



SPRING 2016

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## "On The Move" Newsletter

### TIEHH Bowling Team

When you think of PBA quality bowling teams, you don't immediately think about a bunch of scientists until now. Coming off a winning season in the Main Event bowling league, the Mis-Splits (formerly known as Bowl so Hard) have raised the stakes and joined a PBA-sanctioned bowling league in Lubbock. This dream team, which consists of Greg "Fireball" Mayer, Nick "The Wild Thing" Dunham, Adric "Hundo<sup>2</sup>" Olson, and Jeremy "Clutch" Wilkinson, has been knocking down pins on their way to devouring the competition. Fortunately and unfortunately, team captain Hundo<sup>2</sup> has recently accepted a new job in Maine and will no longer be able to bowl. Despite a huge loss to the team, the Mis-Splits were quick to recruit former standout college athlete (???) Todd "Houseball" Anderson. With a trip to Vegas on the line, the Mis-Splits (currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place) look to continue their winning ways and add another team championship trophy to their mantle.



### New Students

We have 3 new graduate students (pictured left) that joined our program this spring. Cassie Henry from Gallatin, TN and Middle Tennessee State University, Alex Wilson-Fallon from Napa, CA and the University of California-Merced, and RP Oates from Rutherford, NC and Wake Forest University.

### Faculty News

**Drs. Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell** and **David Klein** gave platform presentations at the 2015 Pacificchem Meeting in Honolulu in December.

State Senator Charles Perry visited TIEHH in November to learn more about ongoing whitetail deer research. **Drs. Ernest Smith, Galen Austin,** and **Steve Presley** hosted the visit. Also on the tour were TTU System Chancellor Robert Duncan and Texas Tech President Duane Nellis.

**Dr. David Klein** received funding from FAPESP (São Paulo Research Foundation) for a collaborative study on pharmaceuticals and personal care products in Brazil.



## TIEHH News



Dr. Julie Parlos has joined TIEHH as a senior research associate in Ron Kendall's lab. Julie is a 2015 graduate of Texas Tech (Robert Baker's lab) with expertise in molecular phylogenetics.

We have started a "student wall of honor" to profile past and present students in our program who have received national or international awards. Below is a picture of our initial inductees. If you are interested in naming rights for the wall of honor, they can be had with a donation of the appropriate magnitude.



## Student News

**Adric Olson** will be attending the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Environmental Scientists (YES) Meeting in Gainesville, FL, a conference he helped plan. Adric is receiving a travel grant from the regional SETAC Chapter to attend the meeting. Following the meeting, Adric (and wife Jessica) are off to Maine where he has joined Intrinsik, Inc. as an environmental risk assessor.

**Amanda French, Michelle McManus, Amanda Cano, and Bryan Hettick** spent part of December in Hawaii giving poster and platform presentations at Pacificchem 2015 (The International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies).

**Logeswari Ponnusamy** recently received two travel awards, one from the Society of Toxicology to attend the SOT meeting in New Orleans and the second following the Texas Tech Research Carnival. She also received a small research grant for Spring 2016 from the TTU Graduate School.



**Amanda French**, a Ph.D. student in David Klein's lab received a small research grant for Spring 2016 from the TTU Graduate School.



We had two graduates in the December 2015 ceremony. **Francis Loko** from Steve Presley's lab completed the M.S. degree and is now working for ToxStrategies, Inc. in Austin, TX. **Prathap Kumar** from KP Singh's lab completed the Ph.D. degree and is working for AbbVie in North Chicago, IL.

The annual student-led TIEHH Banquet is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Llano Estacado Winery.



## Alumni Profile

**Dr. Jordan Smith** is a 2007 graduate of our program. Jordan did his research in George Cobb's lab on the toxicity of the explosive metabolite TNX to deer mice and was an EPA StAR Fellow.

*What influenced your decision to attend graduate school?*

My interest in environmental toxicology stemmed from undergraduate summer internships at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). One particular project focused on monitoring DNA mutation rates of deer mice near radioactive-contaminated sites. That project stimulated my interest in toxicology and compelled me to pursue graduate education. My INL mentor, Angela Stormberg, introduced me to Corey Radtke and George Cobb at TIEHH. After talking with Dr. Cobb about the graduate program and potential projects, TIEHH seemed like a great fit to further my career.



*What are you doing now?*

I am a scientist in the Health Impacts and Exposure Science Group at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). My research incorporates experimental and computational methodology to investigate biokinetics and resulting biological effects of a variety of chemicals and compounds. I utilize computational models to extrapolate experimental results from the laboratory in order to predict biological fate and response in the real world.

*Did the curriculum prepare you for your next job?*

After graduating from Texas Tech, I started as a post doc at the PNNL. My research experience with live animals at TIEHH provided me the skillset that differentiated me from other applicants seeking that position. Additionally, skills and knowledge acquired at Texas Tech associated with analytical chemistry, environmental chemistry, data analysis, and general principles of toxicology have been particularly useful and robust compared to peers in my field. I believe this is a direct reflection of the quality of curriculum and professors at TIEHH.

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

Euthanasia has nothing to do with children in China (i.e. "youth in Asia"). However, I eventually picked up that tidbit of information during my first semester...

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

I miss many of the former students, faculty, and staff at TIEHH as well as the overall collegiate atmosphere. I made a lot of lifelong friends in Lubbock, too many to list, that I still keep in touch with today. The atmosphere at TIEHH facilitated hard work and focus required for a graduate degree but still allowed for a lot fun at the same time (including Matt tailgating in his Walter Payton jersey). For me, it was a great place to transition from undergraduate life to that of a young professional.

## A Few More Pictures



*Chancellor Duncan and Senator Perry*



*David Klein was 4th in the 250 A class at the Red Canyon Enduro held in Fluvana, TX last month. Also in attendance was John Schovanec (Provost Schovanec's brother) who was 2nd in the over 50 short course.*



*Drs. KP Singh and Prathap Kumar  
December 2015 Graduation Ceremony*



*Francis Loko with Texas Tech President M.  
Duane Nellis*

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