted Dr. Gary Barbee, Associate Professor of Environmental Science at West Texas A&M University on a visit to TIEHH. Dr. Barbee gave a research seminar on biomonitoring of PAH-contaminated freshwater sediments.



As part of RecycleMania, a national competition among universities, TTU's Recycling Center offered an interdepartmental/student organization competition to see who could recycle the most. Congratulations to the student-led TIEHH Green Committee for their efforts in helping us secure 1st Place, nearly doubling the point total of the 2nd Place team (Office of the Provost).

ENTX alum, Dr. Kevin Reynolds of the U.S. Department of the Interior returned to Texas Tech as the guest speaker for our annual awards banquet, as well as to talk about his role as DoI's case manager and one of the lead federal scientists for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.



At the Spring Awards Banquet in May, the outstanding staff award went to Brad Thomas. Brad and Lori Gibler make up the TIEHH IT group. In addition to IT duties, Brad (and Lori) do a great job with a bunch of the visual products that help promote us. Brad also take great pictures, many of which are used in this and previous newsletters. Dr. Weimin Gao was selected as the outstanding faculty for 2014-2015 at the banquet.

TIEHH, as a University Institute or Center, underwent a 5-Year Review this Spring conducted by the Office of the Vice President for Research. The review team consisted of internal Texas Tech faculty as well as external faculty. The review committee's report consists of strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.



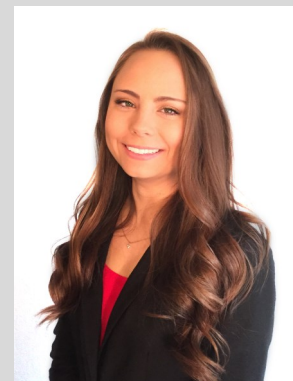
We have a new crop of "Bridges" students in the lab this summer doing science. They are Loren Hensley, Clarissa Hernandez, and Thalia Ramos.



Student News

The Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) at Texas Tech has begun a Research Grants-in-Aid Program. The first two recipients of these grants in the inaugural year were ENTX students **Evelyn “Evy” Reategui** and **Meghan Cromie**.

May 2015 M.S. graduate **Jarrett Louder**, from Dr. Jonathan Maul’s lab, has a new job as an environmental investigator with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in San Angelo.



Ph.D. student **Jordan Hunter** has written an article entitled, “Preparing for Agroterror: How is the Texas Animal Health Commission Implementing Federal Food Security Regulations?” for the 6th volume of the *Journal of Biosecurity, Biosafety, and Biodefense Law*.



Nick Dunham, a Ph.D. student in Ron Kendall’s lab, has received the James D. and Mary Hazlewood Memorial Fellowship for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Congratulations to **Francis Loko** for receiving a 3rd Place Presentation Award at the SETAC South Central Regional Chapter meeting in Lafayette, LA. **Adric Olson** was elected the regional chapter student representative to SETAC’s North American Student Advisory Council.

Loges Ponnusamy was awarded a Daphne Purvis Grant from the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

Thanks to the West Texas Association of Women in Science (WT-AWIS) for providing meeting travel funds for **Evy Reategui** and **Loges Ponnusamy**.

ENTX graduate students **Tommy Bilbo**, **Nick Dunham**, **Jeremy Wilkinson**, and **Adric Olson** won the league bowling title with an overall record of 25-7.

ENTX Graduate students have had substantial presentation success this Spring at local meetings. At the TTU Graduate Student Poster Competition, **Loges Ponnusamy**, **Heather Lanza**, and **Evy Reategui** received 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, respectively, in the Science II Category. At the 6th Annual TTABS Meeting, **Heather Lanza** and **Evy Reategui** received 1st and 2nd, respectively, in the Toxicology Category.



Evy Reategui was the recipient of several awards and scholarships this Spring. They include the Paul Whitfield Horn Fellowship (from the University Women’s Club) for the 2015-2016 academic year, the President’s Excellence in Diversity and Equity Award, and the Good Neighbor Scholarship Award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Heather Lanza received a Love of Learning Award from the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Faculty News

Dr. Sheshadri Ramkumar was selected by the Provost's Office as an Integrated Scholar for 2015. Dr. Ram was also invited by the government of India to deliver a lecture on technology translation at the 2015 Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.



Dr. Céline Godard-Coddington is travelling to Florida this summer to collaborate on dolphin health. The large collaborative study on bottlenose dolphins in the Indian River lagoon is headed by Dr. Patricia Fair of the Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research at Charleston (CCEHBR), SC.



Congratulations to **Dr. Kamaleshwar (KP) Singh**, who was nominated for the President's Excellence in Diversity and Equity Award.

With all the rain we've received this Spring/Summer, **Dr. Steve Presley** has become a media celebrity of sorts for his work with mosquitoes. A recent *KAMC* story also featured graduate students Tommy Bilbo and Dan Dawson.

Alumni Profiles

We are going to use some space in the next few newsletters to profile some of our alums, particularly those who returned our information requests and a picture. Enjoy.

Dr. Arvind Purushothaman is a 2009 graduate of our program. Arvind did his research in Sheshadri Ramkumar's lab on the moisture vapor transport of fibrous materials.



What influenced your decision to attend graduate school?

Type of research the lab was doing at that time (protective clothing, nanomaterials etc.). Availability of funding (assistantship). Low cost of living.

What are you doing now?

I work for Ahlstrom as a Product Development Engineer developing nonwoven products for various filtration, life science, and medical diagnostics applications.

Did the curriculum prepare you for your next job?

Yes, I learned a lot about different chemicals and their toxicities. Also, the curriculum (and research)

Alumni Profiles, continued

forced me to use statistics frequently which is helping me at work today. Developed team building skills, learned about different cultures (countries), and many good lab practices.

What do you wish you would have known your first day of graduate school at Texas Tech?

Nothing in particular.

Besides Matt Young, who or what do you miss most about TIEHH?

The list goes on, definitely miss my friends that I made during my time there, nice and courteous staff like Kimberly, Stephanie, Ryan Bounds, Lori etc., lunch under the tree outside the building near the parking lot, TIEHH cookout (Ranch day!).

Dr. Judit Szabo is a 2005 graduate of our program. Judit did her research in Mike Hooper's lab on the exposure of birds to locust control pesticides.

What influenced your decision to attend graduate school?

I always wanted to do a PhD. In 1999 I met Mike Hooper and because of him I chose TIEHH.

What are you doing now?

I am the Science Officer of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership in South Korea www.eaaflyway.net. We work on conserving migratory birds and their habitats in 22 countries.

Did the curriculum prepare you for your next job?

I couldn't find a job with avian ecotoxicology in Australia, so I left toxicology completely and worked only on birds for the last 10 years. By now I forgot pretty much everything I learned.

What do you wish you would have known your first day of graduate school at Texas Tech?

"this too shall pass"

Besides Matt Young, who or what do you miss most about TIEHH?

I miss the people I made friends with.

Dr. Tim Bargar is a 2000 graduate of our program. Tim did his research in George Cobb's lab on using the chorioallantoic membrane as an indicator of exposure to organochlorine contaminants.

What influenced your decision to attend graduate school?

I felt it was necessary to pursue a career in the environmental field.

What are you doing now?

I'm a Research Ecotoxicologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Gainesville, Florida.

Did the curriculum prepare you for your next job?

Yes.



Alumni Profiles, continued

What do you wish you would have known your first day of graduate school at Texas Tech?

It has been a while since my first day of graduate school, so it is tough to answer this question. If there was one thing I wish I had realized upon entering graduate school, it would have been understanding the importance of salesmanship (i.e. networking) to be a successful research scientist.

Besides Matt Young, who or what do you miss most about TIEHH?

Who is Matt Young? I miss the graduate group. We had a lot of fun.

Alumni Scholarship

A special thanks to those alum who sent in some money to help us give two alumni scholarships to incoming students each Fall. Those who donated recently are listed below. We take donations of any amount and at any time if you'd like to contribute.

Shibin Li	Shuangying Yu	Fa Karnjanapiboonwong	Chris Pepper
Mindy Olivares	Kathryn Higbee	Jordan Smith	Sudheer Jinka
Song Tang	Kevin Reynolds	Piwen Wang	

Spring and Summer Graduates

Congratulations to our four graduates from the May ceremony . . .

Jessica Oates, Ph.D.	Cait Ryan, Ph.D.	Jarrett Louder, M.S.	Donn Edwards, M.S.
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and

Our seven successful "defenders" who are poised to graduate in August.

Rebecca Cochran, M.S.	Sara Pappas, Ph.D.	Bridgette Fidler, M.S.
Tommy Bilbo, M.S.	Kristina Kohl, M.S.	Heather Lanza, M.S.
	Kara Minton, M.S.	

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